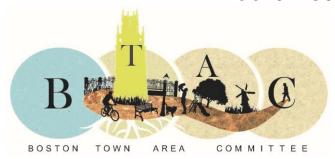
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Municipal Buildings Boston Lincolnshire PE21 8QR Tel: 01205 314200

Wednesday 19 November 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 27th November 2025** at **6.30 pm** in the Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR

Rob Barlow Chief Executive

Membership:

Chairman: Councillor Patricia Marson Vice-Chairman: Councillor Paul Gleeson

Councillors: Alison Austin, Emma Cresswell, Anton Dani, Neil Drayton, Anne Dorrian,

Sandeep Ghosh, Mike Gilbert, Andy Izard, Jonathan Noble, Barrie Pierpoint, 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 - 12)

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 24th November 2025.

F Public Speaking Time

To allow members of the public to address the Committee.

Part II - Agenda Items

1 A discussion with representatives of Lincolnshire Housing Partnership (Verbal Report)

(A discussion with Anthony Read (Chair of the Board), Shaun Harley (Interim Chief Executive) and Mark Coupland (Executive Director of Customers)

2 2025/26 Quarter 2 Financial Position

(Pages 13 - 24)

(A report by Russell Stone, Director of Finance (S151 Officer))

3 Work Programme

(Pages 25 - 26)

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

4 BTAC Small Grant Scheme

(Pages 27 - 34)

(A report by Maddy Eyre, Community Leadership Officer and BTAC Grant Administrator)

5 Exclusion for the Public and Press

Exclusion of the Public and Press

To consider resolving - That under Section 100(A)(iv) of the Local Government Act 1972 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 Act (as amended).

Appendix 1 - BTAC Working Group recommendations

Notes:

Please contact Democratic Services (<u>demservices@boston.gov.uk</u>) 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 314351.



Agenda Item C

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 25th September 2025 at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Councillors Paul Gleeson (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Emma Cresswell, Anton Dani, Neil Drayton, Anne Dorrian, Sandeep Ghosh, Mike Gilbert, Andy Izard, Jonathan Noble, Barrie Pierpoint, Lina Savickiene and Stephen Woodliffe.

In attendance:

Officers:

Assistant Director - Leisure and Local Services, Democratic Services Officer and Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL).

21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison Austin and Patsie Marson.

22 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

23 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to clarification that Councillor Jonathan Noble had asked Inspector Cotton about the rate of crimes solved and successful prosecutions rather than crime outcome rates, and that this information had not been provided.

24 Update on Actions from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Assistant Director – Leisure and Local Services provided updates on matters not otherwise covered by the agenda:

Tour of assets and open spaces

Earlier in the day, several members of the Committee and officers undertook a tour of BTAC assets and open spaces, visiting seven sites. The outcome of the tour was that some painting work would be undertaken and the replacement of safety surfaces at certain sites would require investment. Other issues identified, during the tour, including dog fouling, bins and signage were already being addressed. A report on the tour would be presented to the Committee, most likely at the January meeting.

Central Park security

At the March meeting, the Committee agreed that the contract for security and gate locking at Central Park would not be renewed after 31st August and that a Working Group would be established to consider future arrangements. The Working Group met earlier in September following an extensive period of investigation by officers and Lincolnshire Police to explore alternative options that were both viable and affordable. Lincolnshire

Police had expressed concerns about the gates being left unlocked overnight, and options had been considered including the Police taking responsibility for locking the gates with Council staff unlocking them. Despite exhaustive enquiries, no operationally viable and affordable alternative had been identified.

Since 1st September, the gates had remained unlocked and the Council's Community Safety Team, CCTV Team and Environmental Health Team had monitored incidents. To date, there had been one report of alleged drug use in the park and no incidents recorded by CCTV or reported to Environmental Health. It was hoped that incidents would reduce further when British Summertime ended. A further meeting of the Working Group would take place before a report was brought to the Committee on long-term options. The Working Group comprised of Councillors Dorrian and Gleeson following Councillor Ghosh's resignation, and any additional members wishing to join were invited to notify Democratic Services.

Highways

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had invited Lincolnshire County Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways to attend a meeting on 4th September, but he was unable to attend due to ill health. It was now anticipated that he would attend in December, and BTAC members were welcome to attend.

It was also noted that Lincolnshire County Council's Road Safety Manager would be attending an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2nd October, which BTAC members were also welcome to attend.

Community Governance Review (CGR)

The CGR Working Group met on 25th September to consider the outcome of the Phase One consultation. A total of 126 responses had been received, with a clear majority in favour of establishing a single parish council for Boston Town. The Group had agreed to progress to the next stage of the review, including drafting proposals for a single parish council based on the existing BTAC area, with consideration given to the inclusion of nearby unparished areas. Draft recommendations would be prepared for Full Council in November, with a second phase of public consultation planned for early 2026.

Green Flag Award

The Green Flag Working Group last met on 10th September, when the Neighbourhoods Operations Manager and Volunteer Coordinator attended and provided updates on how their teams were supporting the application process. The Volunteer Coordinator had agreed to attend future meetings.

The Green Flag Management Plan was discussed, including the SWOT analysis and detailed history, which would be agreed at the next meeting. The Assistant Director and the Leisure Services Officer had also met Carl Beacock, the new Group Manager – Street Scene and Commercial Services, at Central Park to introduce him to the area. Carl brought extensive experience of the Green Flag Award process and would help shape the management plan and brief the Working Group at its next meeting.

Additional Query

During discussion, a question was raised regarding the removal of graffiti from sheep sculptures on Bargate roundabout by BTAC operatives and the involvement of a councillor not on the Committee. The Assistant Director agreed to investigate and provide clarification.

