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Municipal Buildings
Boston
Lincolnshire PE21 8QR
Tel: 01205 314200

Wednesday 14 January 2026

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 22nd January 2026 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, Anne Dorrian, Neil Drayton, 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 - 6)

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 19th January 2026.

F Public Speaking Time

To allow members of the public to address the Committee.

Part II - Agenda Items

1 Review of 2025 events and funding proposal for events in 2026/27 (Pages 7 - 30)

(A report by Emily Spicer, Assistant Director, Communities and Housing Services)

2 Draft Budget Setting 2026/27 (Pages 31 - 48)

(A report by Russell Stone, Director of Finance and Section 151 officer)

3 Central Park Green Flag Application (Pages 49 - 78)

(A report by Phil Perry, Assistant Director Leisure and Local Services)

4 Work Programme (Pages 79 - 82)

(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 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 27th November 2025 at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Patricia Marson, in the Chair.

Councillors Alison Austin, Anton Dani, Neil Drayton, Sandeep Ghosh, Mike Gilbert, Andy Izard, Jonathan Noble, Barrie Pierpoint, Lina Savickiene and Stephen Woodliffe.

In attendance:

The following representatives of Lincolnshire Housing Partnership: Chairman of the Board, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Customers.

Officers:

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

31 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Anne Dorrian.

32 Declarations of Interest

In respect of agenda item 1, discussion with representatives of Lincolnshire Housing Partnership, Councillors Neil Drayton and Patsie Marson declared that they were tenants of the Lincolnshire Housing Partnership.

33 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34 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:

Central Park Security

Following the decision not to renew the security and gate locking service at Central Park, the gates had been unlocked since 31st August 2025. Since then, the Democratic Services Team had been liaising with the Community Safety Team, CCTV Team and Environmental Health Team to monitor the situation and respond to any reports of criminality at Central Park.

Since 1st September, eleven reports of alleged criminal behaviour had been received, ranging from anti-social behaviour to unconfirmed reports of a man with a knife. None of those incidents had occurred during the period when the gates were previously locked. There had been no reports to Environmental Health and no incidents recorded by the Borough Council's CCTV team.

As the number of incidents were relatively small, additional information had not been requested to establish how this compared with previous years. The situation would continue to be monitored and a further update would be provided at the January meeting. At that point, the Working Group had not met again.

In response to a question from a member about how the issues might affect the Central Park Green Flag application, the Assistant Director indicated that the management plan for the application would address those matters and stressed that none of the reports had occurred during the period when the gates were previously locked.

Highways

Members had expressed an interest in hearing from the Portfolio Holder for Highways, who had been due to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th September. It was now anticipated that this would occur on 15th January 2026, and further details would be provided to Members nearer the time.

Green Flag

The last Working Group meeting had taken place on 12th November, when it was agreed that the management plan would be completed by January with a view to submitting the application thereafter. The Group Manager for Street Scene and Commercial Services had attended the meeting and shared his knowledge of the Green Flag process and the support he could provide.

An officer working group had been created to ensure officers took ownership of their respective areas of the management plan, and a further meeting had taken place. A Share point site had been created to enable officers to review and amend the document to ensure accuracy for their service areas. Discussions had also taken place with IT regarding the creation of a dedicated web page for Central Park.

Community Governance Review

The Community Governance Review Working Group had met on 20th November following Full Council's decision on 10th November to amend its composition. Councillor Gilbert had been elected Chairman of the Working Group. At its meeting, the Group had considered responses from the phase one public consultation and possible recommendations, and had reviewed the project plan.

The next meeting was scheduled on 18th December to finalise recommendations and the draft phase two consultation, in readiness for Full Council to consider at its meeting on 12th January 2026.

35 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

36 Public Speaking Time

There were no public speakers.

37 A discussion with representatives of Lincolnshire Housing Partnership

The Committee received its biennial update from Lincolnshire Housing Partnership (LHP). The Committee was addressed by Anthony Read (Chair of the Board), Shaun Harley (Interim Chief Executive Officer) and Mark Coupland (Executive Director of Customers).

LHP representatives provided a verbal and written presentation to the Committee, a copy of which is appended to the minutes. The presentation included a response to questions submitted in advance and provided additional information on the following areas:

- **Customer Service Delivery:** The quality of responses when dealing with calls had improved, and a call-back service had been introduced. It was anticipated that as LHP's aims in relation to repairs progressed, customer service delivery would improve, as many complaints related to repair issues.
- **Neighbourhood Performance:** LHP had redesigned its anti-social behaviour (ASB) response service and worked to manage expectations better, resulting in improved understanding and satisfaction.
- **Repairs and Empty Homes:** A repair stabilisation programme was in place. The number of works in progress had reduced from approximately **6,500** six months ago to **circa 4,000**. Fourteen additional maintenance operatives had been recruited in December 2024. The Board's target was to reduce works in progress to **around 2,500** by March 2026. Calls relating to repairs were running at about **1,000 per week**, meaning the current backlog equated to approximately two and a half weeks of repairs.

Vacant Properties: There were 28 vacant LHP properties in Boston at the time of the meeting. The turnaround time for a vacant property was just under 30 days, although this could vary depending on the condition of the property and whether repairs were required. LHP received notice on approximately 17 properties per week, equating to 850 properties per annum, and aimed to ensure that every empty property was occupied as quickly as possible to maintain rental income for reinvestment.

Investment and Compliance: LHP confirmed that £16 million per annum was being invested in its housing portfolio. The organisation was complying with Awaab's Law (Hazards in Social Housing (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2025), which came into effect in October 2025. There were 27 active damp and mould cases in Boston, managed through risk-based interventions, including temporary decanting where necessary.

Future Growth: LHP outlined its growth plans in the context of £39 billion national funding over the next 10 years and rent certainty for the same period (Consumer Price Index plus 1%). The impact of Right to Buy was noted, and LHP intended to balance this against new development opportunities.

Following the presentation, the Committee considered a wide range of issues relating to LHP's performance and future plans. The importance of improving repair times and communication with tenants was noted, and the Committee welcomed the additional resources and investment in the repair stabilisation programme. It was acknowledged that the majority of complaints were linked to delays in repairs and that improvements in this area were expected to raise satisfaction levels.

The Committee discussed the target for reducing works in progress to around 2,500 by March 2026 and noted that this would represent approximately two and a half weeks of

repair demand based on current volumes. The need for realistic targets and clear communication was emphasised.

Consideration was given to the number of vacant properties in Boston and the turnaround time for re-letting. The Committee noted that the average turnaround was just under 30 days but could vary depending on the condition of the property and whether repairs were required. The scale of demand was highlighted, with approximately 17 tenancy terminations per week across the wider service area, equating to 850 properties per annum.

Environmental concerns, including fly-tipping and grounds maintenance, were discussed, and the Committee welcomed LHP's commitment to work with Members to address these issues through ward walkabouts and the sharing of Neighbourhood Action Plans. The importance of maintaining clear channels for Member casework was noted.

The Committee also considered the complexity of managing small adjacent land parcels under mixed ownership, which often resulted in fragmented maintenance arrangements. Support was expressed for further dialogue on practical solutions to improve coordination and efficiency.

The Committee noted LHP's compliance with Awaab's Law and the management of 27 active damp and mould cases in Boston, including the use of temporary decanting where necessary. The scale of planned investment was acknowledged, with £16 million per annum being allocated to the housing portfolio, alongside a 10-year contract with main contractors to improve quality and timeliness of work.

Future growth plans were considered in the context of national funding and rent certainty for the next decade. The Committee recognised the need to balance the impact of Right to Buy against new development opportunities and welcomed LHP's commitment to explore options for increasing housing stock in Boston.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from Lincolnshire Housing Partnership for their informative presentation and responses to questions.

Resolved:

1. That the LHP update be noted; and
2. That LHP be requested to:
 - Circulate ward-level Neighbourhood Action Plan information and Member contact details;
 - Continue arranging ward walkabouts and meetings with Members to address local issues;
 - Provide Boston-specific follow-up data on repairs, empty homes and investment progress; and

Explore options with Council officers to improve maintenance coordination for small adjacent land parcels.

38 2025/26 Quarter 2 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 2 for

the financial year 2025/6. The purpose of the report was to ensure that the BTAC forecast financial position for the year was considered and that reserve sums held were noted.

The report summarised the position across all service areas and confirmed that the forecast indicated an overspend of £15,042, which would be covered by reserves if the position remained unchanged as at 31st March 2026. The opening balance of the BTAC reserve on 1st April 2025 was £293,825, and the forecast reserve balance was £275,057, reflecting planned use throughout the financial year.

Deliberation by members occurred and the following points were raised:

- Clarification was provided on the procedures followed for transferring credits or debits between service areas within the BTAC budget and the process for authorising such adjustments.
- The restructuring of services and allocation of budgets between service areas was explained, and it was suggested that future reports include more narrative detail to assist Members in understanding individual variances.
- It was confirmed that there had been a saving of £26,000 in respect of third-party payments for street cleaning, which would not be attributable to BTAC following a budget analysis undertaken previously.
- The level of reserves remained under consideration as part of the ongoing robust budget-setting process, and the Committee would receive updated in future reports.
- Consideration was given to the position in relation to public toilets. There had been a loss of income and increased costs associated with supplies and recent vandalism. The Committee noted the measures introduced to address vandalism, including additional CCTV and involvement of the police and the Council's anti-social behaviour team.
- Deliberation took place on whether the charges for the use of public toilets might be linked to vandalism caused by those unwilling to pay, and whether this required further review.
- It was confirmed that the increased cost of cash collection had arisen due to changes in the method of collection, with a more centralised approach now in place as part of outsourcing arrangements.

Resolved:

1. **That the forecast position of £15,042 deficit for 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix A – Table 1 within the report, be noted; and**
2. **That the forecast reserve balance to 31st March 2026 be noted.**

39 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 2025/6 municipal year.

During discussion, Members considered whether any additional items should be included. It was agreed that a report should be added to the Work Programme for mid-2026, to allow Members to review progress and outcomes following the completion of the Community Governance Review process that Boston Borough Council is undertaking.

