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Municipal Buildings
Boston
Lincolnshire PE21 8QR
Tel: 01205 314200

Wednesday, 22 January 2025

Notice of meeting of the Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC)

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC)
on **Thursday, 30th January, 2025 at 6.30 pm**
in the Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR

Rob Barlow
Chief Executive

Membership:

Chairman:	Councillor Barrie Pierpoint
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Patricia Marson
Councillors:	Jyothi Arayambath, Alison Austin, Emma Cresswell, Anton Dani, Neil Drayton, Anne Dorrian, Paul Gleeson, Sandeep Ghosh, Mike Gilbert, Andy Izard, Lina Savickiene and Stephen Woodliffe

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

To receive declarations of interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

C Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)

To sign and confirm the minutes of the last meeting.

D Update on Actions from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

To report progress on outstanding actions from the minutes of the last meeting, for information only.

E Public Questions

To answer any written questions received from members of the public no later than 5 p.m. two clear working days prior to the meeting – for this meeting the deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday 27th January 2025.

F Public Speaking Time

To allow members of the public to address the Committee.

Part II - Agenda Items

1 Community Outreach

(A presentation by Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Officer (LCC-F&R))

2 BTAC Projected Financial Position as at 30 September 2024 (To Follow)

(A report by Strategic Finance Manager)

3 Proposed BTAC Budget 2025/26 and Forecast to 2029/30 (To Follow)

(A report by Strategic Finance Manager)

4 Footway Lighting (Pages 9 - 14)

(A report by Group Manager (Property and Technical Services))

5 BTAC Review Programme (Verbal Report)

(A verbal update by Assistant Director – Leisure and Culture)

6 Work Programme - Standing Item (Pages 15 - 16)

(The Committee's work programme for the current year for discussion and/or updating.)

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 01205 314502.

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Boston Borough Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC)** held in the Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR on Thursday, 28th November, 2024 at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Barrie Pierpoint, in the Chair.

Councillors Alison Austin, Anton Dani, Neil Drayton, Anne Dorrian, Paul Gleeson, Sandeep Ghosh, Andy Izard, Lina Savickiene and Stephen Woodliffe.

In attendance:

Councillor Dale Broughton, Deputy Leader.

Officers:

Deputy Chief Executive - Communities, Assistant Director - Culture and Leisure, Community Development Manager, Local Communities Development Officer & BTAC Grant Administrator and Democratic Services Officer.

31 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Jyothi Arayambath, Emma Cresswell and Patsie Marson.

32 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

33 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held 26 September 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

34 Update on Actions from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Lead Officer for the Committee – The Assistant Director for Leisure and Culture, noted updates from the previous meeting:

- A more detailed and concise report on Footway Lighting would be returned to the next meeting of the committee to enable members to make an informed decision.
- Mr Wolf letter was addressed following concerns raised about cyclist problems in town.

35 Public Questions

No questions were received.

36 Public Speaking Time

A member of the public addressed the meeting, thanking the Chairman for the advice given on the concerns raised relating to cyclist issues in town. Additionally, in relation to the promotion of societal integration, they queried the existence of societies where foreign visitors living in Boston could familiarise themselves with the local culture and the English language.

Members noted that the police were aware of and were working on addressing safety issues concerning cyclist behaviour in town, meanwhile exercising their right to issue £50 fixed penalties to cyclists on the pedestrian path. Additionally, members advised that there were places such as Boston College and Haven High as places that offered English lessons.

Referring to reported concerns regarding fear and intimidation felt by people about groups standing in the marketplace, a member of the public indicated the benefit of promoting more activities, places to go to take lessons, and socialising events, as a way to soften these practices.

It was noted that in preparation for devolution, the upper tier authorities of Lincolnshire County Council had worked alongside other benefactors on the provision of English classes, and that further analysis would go into deciding the provider for these i.e. the County Council or the Mayor. In response to concerns raised around the marketplace congregation causing fear and the potential linked perception of crime, Members advised that Boston was the third safest borough in the county which would translate into very low chances of becoming a victim of crime. The Council's policies and measures to ensure the marketplace as a safe space to socialise while ensuring community safety were highlighted. Councillor Dorrian invited community groups to visit the Council's CCTV suit, should they wish to feel reassured regarding the Council's security arrangements.