25 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

26 Public Speaking Time

The Committee was addressed by two public speakers: Mrs Hazel Webster, followed by Mr Jonathan Wolf.

Mrs Webster gave a presentation and spoke about Boston town centre, public transport in the town and the re-routing of the Fenside bus service which had occurred approximately one year ago. She explained that the removal of the bus route through Straight Bargate had caused considerable inconvenience and physical difficulty for passengers, many of whom were elderly or had mobility issues. She highlighted the lack of consultation prior to the change and described the challenges faced by residents in accessing essential services and shops located along Wide Bargate, including medical facilities and food stores. Mrs Webster argued that reinstating the original route would significantly improve quality of life for affected residents and suggested alternative routing options via John Adams Way if a full reinstatement was not possible. She also raised concerns about the current bus stop arrangements near Boots, describing them as congested and unsuitable, and proposed reinstating the former stop near Savers to alleviate these issues.

[A copy of the presentation is appended to the minutes.]

Following Mrs Webster's presentation, the Committee discussed the points raised. Members acknowledged the concerns expressed and noted that responsibility for bus services rests with Lincolnshire County Council. It was agreed that a copy of Mrs Webster's presentation would be forwarded to the County Council for their consideration. In addition, Councillor Gilbert undertook to write to Mrs Webster in response to her concerns. During discussion, Members highlighted that the Council had previously explored options with the bus operator and the County Council, including the reinstatement of the Savers bus stop, but these had not progressed. Members also noted that the County Council had invested in the CallConnect service as an alternative to traditional bus routes and suggested that further information on its usage could be sought.

Mr Jonathan Wolf then addressed the Committee regarding the display of England flags on lampposts around Boston. He expressed concern that the flags had been placed without permission and were being used as a form of intimidation towards foreign nationals, which he considered unacceptable and damaging to community cohesion. Mr Wolf asked what steps the Council intended to take to remove the flags and prevent similar occurrences in the future.

The Committee discussed the issue raised by Mr Wolf and acknowledged the sensitivity of the matter. Members confirmed that responsibility for lampposts lies with Lincolnshire County Council and that BTAC does not have the authority to remove items from County Council assets. It was agreed that Mr Wolf's comments would be forwarded to the County Council, requesting clarification on their approach to the removal or maintenance of flags should they become worn or damaged. Members emphasised that this was not a request for immediate removal but for clarification on the County Council's policy. During discussion, Members noted the importance of promoting community cohesion and agreed

that the Committee should represent the views expressed by Mr Wolf while recognising that opinions on the flags varied among residents.

Resolved:

- 1. That Mrs Webster's presentation be forwarded to Lincolnshire County Council and that Councillor Gilbert write to her in response; and
- 2. That Mr Wolf's comments be forwarded to Lincolnshire County Council, requesting clarification on their plans for flags displayed on lampposts.

27 2025/26 Quarter 1 Financial Position

The Committee received a report from the Head of Finance Delivery (PSPSL) which provided an overview of the financial position of BTAC as at the end of the Quarter 1 for the financial year 2025/6. The purpose of the report was to ensure that the forecast position for the year was considered and that reserve sums held were noted, supporting Members in maintaining financial probity and making informed decisions regarding future spending within the BTAC area.

The report summarised the position across all service areas and highlighted a forecast overspend of £907, as detailed in Appendix A – Table 1 attached within the report. The anticipated reserve balance at 31st March 2026 was **£289,192**, which included the minimum required reserve of £70,000. The opening reserve balance on 1 April 2025 had been £293,825.

The Head of Finance Delivery explained the main variances:

- Open spaces and play areas showed a projected overspend of £12,130, primarily due to additional employee costs following a staffing role change from Events.
- **Central Park** reflected a surplus position of £8,734, largely due to the cessation of the gate locking service from August.
- **Public Conveniences** had an overspend of £11,339, attributed to increased material costs and an anticipated shortfall in income from fees and charges, based on Quarter 1 actuals. This was partly offset by income from Mayfair and the Autumn Fare events.
- Events showed a forecast surplus of £22,676, resulting from the movement of employee costs to Open Spaces and additional income of £8,000 from space hire for the Autumn Fair.
- Administration recorded a saving of £26,144, primarily relating to the street cleaning service review.

Members sought clarification on several points during discussion:

- The overspend on the cash collection service for public conveniences was explained
 as resulting from a change in collection arrangements, moving from in-house collection
 by Council staff to an external provider. Officers agreed to explore whether a return to
 the previous, cheaper method was possible.
- Questions were raised regarding the agency costs for a vacant post within Public Conveniences, the removal of the Markets Officer post, and the nature of the Autumn Fair income. Officers undertook to provide further details outside the meeting.

 Members also queried the absence of expenditure against the street cleaning budget line, which was clarified as a saving following a service review that determined the charge was not necessary for BTAC.

Further discussion took place on the reserve position. Members noted that the current reserve balance was significantly above the minimum requirement and considered whether some of the funds could be used to promote Boston town centre or enhance tourism as part of BTAC's legacy. It was agreed that this matter would be considered during the forthcoming budget-setting process, alongside advice from the Section 151 Officer. Officers reminded Members that the figures presented were Quarter 1 projections and did not reflect commitments for the remainder of the year.

1. Resolved:

That the forecast overspend of £907 for 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix A – Table 1, be noted; and

That the forecast reserve balance of £289,192 as at 31st March 2026 be noted.