Resolved:

That the Work Programme be noted, subject to the inclusion of a report on the Community Governance Review in mid-2026.

40 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 3 of the 2025/26 financial year.

It was reported that a total of five eligible applications had been received during the most recent round, with four being recommended for approval and one being recommended for deferral. 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 eligible applications contained in Appendix 1 within the report, as follows:

- 1) A grant of £1,000 would be awarded to Carers First to contribute towards the cost of providing well-being packs and activities for young carers aged 16 to 24 in the BTAC Wards of Boston.
- 2) A grant of £960 would be awarded to Headway Lincolnshire to contribute towards the cost associated with the provision of their Social Support Group for brain injury survivors and their families.
- 3) A grant of £1,000 would be awarded to Haven Domestic Abuse Service (HAVENDAS) to contribute towards the costs associated with Growing and Cooking Project supporting families affected by domestic abuse.
- 4) A grant of £1,000 would be awarded to Forbes Road Bowls Club to contribute towards the cost of building a low concrete wall to protect the banks surrounding the bowling green.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Barrie Pierpoint and seconded by Councillor Paul Gleeson.

Resolved:

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

41 Exclusion for the Public and Press

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

The Meeting ended at 8.14 pm.



Report To:	Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC)
Date:	22 nd January 2026
Subject:	Review of 2025 events and funding proposal for events in 2026/27
Purpose:	Funding proposal for BTAC events for 2026/27 financial year
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Broughton – Leader of the Council
Report Of:	Emily Spicer – Assistant Director, Communities and Housing Services
Report Author:	Nichola Holderness – Group Manager Community Leadership
Ward(s) Affected:	Boston Town Wards
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

The BTAC budget supports a wide range of services for residents of Boston, including the delivery of a diverse and inclusive events programme throughout the financial year.

This report provides an update on the current programme and sets out proposals for the 2026/27 events calendar. It includes recommendations for consideration by Committee, alongside a financial breakdown to inform decision making.

Recommendations

That this Committee reviews the two proposed Event Programming options in the report and determine which options should be progressed as part of 2026/27 programme.

- **Budget Option 1 - £41,500** including £17,000 funding contribution for a 3 day Christmas Festival.
- **Budget Option 2 - £65,500** including £17,000 funding contribution for a 3 day Christmas Festival and a further £24,000 contribution towards an inclusive music event.

Other Options Considered

To not provide funding towards events for 2026/27

1. Background

- 1.1 The BTAC budget incorporates a number of services for the residents of Boston including event delivery.
- 1.2 BTAC has previously contributed to a successful annual event programmes and this report outlines proposals for the continuation of this programme in the 2026/27 financial year.

2. Report

- 2.1 In previous years, BTAC Members have consistently demonstrated strong support for the Councils Events Team, enabling the successful delivery of a wide range of community events. A modest increase in the budget allocation for each event has been planned to accommodate evolving operational needs, including compliance with new legislation such as Martyn's Law. This law formally known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, introduces a tiered framework requiring public venues and events to implementation proportionate security measure based on expected attendance. The legislation is currently in a 24-month implementation phase, with full compliance expected by 2027.
- 2.2 The Boston Borough Council (BBC) Events team have delivered a successful calendar of events during 2025/26 and a full impact report is included in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 The 2026/27 baseline *budget* of £41,500 will enable the Events team to deliver a programme of events which maintains a core of free community and children's events.
- 2.4 Members are also asked to consider a second budget option of £65,500 to support the inclusion of a larger-scale music event within the programme. This event is designed to celebrate and showcase local talent, increase footfall and improve perception of the Town. The Festival will be an inclusive event showcasing all demographics. To enable the successful delivery of this event, additional funding or sponsorship will be required.
- 2.5 A full breakdown of Budget Options 1 and 2 is included as **Appendix 2**.
- 2.6 All suggested dates are subject to change depending on availability of entertainers and technical equipment.

2.7 Both Options would also include the following events:

- The Central Park beach and associated activities for community groups, including a new 'Six Weeks of Summer' to coincide with the Beach in Central Park.
- The popular Central Park Skate Jam would also be repeated with Team Rubicon.
- Boston Strongest to run again in the Market Place in 2026. The Events team will manage the Food Fest element and support Mayhem Gym with the safe delivery of the competition.

2.7 In order to continue the success of the Christmas Festival as seen in the last couple of years the BTAC budget contribution of £17,000 is required to support the general Council budget contribution.

2.8 The Events team would also continue to support a range of external events with specialist advice to ensure they can be delivered safely on Boston Borough Council-owned land. For 2026 this may include events such as:

- Boston Bike Night,
- Boston Marathon,
- Autumn Funfair.

These events are to be funded externally with no input from BTAC but are important for the continuation of the improved perception of the Town.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. The proposed Events programme for 2026/27 aims to support Boston's continued development as a town noted for its events, with a wide mix of family-oriented and more commercially focused events.
- 3.2. The annual events programme creates delivers a wide range of community benefits for the residents within the Town Centre. It plays a vital role in enhancing community cohesion by bringing together diverse groups and fostering inclusion and shared identity. Events also promote social interaction and help reduce social isolation by providing free family friendly entertainment for all.
- 3.3. The Events programme has led to benefits for the wider Town Centre with businesses seeing an increase in their footfall whilst events are held. The Christmas Festival in particular spread beyond the Town Centre to enable businesses in the Wide Bargate area to also benefit from increased visitors.
- 3.4. The Events Team will continue to establish new relationships with businesses and community groups to create sponsorship opportunities, where feasible, to support the cost of running events.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None recorded within this report.

Corporate Priorities

The proposed Events programme addresses the following priorities within the Council's Sub-Regional Strategy:

- Encourage a feeling of civic pride in the Borough of Boston and support community cohesion through active community engagement within the parishes, villages, and town.
- Support improvements to Boston Town Centre, Markets and Events – the Town Centre Strategy
- Promote our Arts, Culture and Heritage offer and associated projects.
- Promote Tourism to both a domestic and international audience.

Staffing

The current Events team consists of a Communities and Events Manager and an Event Officer. Events will also be delivered with the support of the wider South & East Lincolnshire Councils Events Team, Markets Team, and teams within the Partnership.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The Council is required to conform to the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 and its own Contract Procurement and Procedure Rules Part 4 (H) of the Constitution when awarding contracts for events.

The Council uses its powers to encourage tourism within the Borough through Local Government Act 1972, section 144.

Data Protection

None

Financial

The programme of events has been developed in line with the recommended baseline of £41,500, with the option of an additional BTAC Music Event at increased budget of £65,500. Any additional events would require additional funding.

Risk Management

All events carry varying levels of risk; however, comprehensive risk assessments are undertaken for each event to ensure effective risk management. Boston benefits from an active Safety Advisory Group (SAG), which regularly convenes to review event applications and provide expert guidance within its remit.

To further strengthen our capacity to deliver safe and well-managed events, several members of the Boston Borough Council events team have completed the IOSH *Safe Management of Live Events* qualification. For larger-scale events, the planning process includes an assessment of whether appointing an external Event Safety Officer is necessary to support safe delivery.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

Portfolio Holder for Town Centre.

Reputation

The successful delivery of events within Boston Town continues to promote pride of place within the local community.

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

Events managed by Boston Borough Council are fed through the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) which is part of the Lincolnshire Event Safety Partnership (LESP). The team continue to work with Lincolnshire Police to highlight any issues which may require additional attention.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

There are no equality or safeguarding implications within this report. Any equality implications arising from an individual event are identified and managed through individual event planning processes and risk assessments.

Health and Wellbeing

Participation in events and activities, particularly those happening in the summer, improve physical health and well-being within the community.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

None

Acronyms

BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – BBC Events 2025 Impact Report

Appendix 2 – BTAC Events 2026 Budget

Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -
2024/25

Document title

BTAC report – Review of 2024/25 Events
and looking forward to 2025 events
programme

Where the document can be viewed

www.boston.gov.uk

Chronological History of this Report

None recorded within this report.

Report Approval

Report author:

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Signed off by:

Emily Spicer – Assistant Director for Housing and
Communities
emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk

Approved for publication:

Councillor Dale Broughton – Leader of the Council
Dale.broughton@boston.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Boston Borough Council Events Impact Report

September 2024 to December 2025

Event:	Boston Christmas Festival 2024
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC/Boston Borough Council/UKSPF
Location:	Market Place and Wide Bargate
Description:	3 day Christmas Festival
Attendance:	6000 - 7000 over the weekend
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community cohesion• Bringing people together• Increase footfall• Support local business• Showcase local talent• Create inclusivity
Comments:	3 day Christmas festival involving the Christmas light switch on the Friday night and the Santa Fun Run on the Sunday. The event offers a mix of bands and community groups on stage throughout the weekend. The event involves a 3 day market consisting of craft stalls and also a number of food vendors. In 2024 UKSPF funding allowed for a small skating rink to be situated in Wide Bargate Car Park, the ice rink saw over 2000 people in attendance over the weekend.



Event:	Fairy Trail
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council /Fydel House
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Guildhall/Fydel House
Description:	Children trail between the Guildhall and Fydel House finding previously decorated fairy doors with craft activities.
Attendance:	93 children
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of the cultural venues • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Promote wellbeing • Celebrate culture and heritage • Create inclusivity
Comments:	Popular event brining people into cultural venues who may not normally attend.



Event:	Easter Creative Corner
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Market Place
Description:	Easter activities including Easter Cookie and muffin decorating and arts and crafts
Attendance:	Up to 100 children
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Promote wellbeing • Create inclusivity
Comments:	Easter arts and crafts activities in the Market Place



Event:	Mayfair
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	N/A
Location:	Market Place, Wide Bargate and Cattle Market
Description:	Annual funfair throughout the town centre – attracts people of all ages
Attendance:	Unknown
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Promote wellbeing • Create inclusivity
Comments:	Quiet period for Additional Needs extended due to success of 2024. Celebration of the 900 th anniversary which included a one off additional Sunday.



Event:	Children's Performing Arts Activities
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Market Place
Description:	Performing arts opportunities for children, led by The Biz and Blackfriars
Attendance:	Up to 100 children
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Promote wellbeing • Create inclusivity • Increase cultural opportunities • Showcase local talent
Comments:	Opportunity to sing, dance and perform led local dance schools, positive atmosphere within the town centre. A review of the entertainment area is underway due to traffic and pedestrian concerns raised by the team.