The Deputy Chief Executive – Communities advised that the Council had a Community Coordinator that was reaching out to specific groups in order to identify potential needs which required addressing and added that he would share that officer's details with the Committee. The Chairman suggested that the member of the public meet the Community Coordinator. Councillor Dorrian suggested that the Community Coordinator's briefing to be appended to the minutes, or that they be invited to a meeting to provide the highlights. The Chairman agreed to invite the Officer to provide feedback on the progress made.

A member of the public suggested that the 'Neighbourhood' app be used as a channel for discussions amongst local people regarding matters of importance within the area.

The Chairman thanked the member of the public for their favourable comments on a Facebook post regarding the Market Square and the Town Centre.

Councillor Savickiene invited the public to participate on free English lessons held by the Lithuanian and Bulgarian Community within the Town.

The Chairman thanked the member of public for their questions.

37 Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027 Annual Review 2024 (Year One)

The Portfolio Holder presented the report for the Boston Town Area Committee the first annual review of the Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan covering the period 2023-2027. The Strategy and Action Plan provided a vision and seven strategic objectives along with over seventy actions that covered the themes of 1) Clean and Safe, 2) Open for Business 3) Culture, Heritage and Events and 4) Transformation. The Strategy and Action Plan had been approved by Boston Borough Council's Cabinet on 25th October 2023. The report provided feedback on progress against the Strategy and its associated action plan to date.

Members comments included the following:

The Chairman congratulated the Portfolio Holder, the Deputy Chief Executive - Communities and the Administration for the outstanding work carried out within the report.

Considering the previous Administrations' work, Councillor Gleeson praised the work done and highlighted the predisposition of the current Administration in ensuring they make the best of the town. Additionally, he suggested to bring more involvement from local groups in running events in order to ensure future continuity.

The Portfolio Holder advised that the Council was working with external partners with hopes to bring more to the town for the next year which may ease up the financial burdens of event implementation.

Councillor Dani highlighted the cleanliness and safeness of Boston and praised the strategy brought before the committee. He identified the events as bridges to create integration. Additionally, he invited the member of the public to a discussion at one of the community groups in town.

Councillor Woodliffe supported the report but shared concerns from local newspaper critics showcasing divided opinions on the purpose of the marketplace in Boston becoming more of a socialising place rather than the commercial centrepiece.

Taking previous years into consideration, the Portfolio Holder advised that extra work had been carried out to maximise the Christmas market area which had been extended to the town centre surroundings alongside the marketplace for traders. Additionally, it was highlighted that the Council had seen an enormous interest from vendors to participate in this years' Christmas event. The Portfolio Holder emphasised the importance of recognising the quality of work that the administration was bringing in by promoting the towns best attributes.

The Chairman praised the exceptional job done. Calls for positive comments and local unity in recognising these efforts were made in order to avoid damaging the town.

Councillor Woodliffe advised that while the Council was doing a great job, critical views and diversity of opinions had to be considered.

Councillor Gilbert noticed an improvement in the Boston Town Centre and praised the achievements by the Administration. Additionally, issues were raised in regard to wheelie bins on pavements becoming a safety hazard and whether a solution could be found to address this. A second concern was raised around the potential liability regarding the safety obligation by the Council regarding the Central Park skate park equipment used by children which was lacking safety gear. An observation was made about whether bird feeding could be included under CSA as one of the antisocial behaviour objectives.

Councillor Drayton praised the wonderful job done in Boston and encouraged the work to continue.

Councillor Austin highlighted a safer town and the good job done which had allowed business to thrive, particularly in her ward.

Councillor Dorian requested that Councillor Austin share the business list with Councillor Broughton so that invitations to the business forum could be facilitated.

Councillor Dorrian provided advice on the wheelie bin's issue by sharing that a potential solution to these residents could be the provision of Biffa bins. Nonetheless, Councillor Dorrian stated that due to disparity of opinions and the difficulty of reaching consensus, the matter would be revisited.

Members raised questions about potential available space on properties' rear path to allocate those wheelie bins to avoid hazards.