28 Work Programme

The Committee received an update from the Assistant Director – Leisure and Local Services on the current and forthcoming items scheduled for inclusion in the Boston Town Area Committee's Work Programme for the 2025/26 municipal year. Members noted that the Work Programme had been updated to include a report on future BTAC events, which was originally scheduled for this meeting but would now be considered at the meeting on 27th November 2025. It was also confirmed that Lincolnshire Housing Partnership had agreed to attend the November meeting to provide its biennial update.

During discussion, Members considered additional items for inclusion. Councillor Lina Savickiene raised a previous request from a local student regarding the provision of a bike/skate park in Boston and asked whether it could be incorporated into the Work Programme. It was agreed that the matter would be included within the report scheduled for January 2026 on the tour of open spaces and assets, allowing Members to consider options and associated costs.

Members also reflected on the arrangements for the recent tour of BTAC assets and noted that the minibus provided had not been fully utilised. It was suggested that, for future tours, Members might consider sharing cars as an alternative to hiring a vehicle. This would be reviewed when planning the next tour.

The Committee noted the updated Work Programme and agreed the proposed additions.

Resolved:

That the Work Programme be noted, subject to the inclusion of a report on the potential provision of a bike/skate park within the January 2026 report on open spaces and assets.

29 BTAC Small Grant Scheme

The Committee received an update from the Assistant Director – Leisure and Local Services on the status of the Small Grant Scheme for Round 2 of the 2025/26 financial year.

It was reported that a total of four eligible applications had been received during the most recent round. The recommendations were presented to the Committee in line with its delegated authority to make community development grants to town-based organisations and events.

It was confirmed that approval would be provided to the applications contained in Appendix 1 within the report, as follows:

- 1) A grant of £1,000 would be awarded to Citzens Advice Mid Lincolnshire Contribution towards the cost of translation services currently provided by Language Line, to support clients from within the BTAC wards of Boston, whose first language was not English.
- 2) A grant of £950 would be awarded to Fenside Community Centre to cover the cost of small capital costs associated with putting on a Halloween and a Christmas event at Fenside Community Centre in 2025.
- 3) A grant of £975 would be awarded to Taylor Itex CIC Contribution towards the cost of running their autistic adult support group for a 10-week period in 2025.
- 4) A grant of £1,000 Boston Wheelers would be awarded to Go Ride Project Contribution towards the cost of small capital and small revenue costs associated with providing free cycling classes to young people from within the BTAC area.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Anne Dorrian and seconded by Councillor Anton Dani.

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.

At the conclusion of this item, Members were informed that a Mayoral Reception had been held on 3rd September to celebrate the achievements of successful grant recipients from the previous year. The event provided an opportunity for the Communications Team to conduct interviews and produce a promotional video to support the ongoing publicity for the BTAC Grant Scheme.

30 Exclusion of the Public and Press

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

The Meeting ended at 7.47 pm.

Exactly one year ago, with no public consultation, the Fenside bus stopped going though Strait Bargate to the war memorial, danger to pedestrians being cited as the reason. This caused considerable inconvenience and physical difficulty for passengers, many of whom were elderly and infirm. One year on those passengers, now older and even more decrepit, together with others as people age, are still facing the same problems. Regular use of Call Connect or taxis is not an option for many, and not everyone can afford to career around on geriatric chariots.

During a meeting I had with Anne Dorrian she told me she would not recommend a return of the service as she saw no need. Completely understandable. She is not elderly, or disabled, and she has a car.

There are at least twelve vital services and shops around Wide Bargate which without a car can only be reached by walking from the nearest bus stop near Boots. The most important is probably Parkside Surgery and pharmacy in Tawney Street. By definition, only those not at their best go to the doctor! Anne Dorrian's suggestion to me that as I live in the Sleaford Road area I should change to The Sidings practice was unhelpful.

Stephen Woodcliffe recently stated that people can make a choice about where to shop. It is difficult to make a choice if reaching those shops is restricted by lack of transport.

Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan 2023-27 is entitled 'A Town Centre for Everyone'. With a town centre effectively split in two, with the Market Place offering few basic everyday items – not even a newspaper is on sale there – and Wide Bargate with its medical services, food stores, post office and so on, but no means of getting there except on foot, a 'town centre for everyone' sounds a bit hollow.

Reinstating the route through Strait Bargate would be the most helpful option. A few pedestrians complaining about harassment by the bus as they meandered carelessly through the precinct seeking the 'ambience of the town' should not take precedence over the needs of regular users of Wide Bargate. Even back in 2017 Mr Wheatley of Brylaine stated there had been no incidents involving buses in Strait Bargate, and there had been no conflict over bus stops with the County Council which owns the Market Place. The twice-weekly market with its greatly reduced number of stalls cannot claim to create a dangerous route – the bus ran safely through it when it was much livelier.

If this suggestion is not acceptable surely it would be possible to run the route along John Adams Way. The bus would stop in the marketplace, then go through South End, turning left onto John Adams Way. The road from South End to Wide Bargate is not congested, as has been claimed. The congestion starts just over the new bridge, with roundabouts and minor exits all the way to West Street, a route already taken by the Fenside bus. At the Georgians roundabout the bus could turn into Bargate, then travel down to the original stop by the War Memorial, where it would cause no problem to traffic and provide seating or shelter to passengers. This stop is already used by another bus. The return journey would follow this route in reverse. Passengers now boarding at Boots are heading home via the grand tour of Broadfield Lane or Fenside. The extra few minutes via the Memorial would be a price well worth paying for access to Wide Bargate.

