

# **BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **NOTICE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET ON 9 NOVEMBER 2022**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: FRIDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2022**

**DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2022**

### **NOTES:**

**MINUTE 41, BEING A STARRED MINUTE, WILL BE REFERRED TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2022**

**A COPY OF THE CABINET AGENDA HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY ISSUE PLEASE CONTACT, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER OR OFFICER NAMED IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN.**

## **MEETING OF THE CABINET**

9 November 2022

Present:

Councillor Paul Skinner, in the Chair

Councillors Tracey Abbott, Richard Austin BEM, Deborah Evans, Martin Griggs, Jonathan Noble and Nigel Welton

Officers –

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive (Growth), Deputy Chief Executive - Communities., Assistant Director - Wellbeing and Community Leadership and Service Manager – Affordable and Accessible Homes

### **1 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 September 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### **2 APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

### **4 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A question had been submitted by Mr. Darron Abbott who was not present at the meeting. Therefore in accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules the question was not asked. A copy of the question and response was circulated for information.

**5 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (STANDING ITEM)\***

Reports had been considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and comments were included as appropriate.

**6 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE (BTAC) (STANDING ITEM)**

There were no recommendations from the Boston Town Area Committee.

**7 \* SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY**

<p><b>DECISION</b></p> <p>1. <b>The contents of the report and the work of partners in addressing crime and disorder in South and East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire as a whole be noted.</b></p> <p><b>To recommend to Full Council:</b></p> <p>2. <b>The Community Safety Strategy and identified priorities for the SELCSP for the period 2022-2025 be adopted.</b></p> <p>3. <b>That delegated authority be granted for the Deputy Chief Executive (Communities) to finalise with the Portfolio Holder a programme for the development of a Community Safety Action Plan.</b></p>	<p><b>Portfolio Holders and Officer</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Paul Skinner</b></p> <p><b>PH</b></p>
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<p><u>REASON FOR DECISION</u></p> <p>Councillor Paul Skinner introduced a report by the Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership setting out a Community Safety Strategy for 2022-25.</p> <p>The report detailed the duties placed on local authorities and other named statutory agencies in relation to crime and disorder and outlined the current Community Safety Partnership arrangements across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership area and in Lincolnshire as a whole.</p> <p>The Community Safety Strategy had been produced to demonstrate the work of the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (SELCSP) which was working collaboratively with the County Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP), to address crime and disorder at a local, sub-regional and County level.</p> <p>The Strategy had been prepared using the format of the last partnership plan of 2016-19. An Action Plan for 2022/23 would support the strategy and sit with the SELCSP.</p>
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Information from the county strategic assessment had been reviewed along with routine data on crime and anti-social behaviour from Lincolnshire Police, information from the pilot initiative StreetSafe which allowed people to anonymously report areas they felt unsafe, and perception data from the Lincolnshire Crime and Policing Survey. This had been considered alongside the county priorities identified for the SLP.

Five priorities were detailed in the plan which was attached at Appendix A of the report:-

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Hate crime
- Safer streets and night time economy
- The safety of women and girls
- Vulnerability and safeguarding

It was noted that a Strategy had not been produced since 2019, however it was recognised that the work undertaken locally should be acknowledged and communicated to partner organisations and the public.

The Strategy promoted the dedication and commitment of partners working across the SELCP in tackling crime and ASB and aimed to provide a focus for actions to be developed to address the priority community safety issues that impacted on communities within the sub-region.

The report had been considered at the meeting of the Corporate and Community Committee on 6 October and the recommendations were endorsed.

#### OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Continue to operate the SELCSP without producing a formal plan.

#### RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

#### RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

**8 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUNDING AND RURAL PROSPERITY FUNDING**

<p><b>DECISION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Subject to Government approval of the Investment Plan, the Investment Plan be supported and recommend the Council acts as the accountable body for UK Shared Prosperity Funding and Rural Prosperity Funding.</b></li> <li><b>2. To authorise the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth) in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to submit an addendum to the UKSPF Investment Plan for Rural Prosperity Funding.</b></li> <li><b>3. Support the Boston Town Deal Board with broadening its membership to encompass appropriate representation from across the Borough and be designated as the Local Partnership Group.</b></li> <li><b>4. To authorise the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth) in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders to work collaboratively as the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership on the development of a bidding prospectus, and where appropriate enter into grant funding agreements with delivery partners.</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Portfolio Holders and Officer</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Nigel Welton</b></p> <p><b>LR</b></p>
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<p><u><b>REASON FOR DECISION</b></u></p> <p>The Assistant Director – Economic Growth, presented a report on the Investment Plan for Boston for UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF), and outlining the process for the Council to manage the funding as the accountable body and draw down additional funding through the Rural Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>The report summarised the aims of the funding, the engagement and consultation which had taken place and proposed working collaboratively as the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership and with established bodies to strengthen capacity, maximise match funding and meet the needs of local businesses and communities.</p> <p>The UKSPF was a central pillar of the UK Government’s Levelling Up Agenda and replaced the European Regional Development fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF). Its primary goal was to build pride in place and increase life chances. The UKSPF specific aims included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they were lagging;</li> <li>• Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where</li> </ul>
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they were weakest;

- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost;
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local energy.