Responding to a question that the Chairman raised regarding the impact achieved by the actions completed over the past 12 months, the Deputy Chief Executive - Communities referred to feedback to conclude that the community was satisfied with the improvement achieved through the work that the administration had envisioned and implemented.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the report and its associated appendix (Appendix 1), against the commitments made in the Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027 entitled "A Town Centre for Everyone" be noted; and**
- 2. That the Committee feedback be provided to Cabinet to be incorporated into the annual review, including any potential other future actions the Committee feel should be built into this work for year two of the strategy/action plan.**

38 BTAC 2024/25 Events

The Portfolio Holder presented the report and confirmed that the BTAC budget incorporated a variety of services for the residents of Boston including the delivery of a varied events programme throughout the financial year. The report provided an update and recommendations on the 2025/26 programme for the Committee, proposals for the annual programme, and budgeted financial breakdowns to support Committee in its deliberations.

Members comments included the following:

The Portfolio Holder clarified that Members were to decide whether to spend an extra £17,000 above the budget as option 2 or stick to the £41,500, as option 1.

Addressing a question regarding the background and circumstances surrounding the experience of the businesses taking up an interest on organising these events, the Portfolio Holder advised that although the project was in the early stages, discussions were being held with well-known and financially secure businesses.

Concerns were raised around whether the extra spending option could stretch for the Council's budget. Calls were made around the possibility of considering sponsorship to cover some of these events which would release the financial burden on the Council. The Portfolio Holder advised that the extra cost would be outweighed by the opportunities brought to the local community and businesses, opening more capability for outside vendors and charities. The Chairman supported the idea of sponsorship and suggested it be taken into consideration.

Councillor Gilbert noted the absence of Boston Big Local as a contributor to the finance of these events and stressed the importance of maintaining the funding in Boston to accommodate events for the community.

Councillor Gleeson advised that although external funding may come at a future date, which would allow the Council to save or relocate that money, there was a need to allocate the money at this stage.

Responding to a question raised by Councillor Woodliffe about whether these events were insured against the financial risks, the Chairman advised all events should be insured.

Councillor Ghosh sought clarification on whether the £17,000 was an estimation and whether earning potentials of the impact of these events had been calculated. The Community Development Manager advised that the £17,000 would be the maximum budget needed to cover the event. Additionally, it was advised that the sponsorship option had been considered and that although they envisioned it as a free event, some options to produce income had been considered, such as the possibility of charging store holders.

Councillor Dorrian reiterated that should sponsorship be found, that money would be utilised. Councillor Dorrian shared her wishes for delivering a Boston Pride Parade next year which would require an increase to the current budget. The Portfolio Holder referred to the recent East Coast Pride event which had been successfully organised by East Lindsey District Council and showed disposition to have further discussions with the Leader of the Council and the Events Officers.

The Chairman advised that sponsorship provided a lot of opportunities for local business which had been reflected in the Christmas event. It was highlighted as a platform to explore how to maximise further opportunities.

Responding to a query raised by Councillor Izard about the possibility of allowing private groups to organise events later in the year, the Portfolio Holder advised that it would be the Council's main priority and suggested that businesses contact the Council should they have an interest in organising any events.

Councillor Savickiene advised that the event would support people with mental health conditions due to the benefit derived by music as well as by bringing people into the town.

Councillor Broughton advised that the music event could be recognised as a way of integrating all communities together.

Consensus from Members was found around supporting the extra spending.

The Chairman commented that events brought people together, showed a proactive community and helped to promote the town.

Councillor Gleeson proposed the recommendation and supported the amendment by Councillor Dorrian of requesting a report for BTAC's next meeting where the cost of a pride event would be reflected in order to carry out a budget review. Councillor Dani seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED:

That Budget Option 2 - £58,500 including £17,000 funding for Christmas Festival, and £17,000 for a BTAC funded Music Event be approved.

39 Work Programme - Standing Item

The Lead Officer for the committee, the Assistant Director for Leisure and Culture, noted that the next meeting on 30th January would address five items: the budget update breakdown of BTAC charges, the footway lighting report, the Community Coordinator briefing, the costs for a pride event and gate locking of the Central Park.

Members comments included the following:

The Chairman commented on stressing the importance of adding the gate locking of the Central Park to the January agenda.