It is appreciated that this service is barely profitable, if at all. However, the Boston town strategy states that we have been given £20million over time, partly to improve transport and

revive high streets. Surely the relatively small amount of funding needed to improve and sustain a passenger-friendly service can be found – there seems to be enough for less useful projects. A bus 'service' should not be for company profit or efficiency of schedules, it should serve the needs of its passengers. To quote Question 6 of the consultation paper on the amalgamation of councils, 'town councils play a vital role in local life. They represent their communities and work to improve wellbeing and quality of life, having legal powers to do this'.

If, despite my hopefully persuasive argument, it is decided no change is necessary, at least reinstate the bus stop by Savers. It is difficult and unpleasant enough struggling the quarter. mile back from Wide Bargate, even without carrying shopping. Having to wait on the narrow pavement near Boots, the only seating a metal pole in a draughty shelter offering no respite from the bitter wind off the Haven, is the final straw. This bus stop is a fiasco. At least three buses, sometimes five, arrive at the same time, causing tailback on the road, obscuring the pedestrian crossing, and creating chaos as passengers scramble to find their bus. Passersby are caught up in the confusion and at school leaving time it is mayhem. The bus stop by Savers offers a concrete plinth for weary shoppers with no obstruction to passersby. The bus could swing round the end of Market Place and park at the original stop, which is still there, without affecting any traffic. Even the bus drivers complain about the present arrangement.

From the wider perspective, Boston is not a thriving and vibrant town. Citing the regeneration of Boston as a reason for stopping the bus is insupportable. The Boston strategy states that its objective is to ensure residents and visitors can access and leave the town centre easily and utilising sustainable forms of transport where available, and a retailing centre that serves the needs of the local community. What we now have is a town centre where half of it is effectively denied to regular users.

The Market Place is uninspiring, even the market has little to offer apart from the old stalwarts of fruit and veg, the flower stall, and the indefatigable underwear lady, other stalls being mostly cheap and anything but cheerful. There is little to suggest that a much better selection of vital and interesting shops lies at the other end of Strait Bargate. This much more attractive area has old-established small shops as well as Lidl, Iceland, the post office, even the only shoe shop in town. But for how long? Increasingly shopkeepers there are saying how hard it is to keep going. Admittedly the bus passengers aren't going to revitalise the town but they need the facilities, particularly the Lidls and Herons. There is a carpark on the Green, but it is seldom full. Perhaps people with cars don't need the cheaper shops and 'make a choice where to shop', probably Tesco and Downtown or further afield.

When M & S have opened their new food store and a better bus service is provided there will be even less incentive to come to a town already dominated by east European food shops, barbers, and charity shops. As and when the promised delights of Rosegarth are a reality there will be little to encourage trudging over the pedestrian bridge and up to the marketplace, let alone as far as Wide Bargate.

This is particularly true with day trippers. After walking from the coach station along West Street to the marketplace they arrive to find nothing – nothing they couldn't find in Skegness. Looking down Strait Bargate they would never realise the best part is down at the end. Don't kid yourselves that most of them care about the historic Stump or the fantastic architecture – most of them only want shops and a coffee!

Unless a solution is found quickly to revitalise Boston, starting with reuniting the two halves, where reinstating the Fenside route could help, this town will decline even more. Even the brilliant flower displays around the centre won't save it.

I am not speaking for my own sake. I am here to represent most of the Fenside bus users who after a year are still unhappy with the situation but feel unable to challenge it. I appreciate the difficulties faced by the Council over this, what with cost benefit analysis and the like, particularly as most of you fortunately have no experience of being old or struggling with physical disabilities. However, you are elected to represent Boston residents and improve wellbeing and quality of life. Reinstating the bus up to Wide Bargate would certainly do that, even if for only a small percentage of people.

So, one year on, please stop muttering about 'reviewing the matter', retrieve the original request from its dusty 'no further action' corner, and use your 'legal power' to improve the wellbeing and quality of life for a small but important group of residents.

Thank you.



Public Speaking

Please may I ask the council members what are they are planning to do about the vandalism that is plaguing our streets, in the form of the flags on the lamp posts.

I am a patriotic man and I do appreciate the Cross of St George being flown at times of celebration and pride in our nation but this act of thuggery and racism is an offence to every proper UK citizen as well as being an offence in law, as I presume these people have not had permission to put these flags on the lampposts.

As we all know, these flags have been put there to intimidate the foreign nationals, trying to make them feel unwelcome and unwanted which, I hope you will agree with me, is not the case.

So, again I ask, what is the council doing about removing these flags from around Boston?



Agenda Item 2



Report To: Boston Town Area Committee

Date: 27th November 2025

Subject: 2025/26 Quarter 2 Financial Position

Purpose: To present the 2025/26 Quarter 2 position for the period ending

30 September 2025.

Key Decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Sandeep Ghosh, Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Economic Growth

Report Of: Russell Stone, Director of Finance (S151 Officer)

Report Author: Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL)

Ward(s) Affected: All BTAC Wards

Exempt Report: No

Summary

This report sets out a summary of the current financial position for BTAC at the end of Quarter 2 for 2025/26 forecasting to the year end for members consideration.

Recommendations

It is recommended:

- 1. That BTAC Members note the forecast position of £15,042 deficit for 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix A Table 1; and
- 2. That BTAC Members note the forecast reserve balance to 31 March 2026.

Reasons for Recommendations

None.

To ensure the BTAC forecast financial position for 2025/26 is considered and reserve sums held noted. It is intended to support Members in maintaining financial probity and making informed decisions regarding future spending within the BTAC area.

