



Boston Borough Council

Chief Executive
Rob Barlow

Municipal Buildings
Boston
Lincolnshire PE21 8QR
Tel: 01205 314200

Friday, 6 September 2024

Notice of meeting of the Full Council

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Full Council
on **Monday, 16th September, 2024 at 6.30 pm**
in the Council Chamber - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR

Rob Barlow
Chief Executive

Members of the public are welcome to attend the committee meeting as observers except during the consideration of exempt or confidential items.

This meeting may be subject to being recorded.

Agenda

Part I - Preliminaries

A. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

B. Declarations of Interest

C. Minutes

(Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Full Council held on 15th July 2024.

D. Communications

E. Deputations and Petitions

F. Questions from Elected Members

G. Questions from Members of the Public

Part II - Agenda Items

- 1 **Audit & Governance Committee Minutes** (Pages 9 - 18)
To receive the draft Minutes from the meeting held on 8th July 2024.
- 2 **2023/24 Outturn Report & 2022/23 Abbreviated Outturn** (Pages 19 - 50)
(A report by Christine Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive – Corporate Development & Section 151 Officer)
- 3 **Annual Treasury Report 2023/24** (Pages 51 - 76)
(A report by Christine Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive & S151)
- 4 **South & East Councils Partnership Performance Report** (Pages 77 - 88)
(A report by James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate)

Part III - Motions on Notice

To consider the following motions in accordance with procedure rule 14:

1. *We the undersigned hereby request that the following Motion be submitted to the meeting of the Council on the 16th of September in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14:-*

Rural Strategy

- ***Boston Borough Council approved the Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027.***
- ***The population of Boston Borough in 2021, according to the census, was 70,500.***
- ***On November the 13th 2023 at Full Council Councillor Cantwell asked the Portfolio Holder for Parish Councils that he 'looks forward to new policies, initiatives and strategies on the matter appearing'.***
- ***That criticism from Parish Councils and Rural Residents about Boston Borough Council's support for Rural Communities is increasing.***

Council believes:

- ***Areas outside the BTAC remit are entitled to as much support and engagement from Boston Borough Council as the Town is.***
- ***Parish Council's want Boston Borough Council to do more, and it is important we continue to engage with them on issues.***
- ***That a bold undertaking should be started by the council to support our Rural Communities.***

Council resolves to:

- **Bring forward a Council-led Rural Strategy, similar in format to the Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027 within 1 year of the 16th of September 2024.**
- **Boston Borough Council create this strategy in consultation with Borough Councillors, Parish Council's, relevant Rural Voluntary/Residents' Groups, and Rural Residents on issues/action points in these communities.**

Proposer: Councillor James Cantwell Seconder: Councillor Claire Rylott

2. We the undersigned hereby request that the following Motion be submitted to the meeting of the Council on the 16th of September in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14:-

Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty

Council Notes:

- **The Labour Government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit, as announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves.**
- **The estimated impact of this decision, which Age UK says will mean 2 million pensioners who badly need the money to stay warm this winter will not receive it.**
- **The significant role that Winter Fuel Payments play in helping older residents of Boston Borough and across the UK afford heating during the coldest months, thereby preventing 'heat or eat' dilemmas and safeguarding health.**
- **The criticism from Age UK, the Countryside Alliance and other charities, highlighting the social injustice and potential health risks posed by this sudden policy change.**
- **The additional strain this decision will place on vulnerable pensioners, many of whom do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.**

Council believes:

- **That the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.**
- **While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, residents across Boston Borough that sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.**
- **The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and**

will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older residents.

- *The government's approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.*

Council resolves to:

- *Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible of Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.*
- *Request that the Council Leader write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.*
- *Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK and write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves.*
- *Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through partnerships with local charities and community organisations to that all eligible pensioners in Boston Borough are supported in claiming their entitlement.*

Proposer: Councillor James Cantwell Seconder: Councillor Stuart Evans

Questions from Members of the Council and the public must be received by 5 p.m. two clear working days prior to the day of the meeting – the deadline for this meeting is 5 p.m. on Wednesday 11th September 2024.

Notes:

Please contact Democratic Services (demservices@boston.gov.uk) if you have any queries about the agenda and documents for this meeting.

Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify Democratic Services as soon as possible.

Alternative Versions

Should you wish to have the agenda or report in an alternative format such as larger text, Braille or a specific language, please telephone 07591 352534.