Councillor Gilbert raised concerns about the state of the roads and roundabouts in the Borough, acknowledging that it was a County Council responsibility. He suggested inviting County Council Highways Officers to the BTAC meeting to improve the overall appearance of the town centre areas. The Chairman invited officers to add the request to the work programme session.

Councillor Dani advised that monthly meetings concerning highways were taking place in Boston where concerns and issues were being addressed. He invited members and the public to assist with the meetings and/or to inform him of concerns to be raised.

Councillor Gleeson suggested having more involvement with the police and County Councillors considering past years' record of engagement. The Assistant Director - Leisure and Culture advised that the Police had agreed to attend periodically rather than monthly due to resources. The Assistant Director - Leisure and Culture noted this request and advised that he would report back.

Councillor Austin declared an interest due to being a member of both Lincolnshire County Council and Boston Borough Council.

Councillor Ghosh advised that BTAC events should be pre-planned and budgeted before the financial year.

Councillor Woodliffe advised that he would like the Executive Councillor responsible for Highways for Lincolnshire County Council, Richard Davis to address the Committee. Councillor Woodliffe advised that Lincolnshire police were in a critical situation lacking funding which could have a detrimental effect on the area.

40 BTAC Small and Empowering Healthy Communities Grant Scheme

The Local Communities Officer presented the report and confirmed that the Small Grant and Empowering Healthy Communities Grant applications had been made to BTAC Grant Working Group who reviewed them on 31st October 2024 in round 3 24/25.

Councillor Austin declared an interest as a Director of Centrepont Outreach.

Members comments included the following:

Councillor Dorrian congratulated Maddy on her report.
Councillor Gleeson proposed the recommendation and Councillor Woodliffe seconded it.

RESOLVED:

That the grant funding award recommendations made by the BTAC Grants Working Group in respect of eligible applications as set out within Appendix 1 be approved.

41 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Due to the Committee's approval of the previous recommendation, this item was not discussed within the session.

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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Order.

The Meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

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REPORT TO:	BTAC
DATE:	30 th Jan 2025
SUBJECT:	Footway Lighting
PURPOSE:	As requested by the committee to consider funding of Footway Lighting for the BTAC Wards
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Dale Broughton
REPORT AUTHOR:	Duncan Hollingsworth – Group Manager (Property and Technical Services)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	BTAC
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

At its meeting on 28 March 2024, BTAC resolved to request from officers the cost of upgrading several of its older non-LED Footway Lighting assets across its geography; Officers subsequently presented a report to BTAC members on 1st August 2024 detailing the cost of LED lighting upgrades to these footway lighting assets.

At this meeting BTAC members resolved to place on hold any final decision regarding this project whilst the chair of BTAC undertook a series of meeting with Finance colleagues to allow members to fully understand the financial obligations and implications associated with this Project.

Now those financial implications are more fully understood this report is being re-presented with refreshed estimates from the council's contractor for the work to be undertaken.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee consider the information provided and determine whether it wishes to resource the Footway Lighting upgrades set out in this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To provide the information requested to enable the Committee to consider whether it wishes to invest in LED upgrades. Doing so would contribute to a reduction of the Council's wider carbon footprint.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not to upgrade the footway lighting provision within the BTAC area to a more energy efficient LED specification.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting in March 2024, the committee requested costing information on the replacement of non-LED Footway Lighting assets within the BTAC area with LED solutions. This report sets out the replacement costs of the areas pure footway lights received by officers at the point of publication.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 At the point of publication, officers from Boston Borough Council had secured outline costs to replace footway lighting at the following locations,

Burgess Pitt	(2 lights currently 70w SON fitting)
Garfits Lane	(3 lights currently 35w SOX fitting)
Havenside Country Park	(4 Lights currently 35w SOX fitting)
Heron Way	(2 lights currently 35w SOX fitting)
Hilda Way	(1 light currently 35w SOX fitting)
Powel Street	(3 lights currently 35w SOX fitting)
Rawson's Lane	(1 light currently 36PL fitting)
Roseberry Avenue	(1 light currently 36PL fitting)
Tattersall Road	(1 light currently 55w SOX fitting)
Wyberton Low Road	(1 light currently 35w SOX fitting)
Wyberton West Road	(2 lights currently 1 55w Sox and 1 36w PL)