Oth	ner Options Considered
No	ne.
1.	Report
1.1	Appendix A sets out the income and expenditure details for Quarter 2 of 2025/26.
1.2	The forecast indicates an overspend of £15,042, which will be covered by reserves if the position remains unchanged as of 31 March 2026.
2.	Reserve Position
2.1	The opening balance of the BTAC reserve on 1 April 2025 was £293,825. The forecast balance of reserve is £275,057, reflecting planned use throughout the financial year as detailed in Appendix A – Table 2.
2.2	This includes the minimum required reserve balance of £70,000.
3.	Conclusion
3.1.	To ensure the Quarter 2 position is scrutinised, and the forecast outturn is reviewed.
Imp	lications
Sou	th and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
Non	e.
Cor	porate Priorities
Non	e.
Staf	fing
Non	e.
Wor	kforce Capacity Implications
/or	kforce Capacity Implications

Constitutional and Legal Implications
None.
Data Protection
None.
Financial
As contained in this report and the associated appendix.
Risk Management
None.
Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales
No consultation undertaken.
Reputation
None.
Contracts
None.
Crime and Disorder
None.
Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding
None.
Health and Wellbeing
None.
Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment
None.
Acronyms
BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee EHC – Empowering Healthy Communities

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix A BTAC Q2 Finance Report 2025-26

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

Chronological History of this Report

None.

Report Approval

Report author: Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery – BBC (PSPSL)

Nicole.Hayes@pspsl.co.uk

Signed off by: Russell Stone, Director of Finance (S151 Officer)

Russell.Stone@sholland.gov.uk

Approved for publication: Councillor Sandeep Ghosh, Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Economic Growth

sandeep.ghosh@boston.gov.uk

BTAC - Q2 Finance Report for 2025-26

Finance Summary

- The forecast shows a deficit position of £15,042 as of 30 September 2025.
- The anticipated reserve balance as of 31 March 2026 is £275,057.

Table 1 details the financial summary outlining the expenditure incurred for BTAC, detailing key service areas and associated budget allocations.

		Table 1 –	Financial Summ	nary	
Service	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Spend to 30/09/2025 Q2 £	Outturn 2025/26 at Q2 £	Variance (under)/ over Q2 £	Comments on main variances at Q2
Open Spaces & Play Areas	111,373	66,063	127,021	15,648	Maintenance of play equipment and employee costs moved from Events.
Allotments	(580)	(1,562)	(615)	(35)	Additional rental income.
Central Park	192,224	93,950	182,850	(9,374)	Savings on utility costs and gate locking service not in operation.
Public Conveniences	168,129	89,953	182,336	14,207	Door replacement required and associated costs including loss of income.
Events	160,128	47,391	145,253	(14,875)	Employee costs moved to Open Spaces and additional income for space hire.
Town Centre Maintenance	114,519	55,607	116,500	1,981	Savings on utility costs and impact on pay award
Administration	58,296	8,583	30,755	(27,541)	Primarily related to the street cleaning service review.
Net Expenditure	804,089	359,985	784,100	(19,989)	
Council Tax Income	(769,058)	(384,529)	(769,058)	-	
Net Total	35,031	(24,544)	15,042	(19,989)	
Efficiency Savings Target	(35,031)	-	-	35,031	
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	-	-	-	15,042	

Table 2 details the current and forecasted reserve levels for BTAC, with an anticipated position as of 31 March 2026.

Table 2 – Reserve Balance	
Description	£
Reserve Balance as of 1 April 2025	(293,825)
Less: Current Projected Planned Spend:	
Empowering Healthy Communities Grants remaining balance	-
Small Grants Balance from Prior Years	3,726
	(290,099)
2025/26 Forecast Deficit	15,042
Forecast Reserve Balance as of 31 March 2026	(275,057)

Based on the Section 151 Officer's recommendation, the minimum required reserve balance is set at £70,000.

Table 3 details the forecast outturn for maintaining and managing the Open Spaces and Play Areas within the BTAC area for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 30 September 2025.

	Table	3 – Open Space	s & Play Areas		
Account	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Spend to 30/09/2025 Q2 £	Outturn 2025/26 at Q2 £	Variance (under)/ over Q2 £	Comments on main variances at Q2
					Movement of roles
Employee Costs	6,060	6,773	12,746	6,686	from events.
Premises					
Repairs & Maintenance	3,840	1,920	3,840	-	
Premises Insurance	3, 900	30 1,950	60 3,900	<u> </u>	
	3,300	1,550	3,300		
Transport					
Car Allowances	10	-	10	-	
	10	-	10	-	
Supplies & Services					
CCTV Camera Maintenance	2,060	-	2,060	-	_
Maintenance of New Play	1,000	7,611	10,000	9,000	Repairs & Replacements for
Equipment					Play equipment
Professional & Contractor	1,190	1,152	1,152	(38)	Annual inspection
Fees	40	20	40		costs
Insurance	4,290	8,783	13,252	8,962	
	4,230	8,783	13,232	8,302	
Third Party Payments					
Grounds Maintenance	94,770	47,385	94,770	-	
	94,770	47,385	94,770	-	
Support Services					
Property Services Support	1,673	837	1,673	-	
Recharge HR & Payroll Recharge	670	335	670	_	
Tin & Layron Nechaige	2,343	1,172	2,343		
	2,545	1,1,2	2,373		
Income					
Other Income	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Grand Total	111,373	66,063	127,021	15,648	

Table 4 details the forecast outturn for the management of Allotments located within the BTAC area for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 30 September 2025.