Event:	Boston Strongest and Food Fest
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Market Place
Description:	Annual Boston's Strongest Competition held by Mayhem Gym and an accompanying food festival
Attendance:	Unknown but well attended
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Create inclusivity • Increase footfall to the town centre • Showcase local talent • Promote wellbeing
Comments:	Well received by visitors, competition attracted lots of people to the market place. Event could benefit from additional entertainment to ensure visitors stay longer.
	
	
	

Event:	Beach in the Park
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Central Park
Description:	Beach in Central Park
Attendance:	A conservative estimate is average 100 people per day over a 7 week period this = 4,900
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Increase footfall to the town centre • Promote wellbeing • Stimulate imagination and creativity
Comments:	Well received this year and really well attended due to the unusually dry warm summer.



Event:	Teddy Bears Picnic
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Central Park
Description:	Teddy Bear's Picnic aimed at preschool children.
Attendance:	102 preschool children attended with their parents/carers
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Promote wellbeing • Bringing people together
Comments:	Preschool children able to enjoy the beach without older children. Boston Library attended having a story and singing corner and the Children's Centre also attended bringing play equipment.



Event:	Golden Time
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Central Park
Description:	Event for over 50s and those living with dementia and their carers.
Attendance:	73 attended
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Promote wellbeing • Reduce social isolation • Bringing people together
Comments:	Singing around the beach with Singing for Fun group also singing for the attendees



Event:	Boston Pride Festival
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC/UKSPF
Location:	Central Park
Description:	Inclusive pride event
Attendance:	3200
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Create inclusivity • Increase footfall to the town centre • Showcase local talent • Promote wellbeing
Comments:	Boston held it's first pride event on 16 th July 2025 , an inclusive day of entertainment and music in Central Park



Event:	Children's Wildlife Activities
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Central Park
Description:	Showcase of nature and wildlife
Attendance:	Unknown – good footfall throughout the day
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Promote wellbeing • Showcase local opportunities
Comments:	Event well attended throughout the day, worked very well in central park given the location



Event:	Skate Jam
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Central Park
Description:	Rubicon deliver competition for different age ranges at the skate park
Attendance:	144
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Promote wellbeing • Reduce social isolation
Comments:	Managed by Team Rubicon, opportunity for young people to show their skills and also learn new ones. Well attended and very popular.



Event:	Beach Fun in the Sun
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Central Park
Description:	Day Centres invited to bring their clients along for fun sports, games and singing
Attendance:	unknown
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Promote wellbeing • Showcase local talent • Bringing people together
Comments:	This event is for those living with additional support needs. Team games were played and new activities were tried out by all attending, everyone enjoyed themselves.



Event:	Spooky Spot
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC
Location:	Market Place
Description:	Halloween theme arts and craft activities, plus fancy dress competition.
Attendance:	unknown
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate imagination and creativity • Bringing people together
Comments:	Good attendance, despite adverse weather conditions, engagement was good throughout the day, with lots of positive comments.



Event:	Boston Christmas Festival 2025
Organiser:	Boston Borough Council
Funder:	BTAC/Boston Borough Council/various sponsors
Location:	Market Place and Wide Bargate
Description:	3 day Christmas Festival
Attendance:	6000 - 7000 over the weekend
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community cohesion • Bringing people together • Increase footfall • Support local business • Showcase local talent • Create inclusivity
Comments:	3 day Christmas festival involving the Christmas light switch on the Friday night, ice sculptures on the Saturday and the Santa Fun Run on the Sunday. The event offers a mix of bands and community groups on stage throughout the weekend. The event involves a 3 day market consisting of craft stalls and also a number of food vendors.



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Appendix 2 - BTAC Events 2026/27 Budget

Date	Description	Detail	Option 1	Option 2
TOTAL			£41,500	£65,500
Apr 2026 to Feb 2027	Childrens' Events throughout the year	5 small one-day events in partnership with Cultural Quarter and Charities to be held in the Market Place Events Area or Central Park aimed at children's fun educational activities such as foodie workshop, theatre skills, circus skills, nature day, Georgians' Day	£3,200	£3,200
Jul-26	Boston Beach & Activities	Six weeks of Summer Programme of beach-related events to 2026 in Central Park, with community outreach activities. This cost includes the cost of the beach	£13,000	£13,000
Jul-26	Skate Jam	Repeat of 2025 one-day event in Central Park	£1,800	£1,800
Jul-26	Boston Strongest	Repeat of 2024 one-day event in Market Place. Mayhem Gym to run competition / BBC to run Food Vendors. Budget increase to ensure the event sustains footfall throughout the day	£6,000	£6,000
August 2026	Music Based Event	One-day inclusive music event run by BBC in Central Park - additional sponsorship and funding would be required	£0	£24,000
Oct-26	Halloween Event	Market Place	£500	£500
November 2026	Christmas	Similar 3-day event to include lights switch-on, entertainment, Christmas market, and additional attractions such as ice rink/funfair if funding available. Suggested £17k BTAC funding with additional budget from Communities.	£17,000	£17,000

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Agenda Item 2



Report To: Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC)

Date: Thursday 22 January 2026

Subject: Draft Budget Setting Report 2026/27

Purpose: To present the draft Medium Term Financial Plan covering the period 2026/27 to 2030/31 and consider the draft budget for 2026/27.

Key Decision: No

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

Report Of: Russell Stone, Director of Finance and Section 151 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 the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for BTAC covering the periods 2026/27 to 2030/31 with key focus required for the 2026/27 budgetary position.

Recommendations

It is recommended:

- 1) That BTAC notes the 2026/27 and MTFP position and recommends to Cabinet and Full Council for approval within the inclusion of the Council's Annual Budget Report.
- 2) That BTAC recommends to Cabinet and Full Council the level of its Special Expense precept for 2026/27 at £779,470, and the Council Tax Band D charge of £82.44.
- 3) That BTAC recommends to Cabinet and Full Council increasing the minimum reserve balance from £70,000 to £100,000 for 2026/27 to 2030/31.

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure compliance with the budgetary and policy framework and to propose to Cabinet, and subsequently Full Council, the BTAC precept and Council Tax levy for adoption in 2026/27.

Other Options Considered

None.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC) is asked to make a recommendation to Cabinet and Full Council on the precept and Band D Council Tax levy for properties in the BTAC area for the 2026/27 financial year. This report details the current position and the proposed precept for 2026/27. The timetable is as follows:
 - Thursday 22 January 2026 – proposed BTAC budget to BTAC committee (this meeting).
 - Wednesday 18 February 2026 – final budgets to Cabinet and recommendation to Full Council.
 - Monday 2 March 2026 – Full Council to approve budgets and agree the Band D Council Tax charge.
- 1.2 Members are reminded of the context in which this budget has been set. It is at a time of continuing change and significant financial challenge for Local Government. These include ongoing reductions in grant support from the government and changes to the mechanism upon which Central Government support is allocated.
- 1.3 Appendix A details the net expenditure required throughout the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) by service.
- 1.4 In recent years, Members have increased the precept to enhance the town, supporting initiatives such as funding public conveniences, improvements to Central Park, footway lighting, open spaces, events and town centre operatives.
- 1.5 The level of Council Tax is a key factor for the Committee when considering its future aspirations. Table 1 outlines the options based on specific increases as follows:
 - (a) The proposed increase of 1.67% in 2026/27, then 1.00% p.a.
 - (b) An increase of 1.00% in 2026/27, then 1.00% p.a.
 - (c) An increase of 0.50% in 2026/27, then 1.00% p.a.
 - (d) No increase in 2026/27, then 1.00% p.a.

(These illustrations of various increases have been based on feedback from Members on the preferred scale of future BTAC operations and council tax levels going forward. These assumptions are for planning purposes only and will inevitably change.

Table 1 – Resource Projections

Changes in Council Tax assumptions	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £	2029/30 £	2030/31 £
1.67% increase					
BTAC Band D Charge	82.44				
BTAC Precept Requirement	779,470	787,265	795,138	803,089	811,120
1% increase					
BTAC Band D Charge	81.90				
BTAC Precept Requirement	774,365	782,109	789,930	797,829	805,807
0.5% increase					
BTAC Band D Charge	81.54				
BTAC Precept Requirement	770,960	778,670	786,456	794,321	802,264
No increase					
BTAC Band D Charge	81.09				
BTAC Precept Requirement	766,705	774,372	782,116	789,937	797,836

- 1.6 A proposed 1.67% increase would raise BTAC's Band D annual charge by £1.35, equivalent to approximately 3 pence per week for Council Taxpayers. The impact for all bands is shown in Table 2 and nearly 70% of BTAC households fall within Bands A and B, where the weekly increase is approximately 2 pence.

Table 2 – Council Tax Increases by Band

Band	Ratio	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2025/26 to 2026/27 Change	
				Annual	Weekly
A	6/9	54.06	54.96	0.90	0.02
B	7/9	63.07	64.12	1.05	0.02
C	8/9	72.08	73.28	1.20	0.02
D	9/9	81.09	82.44	1.35	0.03
E	11/9	99.11	100.76	1.65	0.03
F	13/9	117.13	119.08	1.95	0.04
G	15/9	135.15	137.40	2.25	0.04
H	18/9	162.18	164.88	2.70	0.05

2. Assumptions

- 2.1 The MTFP covers the period 2026/27 to 2030/31. Over this timescale it is important to make realistic assumptions as to how costs may rise or fall.

- 2.2 There is an assumption revenue budgets will be used to deliver services during the year for which they are approved, and any additional resources will be allocated and spent in the year they become available.
- 2.3 The MTFP has been prepared on the basis that appropriate service budgets were set for 2025/26 and revised, where necessary, to incorporate specific adjustments arising from operational changes and decisions made since the 2025/26 budget setting process.
- 2.4 General inflation has been built into the 2026/27 budget at 3.7% and 2.0% thereafter.
- 2.5 Employee costs have increased in line with current pay increases.
- 2.6 The BTAC MTFP assumptions within Appendix A of this report are based on future year precept increases of 1.0% p.a.