There were three key investment priorities of; communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills. The report outlined the aims of each new fund and the Council's proposed approach through its submission of an Investment Plan and external engagement.

Unlike other funds the UKSPF was not a competitive process, all areas would receive a funding allocation. The total value of the fund was £2.6bn, of which Boston's allocation was £2.2m. In addition, the Rural England Prosperity fund was integrated with the UKSPF and provided top-up funding to eligible local authorities, Boston has been allocated £0.43m.

The Rural Prosperity Fund supported the Government's Levelling Up White Paper and the Future Farming Programme and was aimed at capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy. To access the Rural Fund the Council was required to provide specific additional information as an addendum to the Boston UKSPF investment plan.

In order to access the UKSPF fund, it required the formation of a Local Partnership Group of stakeholders and the submission of an Investment Plan which set out the challenges the area faced, along with how the UKSPF would help address those.

Comprehensive and balanced local partnerships were a core component of how the Fund would be administered locally, providing advice on strategic fit and deliverability. It was proposed that the Boston Town Deal Board should be designated as the Local Partnership Group for UKSPF. Its role would be to add comments to the proposed allocation of funding to applicants and to suggest connections and linkages with other local activities and priorities.

The Investment Plan was evidenced led and linked to national and local strategies and policies. Meaningful engagement with stakeholders was required and opportunities for collaboration with other districts were encouraged. A copy of the Investment Plan was attached at Appendix A of the report.

The report set out the background to the consultation process on UKSPF which had been undertaken as part of the wider 'Have Your Say' campaign led by the SELCP between 13 and 18 July 2022.

The top three suggestions resulting from the consultation were:

- Invest in tidying up Boston town;
- Help for small businesses and market stalls to boost the town;
- Provision of activities in the area for all age groups.

Across the consultation for the sub-region key themes were identified:

- Business ideas linked to health and well-being, food production, tourism, culture and the arts, transport, environmental businesses and the digital sector
- Social enterprises, i.e. businesses which have a social purpose and make a profit in a way that directly benefits society
- Projects on the Lincolnshire Coast which help more people between 16-64 to become economically active
- Projects which bring imaginative new activities and adapt buildings to breathe new life into town centres
- Programmes for smaller places which will improve and widen the use of community buildings including village halls
- Projects which increase the availability of decent broadband connectivity in rural places

In addition to the public consultation, stakeholder engagement workshops had been held with potential delivery partners for the three funding themes of skills, business and place. It was proposed to form expert clusters from established bodies, who had a track record of delivering against those themes, to support with writing the bidding prospectus for each theme, the proposed timeframe was for completion by early November and bids invited for the first bidding round before Christmas. The groups would also assist in evaluating bids, particularly looking at how they could bring match funding and encourage individual bids to align with other activities and projects to reduce duplication and improve outcomes.

The recommendations from each bidding round would be reported to the Local Partnership Group (Boston Town Deal Board). The Council's Cabinet would have the final decision, subject to further delegation to officers in consultation with relevant portfolio holders.

Whilst keeping a focus on the three funding pots for each local authority, the SELCP would consider applications to all three areas as a whole through an integrated approach rather than running individual systems. The proposed approach was set out in a presentation at Appendix B of the report.

The report had been considered by the Corporate and Community Committee at its meeting on 27 October 2022, and the recommendations supported.

Committee were asked by the Deputy Chief Executive – Growth to consider a fifth recommendation. There had been an anticipation that the funding launched earlier in the year would have been received by October but it had been delayed and it was not expected to be in the account by the end of this calendar year. Because the amount was below £500k it sat within the Cabinet's Authority to be able to allocate funding and allocate a budget to it. The reason for proposing this additional recommendation was because if approved, it would mean moving forward that there would be no need to return a further report to committee, seeking agreement to creation of a budget. Members were reassured that the creation of the budget would not mean spending any of the money before it was received into the account. It would however, mean officers could start the process as

set out within the report and provide a better opportunity of getting the money into the communities within the year. The risk of delay in not having the budget allocated and agreed now and having to come back for another decision would impact on the practicalities of the budget.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

None.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED

None.

**9 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Resolved that under Section 100(A)(iv) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Order.

**10 INGELOW AVENUE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE / AMENITY LAND**

This minute contains exempt information and has been lodged separately by the Council.

The Meeting ended at 7.24 pm

Signed by the Chief Executive



FRIDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2022

**These decisions will come into force (and may then be implemented) on the expiry of five clear working days after the date of this notice UNLESS the decisions are subjected to the Call-In procedure or are starred minutes requiring Full Council approval.**