		Table 4 – Allo	tments		
Account	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Spend to 30/09/2025 Q2 £	Outturn 2025/26 at Q2 £	Variance (under)/ over Q2 £	Comments on main variances at Q2
Supplies & Services					
Development	255	-	255	-	
	255	-	255	-	
Support Services Management & Administration Support	1,385	693	1,385	-	
	1,385	693	1,385	-	
Income Rental Income	(2,220) (2,220)	(2,255)	(2,255)	(35)	Additional rental income.
	(2,220)	(2,233)	(2,233)	(33)	
Grand Total	(580)	(1,562)	(615)	(35)	

Table 5 details the forecast outturn for the operations of Central Park for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 30 September 2025

		Table 5 – Cent	ral Park		
Account	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Spend to 30/09/2025 Q2 £	Outturn 2025/26 at Q2 £	Variance (under)/ over Q2 £	Comments on main variances at Q2
Premises					
Repairs & Maintenance Electricity	3,730 4,500	1,865 881	3,730 4,000	- (500)	New utility rates received.
Water	316	18	100	(216)	Reduction in charges.
Premises Insurance	1,260	630	1,260	-	
	9,806	3,394	9,090	(716)	
Supplies & Services					
Birds	663	195	660	(3)	
Gate Locking Service	16,983	8,250	8,250	(8,733)	Gate locking service not in operation, ceased Aug 25.
	17,646	8,445	8,910	(8,736)	
Third Party Payments					
Trade Waste Contract	1,480	740	1,480	-	
Grounds Maintenance	164,100	82,050	164,100	-	
	165,580	82,790	165,580	-	
Support Services					
Communication & Marketing Recharge	341	171	340	(1)	
Property Services Support Recharge	2,676	1,338	2,680	4	
<u> </u>	3,017	1,509	3,020	3	
Income					
Rents – Kiosk	(3,825)	(2,188)	(3,750)	75	
	(3,825)	(2,188)	(3,750)	75	
Grand Total	192,224	93,950	182,850	(9,374)	

Table 6 details the forecast outturn for operating the Public Conveniences within the BTAC area for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 30 September 2025.

		Table 6 -	Public Conveni	ences	
Account	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Spend to 30/09/2025 Q2 £	Outturn 2025/26 at Q2 £	Variance (under)/ over Q2 £	Comments on main variances at Q2
Employee Costs	122,800	65,252	118,763	(4,037)	Agency costs for vacant post until 30/11/25.
Premises					
Repairs & Maintenance	7,650	3,825	9,250	1,600	Door replacements for Central Park and Wide Bargate PCs
Electricity	4,090	2,071	5,710	1,620	Usage higher than anticipated.
Water Rates	18,350	7,789	24,350	6,000	Usage higher than anticipated.
Premises Insurance	1,540	770	1,540	-	
Depot/Office	580	290	580	-	
Accommodation					
_	32,210	14,745	41,430	9,220	
Transport					
Vehicles	5,560	2,780	5,560		
Car Allowances	30	-	30	-	
	5,590	2,780	5,590	-	
Supplies & Services					
Clothing	500	124	500	-	
Materials	5,000	4,084	9,000	4,000	Increased prices for suppliers.
Mobile Phones	70	11	70	-	
Employee Insurance	900	450	900	-	
Cash Collection	510	1,086	2,642	2,132	Changes in cash collection
Service		,	,-	, -	arrangements.
	6,980	5,755	13,112	6,132	
Third Party					
Payments					
Grounds	4,150	2,075	4,150	-	
Maintenance					
	4,150	2,075	4,150	-	
Support Services					
Communication &	170	85	170	-	
Marketing Recharge	7.000	2.540	7.000		
Finance Recharge	7,020	3,510	7,020	-	
HR & Payroll	5,590	2,795	5,590	-	
Recharge	12 700	6 200	12 700		
la a a a a a	12,780	6,390	12,780	-	
Income	,	,	,		
Sale of Keys	(61)	(4)	(20)	41	
Fees & Charges	(16,320)	(5,881)	(12,310)	4,010	Loss of income due to Central
					Park vandalism in addition to
					the underachievement from
Other Income	_	(1,159)	(1,159)	(1,159)	Q1. Additional hours from events.
Carer meonic	(16,381)	(7,044)	(13,489)	2,892	Additional floats from Events.
	(10,301)	(7,044)	(13,403)	2,032	
Grand Total	168,129	89,953	182,336	14,207	

Table 7 details the forecast outturn for Events within the BTAC area for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 30 September 2025.

		Table 7 – Ev	vents		
Account	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Spend to 30/09/2025 Q2 £	Outturn 2025/26 at Q2 £	Variance (under)/ over Q2 £	Comments on main variances at Q2
Employee Costs	85,370	18,771	70,670	(14,700)	Costs reallocated to Open Spaces and Markets Officer post removed.
Supplies & Services					
Printing	255	_	260	5	
Advertising	4,000	393	4,022	22	
Postages	-	86	86	86	Letters for Strongest & Food Fest
Mobile Phones	50	11	50	-	
Employee Insurance	630	315	630	-	
Health & Safety Service	1,020	-	1,020	-	
Event Costs	41,500	25,648	41,500	-	
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,400	-	3,400	-	
Grants & Contributions	17,000	-	17,000	-	
	67,855	26,453	67,968	113	
Third Party Payments					
Street Cleaning	1,420	710	1,420	-	
	1,420	710	1,420	-	
Support Services					
Communication & Marketing Recharge	1,363	682	1,360	(3)	
Finance Recharge	3,410	1,705	3,410	-	
HR & Payroll Recharge	2,710	1,355	2,710	-	
	7,483	3,742	7,480	(3)	
Income					
Event Space Hire & Events Income	(2,000)	(2,285)	(2,285)	(285)	
	(2,000)	(2,285)	(2,285)	(285)	
0	460 105	4	448.004	14 4 277	
Grand Total	160,128	47,391	145,253	(14,875)	

Table 8 details the forecast outturn for the maintenance of the Town Centre for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 30 September 2025.