3. 2025/26 Forecast Outturn

- 3.1 The reliability of setting the 2026/27 budget will be determined by an assessment of the projected 2025/26 outturn. The 2025/26 outturn will be reported to the Committee through the regular quarterly reports, and as at the end of Q2, unallocated reserves at 31 March 2026 are estimated at £275,057 comprising the minimum reserve balance of £70,000 and £205,057 available for future use.

4. Tax Base

- 4.1. The tax base assumptions are shown in Table 3 below (equivalent number of Band D properties).

Table 3 – Tax Base

2025/26 Actual	2026/27 Actual	2027/28 Forecast	2028/29 Forecast	2029/30 Forecast	2030/31 Forecast
9,484	9,455	9,550	9,645	9,741	9,839

- 4.2 The tax base has decreased by 0.31% from 2025/26 to 2026/27. This reduction could be due to a number of factors including changes to discounts, rebandings, and premiums.
- 4.3 For future years, an increase of 1.0% p.a. has been forecast. The tax base includes a non-collection adjustment of 2.18%, meaning an assumed collection rate of 97.82% over time to account for Council Tax non-payment. These assumptions remain prudent, and will be influenced by factors such as planning policy and the strength of the local economy.

5. 2026/27 Estimates by Subjective Analysis

- 5.1 The table below presents the 2025/26 budget and the proposed 2026/27 budget by expenditure and income type, following the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) standard classification. Further details by service are provided in Appendix A.

- 5.2 A review of grounds maintenance recharges and employee costs have been completed to establish the 2026/27 budget position. During 2026/27, a wider review of recharges and BTAC expenditure will be undertaken, which may result in further reductions or potential budgets increase. The outcomes will be reported to the Committee through the regular quarterly reports.

Table 4 – Estimates by expenditure/income

	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	Variance (£)	Variance (%)
Employees	295,340	275,170	(20,170)	(6.8)
Premises	53,291	55,140	1,849	3.5
Supplies and Services	131,002	127,890	(3,112)	(2.4)
Transport	12,870	10,860	(2,010)	(15.6)
Third Party Payments	292,060	183,640	(108,420)	(37.1)
Support Services	43,952	55,750	11,798	26.8
Total Expenditure	828,515	708,450	(120,065)	(14.5)
Fees and Charges	(24,426)	(21,130)	3,296	(13.5)
Total Income	(24,426)	(21,130)	3,296	(13.5)
Efficiency Saving Target	(35,031)	-		
Reserve Contributions to/(from)	-	92,150		
Budget Requirement	769,058	779,470	10,412	1.4%

- 5.3 Employees – Due to operational service changes, the Open Spaces and Play Areas budget has been removed and the Events budget has been reduced.
- 5.4 Premises – Spend on Open Spaces and Play Areas has reduced based on a three year average, partially offset by increases in Central Park and Public Conveniences.
- 5.5 Supplies and Services – Increased costs for Open Spaces and Play Areas due to maintenance of play equipment, Public Conveniences to reflect spend on materials and Events which are offset by reductions in Central Park and Administration.
- 5.6 Transport – Reduction attributable to Public Conveniences and Town Centre Maintenance.
- 5.7 Third Party Payments – Reduction in grounds maintenance recharges and removal of street scene recharges following the service review completed during 2025/26.
- 5.8 Support Services – Expenditure has increased in line with budget assumptions including costs contained within recharges.
- 5.9 Fees and Charges - Reduction in Public Convenience fee income, based on 2024/25 outturn.
- 5.10 Reserve Contributions - An efficiency target was set for 2025/26, which would be funded from reserves if the saving could not be achieved during the year. For 2026/27, a contribution to reserves is planned as net expenditure is lower than the precept due.

6. Reserves

- 6.1 The following table shows the projected movement on the BTAC reserve, and the assumptions made with regards to the expected outturn position at paragraph 3.1.

Table 5 - Summary of the proposed movement on the BTAC reserve

	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £	2029/30 £	2030/31 £
1 April	293,825	275,057	367,207	451,012	525,780	591,549
Contributions to reserves	-	92,150	83,805	74,768	65,769	51,400
Contributions from reserves	(18,768)	-	-	-	-	-
31 March Subtotal*	275,057	367,207	451,012	525,780	591,549	642,949
S151 Minimum Requirement**	70,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Estimated Available Reserve Balance***	205,057	267,207	351,012	425,780	491,549	542,949

*This does not reflect contributions from reserves in future years and is an estimate based on the current forecast for 2025/26 and draft MTFP for 2026/27 to 2030/31.

**Uplift in minimum requirement from £70,000 to £100,000 subject to committee approval.

*** Estimated reserves balance based on the Q2 position.

- 6.2 The 2025/26 reserve position assumes all projects to be funded from reserves will be spent by 31 March 2026.
- 6.3 Current five year projections indicate that reserve balances will rise, driven by annual contributions resulting from net expenditure being less than the precept due. If annual expenditure exceeds the precept, reserves will be drawn down to cover the shortfall.
- 6.4 Last year, the recommended minimum level of reserves (as assessed by the Chief Finance Officer as Section 151 Officer) was £70,000. For 2026/27 and thereafter, it is proposed that this increases to £100,000, a rise of £30,000, representing 12.8% of the precept income for 2026/27 to reflect the nature of the services provided. This level will be reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process.

7. Budget Requirement

- 7.1 The proposed budget requirement for 2026/27, and demand on Council Tax, is illustrated below in Table 6.

Table 6 – Budget Requirement

	BTAC 2025/26	BTAC 2026/27
A. Budget Requirement	£769,058	£779,470
B. Adjusted Tax Base	9,484	9,455
C. Band D Equivalent (A/B)	£81.09	£82.44

7.2 The proposed BTAC requirement for 2026/27 is £779,470. Appendix A shows the projected expenditure for 2026/27 and the following four years.

Conclusion

That the proposed MTFP is reviewed, scrutinised, and evaluated, with associated strategies recommended first to Cabinet and subsequently to Full Council.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

This budget supports the delivery of BTAC services.

Corporate Priorities

This budget has been built in line with BTAC's priorities.

Staffing

The Equality Act requires BBC to consider any equality impacts in relation to staff from these plans. As operational changes and options are considered, a draft impact assessment will be discussed with Trades Unions and staff, and especially as individual projects are delivered.

Workforce Capacity Implications

Contained within the report.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

This report is required by virtue of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011.

Data Protection

None.

Financial

Contained within the report.

Risk Management

Risk management is considered as part of the budget setting process.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

The Council has a legal duty to consult residents on its budget proposals.

Reputation

None.

Contracts

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

New Equality Impact Assessments will be developed and published wherever these are required and will be made available during the management and decision-making of the Programme.

Health and Wellbeing

None.

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

None.

Acronyms

BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee

MTFP – Medium Term Financial Plan

CIPFA – Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accounting

Appendices

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

Appendix A Draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2026/27 to 2030/31

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 and Section 151 Officer Russell.Stone@sholland.gov.uk
Consultation complete:	Councillor Sandeep Ghosh Portfolio Holder for Finance

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BTAC – Draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2026/27 to 2030/31

This report details the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) by service area for the period 2026/27 to 2030/31.

Table 1 provides an overview of the MTFP for BTAC covering the period 2026/27 to 2030/31, along with the 2025/26 budget.

Table 1 –Summary						
Service	Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Budget 2026/27 £	Draft Budget 2027/28 £	Draft Budget 2028/29 £	Draft Budget 2029/30 £	Draft Budget 2030/31 £
Open Spaces & Play Areas	111,373	91,940	93,840	95,790	97,740	99,720
Allotments	(580)	(600)	(590)	(570)	(560)	(550)
Central Park	192,224	120,310	122,910	125,660	128,350	131,020
Public Conveniences	168,129	175,440	180,490	185,870	191,260	196,850
Events	160,128	149,610	152,100	154,660	157,320	165,120
Town Centre Maintenance	114,519	114,960	118,110	121,380	124,710	127,990
Administration	58,296	35,660	36,600	37,580	38,500	39,570
Efficiency Savings Target	(35,031)	-	-	-	-	-
Net Expenditure	769,058	687,320	703,460	720,370	737,320	759,720
Precept Income	(769,058)	(779,470)	(787,265)	(795,138)	(803,089)	(811,120)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	-	(92,150)	(83,805)	(74,768)	(65,769)	(51,400)

Table 2 details the MTFP for maintaining and managing the Open Spaces and Play Areas within the BTAC area for 2026/27 to 2030/31, together with the budget for 2025/26.

Table 2 – Open Spaces and Play Areas						
Account	Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Budget 2026/27 £	Draft Budget 2027/28 £	Draft Budget 2028/29 £	Draft Budget 2029/30 £	Draft Budget 2030/31 £
Employee Costs	6,060	-	-	-	-	-
Premises						
Repairs & Maintenance	3,840	160	160	160	160	160
Premises Insurance	60	150	150	160	170	180
	3,900	310	310	320	330	340
Transport						
Car Allowances	10	-	-	-	-	-
	10	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies & Services						
CCTV Camera Maintenance	2,060	2,480	2,530	2,580	2,630	2,680
Maintenance of New Play Equipment	1,000	10,000	10,200	10,400	10,610	10,820
Professional & Contractor Fees	1,190	1,190	1,220	1,240	1,270	1,300
Insurance	40	-	-	-	-	-
	4,290	13,670	13,950	14,220	14,510	14,800
Third Party Payments						
Grounds Maintenance	94,770	76,080	77,600	79,150	80,730	82,340
	94,770	76,080	77,600	79,150	80,730	82,340
Support Services						
Property Services Support Recharge	1,673	1,690	1,780	1,900	1,960	2,020
Communication and Marketing Recharge	-	190	200	200	210	220
HR & Payroll Recharge	670	-	-	-	-	-
	2,343	1,880	1,980	2,100	2,170	2,240
Income						
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rent income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	111,373	91,940	93,840	95,790	97,740	99,720

Table 3 details the MTFP for Allotments within the BTAC area for 2026/27 to 2030/31, together with the budget for 2025/26.