- 2.2 Officers asked the Council's current footway lighting contractor to provide a quotation to replace the lights set out above with new 18W LED light fittings. In addition, two existing footway lights at the Garfits Road location require the current end of life pole brackets to be replaced and these replacement cost have been included in the final quotation value.
- 2.3 The current replacement cost to undertake the above works on the 21 assets is estimated to be £7,350 +VAT. Please note this cost may increase upon any commission as the price was provided on visual inspection basis rather than a structural inspection. In the event any order is placed post quote term, costs may also be subject to review.
- 2.4 For clarity to the Committee, all footway lights at the above locations are full night rather than 'part night' lights (i.e. being timed to turn off, normally somewhere between midnight and 02:00 hrs). Whilst reducing operating hours would reduce electricity costs, moving to part night lighting may prove to be problematic from a reputation management perspective so it may be prudent to retain the current lighting arrangement of full night time illumination in the event of any upgrade?
- 2.5 To help the Committee, officers have undertaken some high-level calculations to quantify the potential savings that could be generated by upgrading to 18W LED light fittings.
- 2.6 Currently these assets cost c. £1,369 per annum to operate (based on an average annual 11.76 night hours with electricity at 37.6 pence per kWh). Changing the lighting heads would reduce the annual running cost to c.£610. This equates to a potential annual saving of £758.55 or a reduction of approximately 44.6% in the annual running cost of the lights in scope, giving a capital payback of 9.69 years.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Officers would recommend that BTAC consider the information set out and determine whether to instruct replacement of these 21 lights.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

To reduce the carbon footprint of the council in line with adopted targets

STAFFING

None.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific implications arising from this.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

DATA PROTECTION

None.

FINANCIAL

The financial implications associated with replacing the lighting assets discussed in this paper are detailed in the main body of the report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

No stakeholder consultation would be required as there is no planned reduction in service

REPUTATION

None

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

None

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

A significant reduction in the council's electrical consumption and associated running cost associated with footway lighting provision in Boston together with a reduction of the carbon footprint of the council in line with adopted targets.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

NONE

ACRONYMS

BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee

APPENDICES

There are no appendices.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
<i>None</i>	

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Duncan Hollingsworth Duncan.hollingsworth@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Signed off by:	Andy Fisher Joint Deputy Chief Executive – Delivery, and Assistant Director – General Fund Assets
Approved for publication:	Councillor Dale Broughton

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BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER / GUEST	PORTOFLIO HOLDER
6 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Update Work Programme for forthcoming year 	Finance Officer	Cllr Ghosh
1 August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTAC Small Grants Finance Breakdown Variance on budget for public conveniences Footway Lighting 	BTAC Small Grants Officer Chief Finance Officer Building / Property Services Manager Building / Property Services Manager	Cllr Dorrian Cllr Ghosh Cllr Broughton Cllr Baxter
26 September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTAC Small Grants Financial Position as at 30 June 2024 	BTAC Small Grants Officer Strategic Finance Manager	Cllr Dorrian Cllr Ghosh
28 November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events BTAC Small Grants Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan 	Assistant Director – Leisure and Culture BTAC Small Grants Officer Deputy Chief Executive - Communities	Cllr Broughton Cllr Dorrian Cllr Broughton
30 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Outreach BTAC Projected Financial Position as at 30 September 2024 Proposed BTAC Budget 2025/26 and Forecast to 2029/30 Footway Lighting 	Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Officer (LCC-F&R) Head of Finance (Client) / Strategic Finance Manager (PSPSL) Head of Finance (Client) / Strategic Finance Manager (PSPSL) Service Manager (Property and Technical Services)	Cllr Ghosh Cllr Ghosh Cllr Broughton

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER / GUEST	PORTOFOLIO HOLDER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTAC review programme 	Assistant Director – Leisure and Culture	Cllr Broughton
27 March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTAC Small Grants Central Park Security Events (Pride) 		

Chairman: Councillor Barrie Pierpoint
 Vice Chairman: Councillor Patsie Marson
 Lead Officer: Phil Perry. Assistant Director Leisure and Culture.
 Clerk: Beatriz Aguilar Soto, Democratic Services Officer.

Additional Working Groups active as issue of agenda:

- Green Flag Award