	Table	8 – Town Centr	e Maintenance		
Account	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Spend to 30/09/2025 Q2 £	Outturn 2025/26 at Q2 £	Variance (under)/ over Q2 £	Comments on main variances at Q2
Employee Costs	76,210	39,319	78,040	1,830	As a result of the pay award.
Premises					
Business Rates	2,470	2,470	2,470	-	
Electric	600	515	870	270	Overspend as a result of utility rates.
Rental Fees	3,825	-	3,750	(75)	
Depot Recharge	480	240	480	-	
	7,375	3,225	7,570	195	
Transport					
Vehicles	7,270	3,635	7,270	-	
	7,270	3,635	7,270	-	
Supplies & Services					
Equipment Purchases	2,550	-	2,550	-	
Materials	4,182	715	4,180	(2)	
Clothing	710	-	710	-	
Employee Insurance	560	280	560	-	
Mobile Phones	50	11	50	-	
Purchase & Provisions	6,191	3,711	6,150	(41)	Anticipated underspend on
					provisions.
	14,243	4,717	14,200	(43)	'
Commant Complete					
Support Services	4.750	2 275	4.750		
Finance Recharge	4,750	2,375	4,750	- (4)	
Communication & Marketing Recharge	681	341	680	(1)	
Training Recharge	210	105	210	_	
HR & Payroll Recharge	3,780	1,890	3,780	-	
	9,421	4,711	9,420	(1)	
Grand Total	114,519	55,607	116,500	1,981	

Table 9 details the forecast outturn for administrative functions for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 30 September 2025.

Table 9 – Administration						
Account	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Spend to 30/09/2025 Q2 £	Outturn 2025/26 at Q2 £	Variance (under)/ over Q2 £	Comments on main variances at Q2	
Employee Costs	4,900	2,452	4,905	5		
Supplies & Services						
Grants Programme	13,402	1,935	12,000	(1,402)		
EHC Grants	-	-	-	-		
London Road Running Costs	1,040	414	1,040	-		
Equipment Maintenance	1,051	-	1,050	(1)	Speed indicator device.	
Footway Lighting Electricity & Maintenance	4,200	-	4,200	-		
Employee Insurance	40	20	40	-		
	19,733	2,369	18,330	(1,403)		
Third Party Payments Street Cleaning	26,140	-	-	(26,140)	Service review savings.	
	26,140	-	-	(26,140)	, · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Support Services						
Finance Recharge	310	155	310	-		
Communication & Marketing Recharge	511	256	510	(1)		
HR & Payroll Recharge	250	125	250	-		
Property Services Support Recharge	640	320	640	-		
Caretaker Service Recharge	360	180	360	-		
Assistant Director Recharges	2,030	1,015	2,030	-		
Democratic Services Support Recharge	3,422	1,711	3,420	(2)		
	7,523	3,762	7,520	(3)		
Constant	F0 000	0.500	20.755	(27.546)		
Grand Total	58,296	8,583	30,755	(27,541)		

BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER / GUEST	PORTOFLIO HOLDER
5 June 2025	 BTAC Q4 2024/25 Financial Outturn report Work Programme for forthcoming year 	Interim Finance Manager Assistant Director – Culture and Leisure	Cllr Ghosh
24 July 2025	BTAC Small Grants Biennial update from Lincolnshire Police	BTAC Small Grants Officer Guest: Inspector Ian Cotton (Lincolnshire Police)	Cllr Broughton
25 September 2025	 BTAC Small Grants BTAC Q1 Financial Position as at 30 June 2025 	BTAC Small Grants Officer Finance Manager	Cllr Broughton Cllr Ghosh
27 November 2025	 BTAC Small Grants BTAC Q2 Financial Position as at 30 September 2025 Biennial update from Lincolnshire Housing Partnership 	BTAC Small Grants Officer Finance Manager Guest: Anthony Read, Chair	Cllr Broughton Cllr Ghosh Cllr Baxter
22 January 2026	Proposed BTAC Budget 2026/27 and MTFS to 2030/31	Finance Manager	Cllr Ghosh
	• Events 2025/6	Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership	Cllr Broughton
26 March 2026	BTAC Small Grants	BTAC Small Grants Officer	Cllr Broughton

BTAC Q3 Financial Position as at 31 December Finance Manager Cllr Ghosh 2025	MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER / GUEST	PORTOFLIO HOLDER
			Finance Manager	Cllr Ghosh

Pending confirmation for potential addition to the Work Programme:

- Review of status of Ingelow Park, Boston
- Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027 Annual Review 2025 (Year Two)
- Tour of assets, including skate park provision.
- Green Flag Central Park

Additional Working Groups active as at issue of agenda:

- Green Flag Award:
 Meeting dates all as advised previously: (6pm and in the Meeting Room (adjacent to the Committee Room)): 14th January 2026
- Small Grants:
 Meeting dates (at 6pm and via Microsoft Teams): 26th February 2026.
- Central Park security:
 Meeting dates to be confirmed following outcome of current officer deliberations.

Chairman: Councillor Patsie Marson Vice Chairman: Councillor Paul Gleeson

Lead Officer: Phil Perry. Assistant Director, Leisure and Local Services.

Clerk: Paul Stonebridge, Democratic Services Officer.