Table 3 – Allotments						
Account	Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Budget 2026/27 £	Draft Budget 2027/28 £	Draft Budget 2028/29 £	Draft Budget 2029/30 £	Draft Budget 2030/31 £
Supplies & Services						
Development	255	260	270	270	280	290
	255	260	270	270	280	290
Support Services						
Management & Administration	1,385	720	740	760	780	810
Support	-	680	710	760	780	800
Property Services Recharge						
	1,385	1,400	1,450	1,520	1,560	1,610
Income						
Rental Income	(2,220)	(2,260)	(2,310)	(2,360)	(2,400)	(2,450)
	(2,220)	(2,260)	(2,310)	(2,360)	(2,400)	(2,450)
Grand Total	(580)	(600)	(590)	(570)	(560)	(550)

Table 4 details the MTFP for the operations of Central Park for 2026/27 to 2030/31, together with the budget for 2025/26.

Table 4 – Central Park

Account	Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Budget 2026/27 £	Draft Budget 2027/28 £	Draft Budget 2028/29 £	Draft Budget 2029/30 £	Draft Budget 2030/31 £
Premises						
Repairs & Maintenance	3,730	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Electricity	4,500	4,590	4,680	4,780	4,870	4,870
Water	316	130	130	140	150	160
Premises Insurance	1,260	1,770	1,830	1,930	2,080	2,190
	9,806	10,990	11,140	11,350	11,600	11,720
Supplies & Services						
Birds	663	680	690	700	720	730
Gate Locking Service	16,983	-	-	-	-	-
	17,646	680	690	700	720	730
Third Party Payments						
Trade Waste Contract	1,480	1,540	1,570	1,600	1,630	1,660
Grounds Maintenance	164,100	106,020	108,140	110,300	112,510	114,760
	165,580	107,560	109,710	111,900	114,140	116,420
Support Services						
Communication & Marketing	341	380	390	400	420	430
Recharge	2,676	2,700	2,850	3,040	3,130	3,230
Property Services Support Recharge	-	1,750	1,880	2,020	2,090	2,240
Leisure Client – Green Flag etc.						
	3,017	4,830	5,120	5,460	5,640	5,900
Income						
Rents – Kiosk	(3,825)	(3,750)	(3,750)	(3,750)	(3,750)	(3,750)
	(3,825)	(3,750)	(3,750)	(3,750)	(3,750)	(3,750)
Grand Total	192,224	120,310	122,910	125,660	128,350	131,020

Table 5 details the MTFP for operating the Public Conveniences within the BTAC area for 2026/27 to 2030/31, together with the budget for 2025/26.

Table 5 – Public Conveniences						
Account	Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Budget 2026/27 £	Draft Budget 2027/28 £	Draft Budget 2028/29 £	Draft Budget 2029/30 £	Draft Budget 2030/31 £
Employee Costs	122,800	121,880	125,450	129,380	133,260	137,320
Premises						
Repairs & Maintenance	7,650	8,310	8,310	8,310	8,310	8,310
Electricity	4,090	5,900	6,110	6,230	6,350	6,480
Water Rates	18,350	19,800	20,200	20,600	21,010	21,430
Premises Insurance	1,540	1,840	1,910	2,010	2,130	2,260
Depot/Office Accommodation	580	-	-	-	-	-
	32,210	35,850	36,530	37,150	37,800	38,480
Transport						
Vehicles	5,560	4,870	4,970	5,070	5,170	5,270
Car Allowances	30	-	-	-	-	-
	5,590	4,870	4,970	5,070	5,170	5,270
Supplies & Services						
Clothing	500	530	540	550	560	570
Materials	5,000	8,230	8,390	8,560	8,730	8,900
Mobile Phones	70	90	90	90	90	90
Employee Insurance	900	830	860	900	950	990
Cash Collection Service	510	2,320	2,370	2,420	2,470	2,520
	6,980	12,000	12,250	12,520	12,800	13,070
Third Party Payments						
Grounds Maintenance	4,150	-	-	-	-	-
	4,150	-	-	-	-	-
Support Services						
Communication & Marketing	170	190	200	200	210	210
Recharge	7,020	8,040	8,280	8,530	8,790	9,050
Finance Recharge	5,590	6,730	6,930	7,140	7,350	7,570
HR & Payroll Recharge						
	12,780	14,960	15,410	15,870	16,350	16,830
Income						
Sale of Keys	(61)	(20)	(20)	(20)	(20)	(20)
Fees & Charges	(16,320)	(14,100)	(14,100)	(14,100)	(14,100)	(14,100)
Other Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(16,381)	(14,120)	(14,120)	(14,120)	(14,120)	(14,120)
Grand Total	168,129	175,440	180,490	185,870	191,260	196,850

Table 6 details the Medium Term Financial Plan for Events within the BTAC area for 2026/27 to 2030/31, together with the budget for 2025/26.

Table 6 – Events

Account	Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Budget 2026/27 £	Draft Budget 2027/28 £	Draft Budget 2028/29 £	Draft Budget 2029/30 £	Draft Budget 2030/31 £
Employee Costs	85,370	71,860	74,060	76,300	78,630	86,100
Supplies & Services						
Printing	255	260	270	270	280	280
Advertising	4,000	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Phones	50	30	30	30	30	40
Employee Insurance	630	490	510	540	570	600
Health & Safety Service	1,020	-	-	-	-	-
Event Costs	41,500	48,500	48,500	48,500	48,500	48,500
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Grants & Contributions	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
	67,855	69,680	69,710	69,740	69,780	69,820
Third Party Payments						
Street Cleaning	1,420	-	-	-	-	-
	1,420	-	-	-	-	-
Support Services						
Communication & Marketing	1,363	1,520	1,560	1,610	1,660	1,710
Recharge	3,410	4,110	4,230	4,360	4,490	4,620
Finance Recharge	2,710	3,440	3,540	3,650	3,760	3,870
HR & Payroll Recharge						
	7,483	9,070	9,330	9,620	9,910	10,200
Income						
Event Space Hire & Events Income	(2,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
	(2,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Grand Total	160,128	149,610	152,100	154,660	157,320	165,120

Table 7 details the MTFP for maintenance of the Town Centre for 2026/27 to 2030/31, together with the approved budget for 2025/26.

Table 7 – Town Centre Maintenance

Account	Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Budget 2026/27 £	Draft Budget 2027/28 £	Draft Budget 2028/29 £	Draft Budget 2029/30 £	Draft Budget 2030/31 £
Employee Costs	76,210	75,640	77,960	80,350	82,800	85,320
Premises						
Business Rates	2,470	2,080	2,120	2,160	2,200	2,240
Electric	600	910	950	1,000	1,050	1,100
Rental Fees	3,825	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Depot Recharge	480	500	510	520	530	540
	7,375	7,990	8,080	8,180	8,280	8,380
Transport						
Vehicles	7,270	5,990	6,110	6,230	6,350	6,480
	7,270	5,990	6,110	6,230	6,350	6,480
Supplies & Services						
Equipment Purchases	2,550	2,600	2,650	2,710	2,760	2,760
Materials	4,182	4,270	4,350	4,440	4,530	4,530
Clothing	710	720	740	750	770	770
Employee Insurance	560	510	530	560	590	620
Mobile Phones	50	60	60	60	60	60
Purchase & Provisions	6,191	6,420	6,550	6,680	6,810	6,950
	14,243	14,580	14,880	15,200	15,520	15,690
Support Services						
Finance Recharge	4,750	5,440	5,600	5,770	5,940	6,120
Communication & Marketing Recharge	681	760	780	810	830	860
Training Recharge	210	-	-	-	-	-
HR & Payroll Recharge	3,780	4,560	4,700	4,840	4,990	5,140
	9,421	10,760	11,080	11,420	11,760	12,120
Grand Total	114,519	114,960	118,110	121,380	124,710	127,990

Table 8 details the Medium Term Financial Plan for administrative functions within BTAC for 2026/27 to 2030/31, together with the budget for 2025/26.

Table 8 – Administration						
Account	Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Budget 2026/27 £	Draft Budget 2027/28 £	Draft Budget 2028/29 £	Draft Budget 2029/30 £	Draft Budget 2030/31 £
Employee Costs	4,900	5,790	6,170	6,620	7,030	7,550
Supplies & Services						
Grants Programme	13,402	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
London Road Running Costs	1,040	1,270	1,300	1,320	1,350	1,370
Equipment Maintenance	1,051	-	-	-	-	-
Footway Lighting Electricity & Maintenance	4,200	3,720	3,790	3,870	3,950	4,030
Employee Insurance	40	30	30	30	30	30
	19,733	17,020	17,120	17,220	17,330	17,430
Third Party Payments						
Street Cleaning	26,140	-	-	-	-	-
	26,140	-	-	-	-	-
Support Services						
Finance Recharge	310	360	370	380	390	400
Communication & Marketing Recharge	511	570	590	610	620	640
HR & Payroll Recharge	250	300	310	320	330	340
Property Services Support Recharge	640	710	740	760	780	810
Caretaker Service Recharge	360	360	370	380	390	400
Senior Officer Recharge	2,030	7,160	7,430	7,690	7,920	8,170
Democratic Services Support Recharge	3,422	3,390	3,500	3,600	3,710	3,830
	7,523	12,850	13,310	13,740	14,140	14,590
Grand Total	58,296	35,660	36,600	37,580	38,500	39,570



Report To: Boston Town Area Committee

Date: 22nd January 2026

Subject: Central Park Green Flag Application

Purpose: To seek approval for an application to be submitted for Green Flag status for Central Park in Boston

Key Decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Claire Rylott, Portfolio Holder for Green Spaces and Travel

Report Of: Phil Perry, Assistant Director Leisure & Local Services

Report Author: Scott Higgins, Leisure Services & Contracts Manager

Ward(s) Affected: All BTAC Wards

Exempt Report: No

Summary

This report seeks BTAC's approval to submit a Green Flag Award application for Central Park. The award provides national recognition for well-managed parks and supports civic pride, health, wellbeing, and sustainability. BTAC has previously invested in significant improvements and have recently developed a Management Plan to maintain and enhance standards. Endorsement will ensure continued progress and position the park strongly for accreditation.

Recommendations

That councillors support the submission of a Green Flag Award application for Central Park and endorse the continued implementation of the Management Plan to maintain and improve standards.

Reasons for Recommendations

Achieving the award will provide national recognition of quality, promote civic pride, encourage community engagement, and support health, wellbeing, and sustainability. The Management Plan ensures ongoing improvements, accountability, and high standards for a valued public space.

Other Options Considered

Do Nothing - Continue managing Central Park without applying for the Green Flag Award or formally endorsing the Management Plan.

1. Background

- 1.1 The proposal to seek Green Flag Award status for Central Park was first raised at the Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC) meeting on 27 July 2023, where members requested a report on the scheme. This led to a detailed report being presented to the Committee on 8 February 2024, outlining the benefits, requirements, and implications of pursuing the award.
- 1.2 The Committee resolved to proceed with the ambition to achieve Green Flag status for Central Park. Following this decision, an officer and BTAC members working group was established to plan and oversee the steps required. The group met every 6–8 weeks to review progress and discuss key elements of the Management Plan, including the park's vision, history, SWOT analysis, and actions that councillors wished to see implemented.
- 1.3 The Green Flag Award is managed by Keep Britain Tidy and provides external accreditation for well-managed public parks. It sets a national benchmark for quality and requires evidence of a clear management strategy, community engagement, and continuous improvement. Applications are assessed against 27 criteria under eight themes, including welcoming place, safety, maintenance, environmental management, biodiversity, community involvement, marketing, and overall management.

2. Report

- 2.1 BTAC has already invested significantly in Central Park, delivering projects that have transformed it into a safe, inclusive, and vibrant green space. Major improvements include the skate park and multi-use games area, which opened in 2022 following community consultation. The children's play area has been refurbished with inclusive equipment such as wheelchair swings, nest swings, and a zip wire. Outdoor gym equipment has been installed and expanded, offering free fitness opportunities for all ages.
- 2.2 Further enhancements include the creation of community and nature gardens, complemented by art installations and wildlife-friendly features. Accessibility has been improved through the addition of a Changing Places facility, ensuring the park

meets the needs of individuals with complex requirements. Safety and security have been strengthened with increased CCTV coverage, regular patrols by Community Safety Officers, and enforcement of Public Space Protection Orders. Environmental measures such as reduced herbicide use, green waste recycling, and biodiversity initiatives like wildflower planting have also been introduced. These improvements, alongside a comprehensive Management Plan, position Central Park strongly to meet Green Flag standards.

- 2.3 It is recognised that further investment will be required. Areas such as pathways have already been noted for improvement to enhance accessibility and safety. These needs are being identified, costed, and prioritised within the Management Plan to ensure the park continues to meet and exceed quality standards.
- 2.4 The development of the Management Plan has involved several officer and member working group meetings with key stakeholders to help shape the vision for the park. Public consultation has also played a vital role, ensuring that community feedback informs priorities and future improvements.
- 2.5 Applying for Green Flag status offers clear benefits. It provides national recognition for Central Park as a high-quality green space, reinforcing local pride and encouraging community involvement. The award highlights the park's role in promoting health and wellbeing through safe, clean, and accessible facilities. It demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability and biodiversity, aligning with climate resilience goals.
- 2.6 Green Flag status will also enhance Boston's reputation as a visitor destination, supporting tourism and economic growth. Finally, it ensures continuous improvement through structured monitoring and review, helping secure future funding opportunities and partnerships.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. Central Park is a safe, inclusive, and vibrant space for the community. Applying for Green Flag status endorses the hard work already undertaken and ensures continuous improvement.
- 3.2. If the Council is unsuccessful in its application, detailed feedback will be provided outlining the reasons why and identifying areas for improvement. This feedback will guide future enhancements and ensure that Central Park meets all necessary criteria before reapplying. Ultimately, pursuing Green Flag status demonstrates our commitment to excellence and continuous progress for the benefit of Boston's residents and visitors.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

Corporate Priorities

Health and Wellbeing - The plan promotes physical activity and mental wellbeing through outdoor gym equipment, inclusive play areas, and safe green spaces.

Environment and Climate Resilience - Actions include biodiversity initiatives (wildflower planting), reduced herbicide use, and green waste recycling, supporting sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Community Engagement and Civic Pride - Public consultation shaped the plan, and the award encourages community involvement, volunteering, and local pride.

Economic Growth and Tourism - Achieving Green Flag status enhances Boston's reputation as a visitor destination, supporting tourism and local economy.

Continuous Improvement and Partnership Working -The structured management plan ensures accountability, monitoring, and collaboration across councils and stakeholders.

Staffing

None – No new staffing requirements identified.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None – Existing resources and working group arrangements are sufficient.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

None – No legal changes or constitutional issues arise from submitting an application.

Data Protection

None – No personal data processing beyond standard consultation already completed.

Financial

Circa £389 - £440 + VAT to submit application

Further Costs would relate to ongoing park improvements already budgeted; no additional funding requested at this stage.

Risk Management

Low – Main risk is unsuccessful application, mitigated by feedback process for future improvements

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

BTAC Green Flag Working Group have helped to shape the Management Plan.
Application to be submitted no later than 2nd February 2026 with winners announced around July 2026.

Reputation

Positive – Achieving Green Flag status enhances civic pride and Boston's profile.

Contracts

None.

Crime and Disorder

None – Existing measures remain unchanged.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

Positive – Inclusive play equipment and Changing Places facility already implemented.

Health and Wellbeing

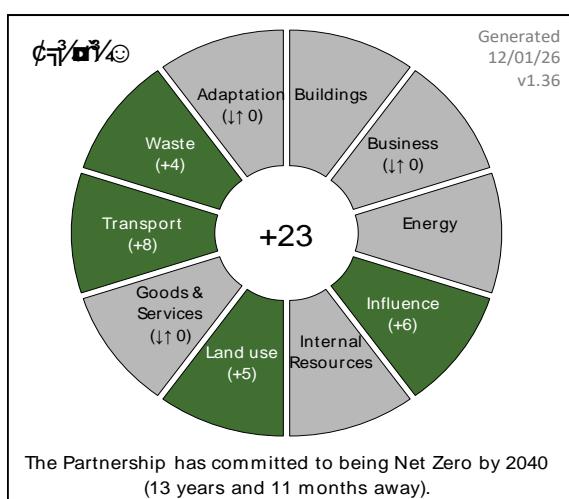
Positive – Park improvements and outdoor facilities promote physical activity and mental wellbeing.

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

A Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the Green Flag application and associated Management Plan. The assessment demonstrates that the proposal delivers significant positive outcomes for climate resilience and sustainability:

- **Transport:** The plan strongly promotes active travel through improved pathways and cycling infrastructure (+8).
- **Influence:** Enhances community engagement and partnership working on climate issues (+6).
- **Land Use:** Increases biodiversity and carbon storage through wildflower planting and habitat creation (+5).
- **Waste & Resources:** Incorporates recycling and reduced herbicide use (+4).

No negative impacts were identified apart from minor drought vulnerability, which will be addressed through adaptive planting and water management strategies. Overall, the initiative aligns with the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership's commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2040.



Acronyms

BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

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

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
-----------------------	---

Green Flag Management Plan. Attached to the Report.

Chronological History of this Report

None.

Report Approval

Report author: Scott Higgins, Leisure Services & Contracts Manager,
scott.higgins@boston.gov.uk

Signed off by: Phil Perry, Assistant Director Leisure & Local Services
Phil.perry@boston.gov.uk

Approved for publication: Councillor Claire Rylott



GREEN FLAG MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 26

Central Park

Boston Lincolnshire





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Foreword

Boston Borough Council (BBC) is proud to have Central Park as one of our most valued green spaces, a place where people can relax, enjoy nature, play, and take part in cultural and recreational activities. It is a vital resource for the health and well-being of our residents and a vibrant hub for our community.

We are committed to supporting a strong and sustainable green future, aligned with our corporate priorities and environmental commitments. Our approach reflects the Council's ambition to promote health and wellbeing, regeneration, climate resilience, and biodiversity across all our parks and open spaces.

The Green Flag Award process is central to this vision. It provides a clear framework for quality standards and helps us set priorities for how we manage and improve our green spaces for future generations. Achieving and maintaining this award for Central Park demonstrates our dedication to delivering a safe, welcoming, and environmentally responsible space for everyone.

This Management Plan is not only a statement of the Council's commitment to continuous improvement but also a recognition of the invaluable support from our partners, volunteers, and community groups. Their passion and involvement are essential in helping us respond to our green agenda and ensure Central Park remains a source of pride for Boston.

Together, we will continue to enhance Central Park as a place that celebrates heritage, promotes sustainability, and strengthens community spirit.

Purpose of the Plan

The Management Plan for Central Park has been prepared by BBC and Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC). The plan is specifically developed for the individual site with a dedicated Green Flag Action Plan.

This plan has been developed following detailed assessment of the Green Flag Award criteria and a comprehensive collaborative review of the existing uses, management and maintenance of Central Park.

As part of the development of the plan, detailed consultation has taken place with the park's maintenance and management team and friends of groups.

The Management plan is a 'working document' that brings together all the information relating to Central Park and will be updated, revised and annually reviewed.

Structure of the Plan

This plan has been developed based on the “Green Flag Award Guidance Manual” guidelines. As such it is laid into four main sections:

Where are we now?

- Site Description and Facilities
- Site Information
- Detailed History
- Recent Developments
- Policy and Strategic Context
- SWOT Analysis

Where do we want to get to?