Agenda Item 4



Report To: Boston Town Area Committee

Date: 27th November 2025

Subject: BTAC Small Grant Scheme

Purpose: To receive the recommendations of the BTAC Grants Working

Group in respect of grant applications submitted in Round 3

25/26 of the BTAC Small Grant Scheme.

Key Decision: No

Portfolio Holder: N/A

Report Of: Councillor Patricia Marson, Chairman of BTAC

Report Author: Maddy Eyre, Community Leadership Officer and BTAC Grant

Administrator

Ward(s) Affected: All BTAC Wards

Exempt Report: Partially, Appendix 1 is exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 of

Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that

information).

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the BTAC Grants Working Group in respect of grant applications submitted in Round 3 of the financial year 2025/2026 for the BTAC Small Grant Scheme.

Recommendations

That the Committee approve the grant funding award recommendations made by the BTAC Grants Working Group in respect of **eligible** applications as set out in Appendix 1.

Reasons for Recommendations

To provide grants to local groups that undertake community work which benefits the BTAC Wards of Boston.

Other Options Considered

Do not support the BTAC Working Group recommendations – Not recommended as all applications received have been assessed against the relevant grant scheme policy and criteria.

1. Background

1.1 The BTAC Grants Working Group met on 30th October 2025 to review applications submitted for consideration in Round 3 25/26 to the BTAC Small Grant Scheme.

2. Report

- 2.1 5 eligible applications were received in Round 3 of the scheme.
- 2.2 Details of each applicant, project details, the amount requested and the Working Group funding award recommendations are shown in Appendix 1.

3. Conclusion

3.1. In conclusion, the BTAC Grants Working Group recommendations are presented at full Committee, in line with the Committee's role to make community development grants to town-based organisations and events.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None

Corporate Priorities

The BTAC Grant Scheme supports the following corporate priorities: Healthy Lives; Safer and Resilient Communities and the Environment.

Staffing

None.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The Localism Act 2011 provides the Local Authority with a general power of competence. This power can be used to undertake activity (such as the awarding of grants) which benefits the local authority area or persons resident or present in the area.

Details of grants awarded by a Local Authority to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations are required to published annually in accordance with the Local Transparency Code 2015.

The Council's Constitution sets out that the Committee may make community development grants to town-based organisations and events. This function is exercised under delegated authority from the Cabinet.

Data Protection

None.

Financial

The value of each grant sought is set out in Appendix 1. The Committee's current financial position in relation to the Small Grant is set out in the finance pro-forma that accompanies this report.

Risk Management

The BTAC Small Grant Scheme operates within set policies and protocols.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

The BTAC Grants Working Group is made up of up to 6 active members of the Boston Town Area Committee and they are brought together to review all eligible applications submitted to the BTAC Grants Administrator in each live round of the grant scheme.

Reputation

None

Contracts

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

Priorities supported will promote fairness and inclusion while supporting Boston Town Area Committee's commitment to equal opportunities for all, including those protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010.

There are no equalities implications within this report. All equalities implications will be managed alongside each individual applicant through the monitoring process of project delivery.

There are no safeguarding implications directly arising from this report.

Health and Wellbeing

The BTAC Small and Empowering Healthy Communities Grant Schemes operate within Corporate Priority: Healthy Lives.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

An impact assessment has been undertaken and the assessment has been based on the experience to date and the key areas where there is likely to have been an impact however this is only indicative and can't be a comprehensive assessment. Ways to better capture the impact of individual schemes, without potentially overburdening community projects are being explored with the Climate Change Group Manager.

Acronyms

BTAC - Boston Town Area Committee

Appendices

Exempt Appendix 1 BTAC Working Group recommendations

Background Papers

Document title Where the document can be viewed

BTAC Working Group Application Pack Application summaries are available to BTAC

Members on request, from the BTAC Grant

Scheme Administrator

Chronological History of this Report

Name of Body Date

BTAC Grants Working Group 30th October 2025

Report Approval

Report author: Maddy Eyre, Local Communities Development Officer and

Administrator of the Boston Town Area Committee Grant

Scheme

Maddy.eyre@boston.gov.uk

Signed off by: Emily Spicer, Assistant Director - Communities and Housing

Services

Emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk

Approved for publication: Councillor Patricia Marson, Chairman of BTAC

patricia.marson@boston.gov.uk

FINANCE PROFORMA BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

PROFORMA FOR EXECUTIVE APPROVAL OF THE RELEASE OF RESOURCES (CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS)

FROM: Caroline Thacker-Smith – Finance Business Partner, PSPSL

THIS PROFORMA PROVIDES THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE ATTACHED

REPORT: Boston Town Area Committee REPORT DATE: 27th November 2025

	£ Year 1 2025/26	£ Year 2 2026/27	£ Year 3 2027/28	£ Year 4 2028/29	£ Year 5 2029/30
Revenue					
BTAC Small	15,725.62				
Grants					
Communities	-				
Grants					
Total Revenue	15,725.62*				
Cost					

^{*}The balance has decreased by £1,486.97 following the payment of 2024/25 Round 4 awards.

Funding required: Considered by: BTAC Date: 27th

November 2025

Total capital cost £0

Revenue cost £3,960.00

Financial Services Comments	Balance as of 25 th September 2025	Applications £	Balance C/F £
BTAC Small Grants Communities Grants	9,865.23 -	3,960.00	5,905.23
Total	9,865.23	3,960.00	5,905.23

Risk

None

Procurement

None

Value for Money Efficiency

This FP is valid for 3	If this FP is no longer	If there are changes to the
months from FP date	required please advise	original report it may
	Finance	invalidate this document, it
		must be reviewed by
		Finance.



By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