- Green Flag Analysis
- Consultation and Co-design

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Action Plan

Appendix 2 – Tree Species Report

Appendix 3 - Tree List

Appendix 4 – Consultation Results

Appendix 5 – Annual Maintenance Plan

Appendix 6 – Environmental Management Plan

Appendix 7 – Training Log

Site Description

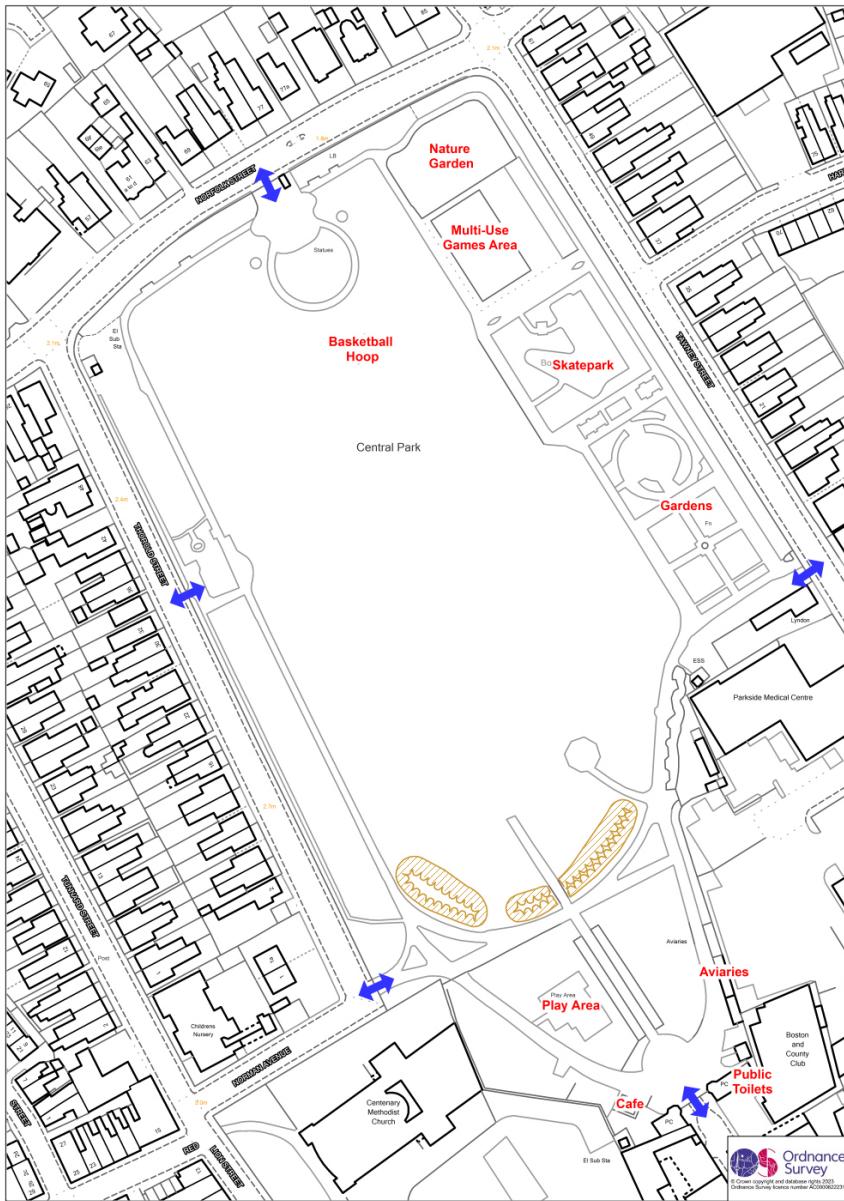
Boston Central Park, situated in Boston, Lincolnshire, England, is a vibrant public park that serves as a cherished green space for both residents and visitors. The park features beautifully maintained gardens, winding walking paths, and expansive open areas ideal for sports and leisure activities. Families will appreciate the dedicated playgrounds designed for children's enjoyment.

A standout feature of Boston Central Park is its skatepark, which provides a designated area for skateboarding, BMX riding, and other wheeled sports. This facility caters to various skill levels, equipped with ramps, rails, and other structures for skaters and riders to hone their abilities. The skatepark has become a lively hub for local youth, often bustling with activity.

The park also includes a multi-use games area frequented by visitors and community groups alike. Additionally, it features free to use outside exercise equipment, providing an accessible way to incorporate fitness into your daily routine. The playground is perfect for younger children, offering a delightful setting for traditional family fun.

One side of the park is home to a bird aviary, adding a unique attraction for families to explore. Located in the town centre, Central Park is a favoured picnic spot during the summer, offering ample space to relax and unwind. Visitors can also enjoy the on-site café, which serves a variety of hot meals, ice cream, and beverages, along with public toilets conveniently located at the park's entrance.

Boston Central Park and its skatepark are vital community spaces that encourage outdoor recreation and foster social interaction in the heart of Boston.



Site Information

Name: Central Park & Skatepark

Address: 8 Thorold St, Boston PE21 6PH

Contacts: 01205 314200

Web: <https://www.boston.gov.uk/centralpark>

Email: feedback.centralpark@boston.gov.uk

Ownership: Boston Borough Council

Size: 4.5 hectares

Access: The park is not locked and is therefore freely accessible

Local Facilities: Skatepark, Toilets, Café, MUGA, Aviary, Public Gardens, Green Spaces, Nature Zone, Inclusive Play Facilities, Environmental Trails

Parking: Available on surrounding roads

History of Central Park

Central Park traces its origins to the late eighteenth century, when the core eleven-acre site comprised a private deer park attached to Tunnard House on Wide Bargate. During the mid-nineteenth century, the grounds were known as Hopkins Park, after Mr Hopkins, an early resident of Tunnard House, and subsequently as Oldrid's Park when the Oldrid family occupied the mansion. Ownership passed to the heirs of Samuel Tunnard's daughter, who continued to maintain the landscaped parkland well into the early 1900s, even as the estate let the lawns be used for community events and competitions.

In 1860, Hopkins Park hosted a prominent civic ceremony marking the presentation of a Silver Trumpet to the Artillery Volunteers and a Silver Bugle to the Rifle Corps. An illustration of the event appeared in the Illustrated London News, depicting spectators beside the future children's play area and framing Boston's skyline with St Botolph's tower, the Congregational Church spire at Red Lion Street, and the Centenary Methodist Church behind tree canopies.

By the 1890s, rising demand for middle-class housing prompted the sale and subdivision of the park's peripheral lands. Developers laid out Tunnard Street, Thorold Street, and Tawney Street along the former park boundary, integrating brick-faced terraces into Boston's expanding street grid. Despite these encroachments, the estate's centre remained open, with a pair of wrought-iron gates on Witham Street providing public access, a feature whose stone pillars stood visible into the 1960s amid later housing.

Following the loss of the older People's Park to dock expansion, Boston Borough Council acquired the remaining core of the estate in 1919. Over the next decade, the Council landscaped flower beds, installed tennis courts and changing pavilions, and laid out a large, grassed area for summer cricket. In 1932, the

refreshed grounds officially opened as Central Park, crowned by ornamental wrought-iron gates gifted by Alderman Charles Day at the Parkgate entrance.

Throughout the mid-twentieth century, Central Park's eleven acres supported a balanced mix of recreation facilities, tennis courts, bowling greens, a children's play area, and aviaries, while retaining its marquee summer use for cricket.

Since the turn of the millennium, investment has modernised Central Park to meet contemporary needs while respecting its heritage. A modern children's play area and skate facility sit alongside refreshed planting beds, seating, and a kiosk/café. Flexible lawns and paved areas continue to host seasonal events and community programmes, ensuring that the park's two-century evolution, from private deer park to vibrant public green space and remains an enduring asset for Boston, Lincolnshire.



Policy and Strategic Context

Actions and aims within this management plan are both guided by, and relate back, to wider strategies.

To utilise our green spaces to drive economic and social renewal, promote health and well-being, and align with the Borough's strategic aims:

Place: Ensure the park is safe, clean, and promotes environmental awareness, aligning with the Borough's commitment to creating a sustainable and welcoming environment.

People: Create a safe and secure environment that promotes health and well-being, supporting the Borough's objective of fostering a healthy and inclusive community.

Prosperity: Position Boston as a natural destination for visitors, enhancing its appeal and contributing to the Borough's goal of economic growth and tourism.

Public Service: Develop a collaborative approach between the Borough, partners, statutory agencies, and the vibrant voluntary groups already established in Boston, reflecting the Borough's dedication to effective and inclusive public service.

Leisure, Sport & Physical Activity

We recognise the benefits that our green spaces can make to the health of our residents.

We are committed to developing active environments that enhance leisure, sport, physical activity and play opportunities in priority areas.

The Councils Playing Pitch Strategy in particular, identifies needs for sports facility improvements and sets out priority projects for delivery in partnership with key stakeholders. We work with Council services to ensure that our approach supports the broader Council strategies around health and wellbeing and together with Leisure Services, Transport, Public Health, and the local community aim to deliver these improvements.

- Lincolnshire District Councils' Health and Wellbeing Strategy

We work in partnership with:

- One You Lincolnshire
- Active Lincolnshire
- Football Foundation

SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis is a management critique to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to help shape future improvements.

Strengths

Central Location: Easily accessible from various parts of Boston, making it a popular spot for residents and visitors.

Historical Significance: Originally part of a private deer park, it has heritage value and contributes to the town's character.

Community Engagement: Hosts events and activities that foster community spirit.

Facilities: Includes gardens, artworks, a skate park, and open spaces for recreation.

Green Space: Provides a vital natural area in an urban setting, supporting wellbeing and biodiversity.

Weaknesses

Maintenance Costs: Ongoing upkeep of facilities and landscaping can be resource intensive.

Limited Commercial Use: Restrictions on development may limit revenue-generating opportunities.

Security Concerns: Like many public parks, it may face issues such as vandalism or anti-social behaviour.

Weather Dependency: Usage can be heavily affected by seasonal weather conditions.

Opportunities

Event Expansion: Potential to host more cultural, recreational, and educational events.

Partnerships: Collaborations with local schools, businesses, and community groups could enhance programming and funding.

Sustainability Initiatives: Opportunities to introduce eco-friendly projects like community gardens or renewable energy installations.

Tourism Promotion: Can be marketed as part of Boston's heritage trail or leisure offerings.

Threats

Budget Constraints: Local authority funding pressures could impact future development or maintenance.

Environmental Risks: Flooding or climate-related issues could affect usability and infrastructure.

Competing Attractions: Other leisure facilities or parks may draw visitors away.

Public Perception: Negative incidents or lack of investment could reduce community trust and engagement.

Where do we want to get to?

Green Flag analysis

The ambition for Boston Town Area Committee and community groups is to continue to work to improve standards and develop parks and opens spaces strategically according to local needs and corporate priorities.

A clear connection between the criteria identified by the Green Flag Award Scheme and the main points gained from the SWOT analysis and site review completed with the Councils Parks Team and Community Group Stakeholders has helped to establish a comprehensive management plan for this site.

Consultation & Co-Design

The Council is currently in the process of creating a Friends of Central Park group, this will overtime help the Council to consult with a dedicated group of volunteers to co-design the future of the park together to increase usage and opportunities of residents.

Regular consultation will take place via questionnaires to gauge the views of those using the park and using that information to help shape the aims and objectives when they are reviewed annually.

We will look to organise annual steering groups to fully engage Friends groups and community groups in compiling these management plans and their progress.

Boston Borough Council works closely with Boston in Bloom with monthly project and development meetings where they discuss their progress and future plans.

Key stakeholders meet every two months as part of an internal working group

BTAC Councillors are regularly updated on Parks development projects and strategies.

Liaison with the Councils Enforcement Team on matters around ASB and public safety.

Starting in March 2024 and ending in March 2025 Community Rangers were employed, and the scheme was designed to provide a visual presence within key areas across the borough. The Community Rangers were initially externally funded through the Police and Crime Commissioner Office and Home Office. For more information about the service please refer to the "Site Safety" section below.

How do we get there?

Vision for Boston Central Park

"To provide Boston with clean and welcoming green spaces accessible to everyone. We aim to create havens of peace, equality, and inclusion, while allowing the natural environment to flourish."

BTAC Green Flag Working Group

Key Objectives for Central Park - Boston are:

Promote Physical Voluntary Work: Encourage more people to recognise the health and well-being benefits of engaging in physical voluntary work.

Increase Biodiversity: Enhance the biodiversity of the natural environment within the park.

Develop Historical Character: Preserve and develop the historical character of the park while protecting its most popular features.

Promote Recreation: Advocate for the use of Central Park and other green spaces for recreational activities.

Enhance Community Engagement: Develop a calendar of events to boost community engagement and participation.

Action Planning

Our Action Plan for Central Park – Boston is provided in Appendix 1. This plan is based on an evaluation of the SWOT analysis together with other projects and plans raised by the public consultation exercise (results viewed Appendix 4). The Action Plan lists actions and categorises based on:

Timescales

- Short term – less than 1 year
- Medium term – 1-3 years
- Long term – 3+ years
- On-going

Green Flag Award criteria

- Welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Sustainability
- Biodiversity and Heritage
- Community involvement
- Environmental sustainability
- Marketing
- Management

Annual Grounds Maintenance Work Program

Please refer to Appendix 5 -Annual Maintenance Plan this document sets out the 2025/26 programme, including daily litter picking and bin emptying, daily visual checks of the Play Park, MUGA and Skate Park, weekly ROSPA inspections, mechanical sweeping and routine path blowing.

It also details seasonal mowing/strimming of high and low amenity grass, shrub and hedgerow maintenance, leaf-fall clearance, meadow cut-collect-overseed, periodic deep cleans of play equipment, aviary feeding checks, fencing inspections, and annual tree health inspections with winter tree-limbing, with the nature zone managed chemical-free, providing a clear timetable to keep the park safe, clean, and welcoming year-round.

Boston Borough Council, in partnership with stakeholders, is planning to introduce a structured approach to monitoring the annual grounds maintenance programme. This will include regular meetings between stakeholders to review operational standards and discuss the requirements of the maintenance schedule. These meetings aim to ensure that the programme aligns with agreed quality benchmarks and community expectations.

The programme will be dynamically managed, allowing adjustments to be made based on immediate needs, seasonal priorities, and emerging requirements. This flexible approach will help maintain high standards across all public spaces.

Responsibility for monitoring will not rest with a single individual. Instead, it will be a shared process, achieved through ongoing consultation and by incorporating public feedback. This collaborative model is intended to promote transparency and responsiveness.

Additionally, the Grounds Management Team will conduct weekly inspections to assess performance, identify issues, and confirm that maintenance activities meet the required standards. These inspections will provide an essential layer of quality assurance and inform any necessary adjustments to the programme.

A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Central Park continues to be a welcoming area.

Graffiti removal: As a part of our aim to make the borough safe, green and clean we are committed to reducing and removing graffiti. The site will be regularly inspected for graffiti. Where the graffiti is racist or offensive it will be removed within 2 hours of notification.

Signage: Signs are inspected regularly to ensure they remain clean and legible, and any damage or wear is repaired promptly. This routine maintenance helps keep the park welcoming and accessible for all visitors.

Pathways: All paths and hard surfaces will be inspected annually.

Any necessary repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible.

Visibility: Vegetation within Central Park is managed to maintain clear sightlines wherever possible, improving safety and creating an open, welcoming environment. Shrubs and low-level planting are pruned regularly, and any overgrown areas that obstruct views across paths or open spaces are reduced. This work is carried out as part of routine grounds maintenance and prioritises areas near entrances, play zones, and seating to ensure visitors feel secure and can easily navigate the park. While the park contains mature trees and established planting that contribute to its character, these are managed carefully so that they do not compromise visibility. The approach is practical and ongoing, responding to seasonal growth and public feedback.

Heritage and History: Central Park was established as a public space in 1932 after Boston Borough Council purchased the land in 1919. Before this, the area formed part of a private deer park linked to Tunnard House. The park retains historic character through its original layout, mature tree avenues, and the Art Deco Garden. A notable heritage feature is the Boston Land Buoy, which reflects the town's maritime history and serves as a distinctive landmark within the park.

Connecting People with Horticulture: Central Park currently offers several practical opportunities for visitors to engage with horticulture. Volunteer groups, including Boston in Bloom, maintain key areas such as the Art Deco Garden, perennial borders, and pollinator-friendly planting schemes. These activities provide a chance for community members to participate in gardening and learn basic horticultural skills. The park also hosts occasional events and workshops, such as wildflower planting, bug hotel building, and botanical art sessions, which encourage families and individuals to interact with plants and wildlife. In addition, features like the Pollinator Garden and wildflower meadow allow visitors to experience diverse planting and understand the importance of biodiversity. These initiatives are well-established and contribute to making the park an attractive, educational, and inclusive space for the local community.

Park features and infrastructure

Play Equipment

Over the past few years, Central Park's play area has seen the installation of new, more challenging, and inclusive play equipment, thanks to funding from BTAC (£65,000), Boston Big Local (£25,000 every two years over a decade), and Local Hope (£4,000).

Following community consultations, several exciting additions were made, including a high slide, nest swing, and wheelchair swing in 2018; an inclusive roundabout in 2017; as well as a fairy tale unit, springers, see-saw, play panels, zip wire, spider web climbing unit, picnic benches, and new surfacing, including chicane entrances in 2022.

These enhancements have provided all children and young people with greater opportunities to engage in physical activity, promoting their health and wellbeing.



Skatepark & Sports Area

In 2018, discussions were initiated with young people through schools and youth groups to explore the long-desired idea of establishing a skate park in Central Park. This early engagement was crucial in shaping a project that truly reflected community aspirations. Over several months, professional installers worked closely with residents to design a facility that would cater to scooters, rollerblades, BMX riders, and skateboarders, ensuring an exceptional riding experience for all.

The addition of the multi-use games area (MUGA) and skatepark stands as clear evidence of how we actively engage with the community to deliver facilities that meet their needs. With support from the Community Migration Fund, a collaborative project was launched to create the skate park alongside a MUGA, table tennis tables, and a community garden. Completed in 2022, the initiative

represented a total investment of £306,000 (£37,000 from BTAC and £269,000 from Government Controlling Migration Funding).

Since opening, the skate park has become a vibrant hub for all ages, from 4-year-olds to adults, eager to learn and improve their skills. This is highlighted during the annual skate jam, which provides a platform for talent and attracts professional riders who have praised the park, with some even calling it one of the best in the country.

The sports area was developed as part of the same vision. The MUGA and table tennis tables offer older children and adults opportunities to stay active as they outgrow the playground. Combined with the existing basketball hoop area, these facilities have broadened the range of sporting activities available, encouraging physical activity and proving particularly popular with our international community.



Outdoor Gym Equipment

In 2017, six pieces of gym equipment were installed in Central Park, funded by the NHS. They quickly gained popularity among people of all ages, providing an opportunity for everyone to exercise outdoors, free of charge, and at their convenience, accommodating busy schedules with children and work commitments, as well as times when indoor gym facilities were unavailable. This is another way in which we are prioritising Central Park as an area to improve physical health and well-being.

In 2022, additional equipment was added at a cost of £22,000, funded by Boston Big Local and BTAC. This new equipment introduced more challenging exercise options for the community, further enhancing physical health and well-being.



Community Garden

The community gardens offers a serene space for everyone to sit, unwind, and reflect.

The By Land buoy, located in Central Park, was created by Carrie Reichardt. It honours Boston's farming traditions and its motto "By Sea and By Land." The buoy is decorated with mosaics, including pieces made by local residents, and features imagery inspired by seed packets and vintage agricultural adverts. It sits within a spiral garden designed by Jeni Cairns, creating a peaceful space for

visitors. Central Park was chosen for its role as Boston's main green space and its historical connection to the community.

The Boston Buoys project is a public art trail that repurposed six historic navigational buoys to celebrate Boston's maritime and agricultural heritage. Led by Transported Arts and supported by Arts Council England and local partners, the project features work by three artists.



Nature Garden

Nestled at the base of Central Park, the nature garden offers the community a unique opportunity to engage with the environment through a variety of free events, such as building bug hotels, weaving willow arches, and planting wildflowers and bulbs. These sessions, have been led by the Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service Team, are open to everyone and designed to be fun and inclusive. The Green Flag working group has secured funding to further develop this area, including the creation of accessible pathways to ensure wheelchair users can enjoy our environmental spaces. The garden will also be adorned with educational features, enhancing its role as a learning hub. Adding to its vibrant atmosphere, charming mosaic artworks of animals are scattered throughout the space, creating a visually engaging and welcoming environment for all.



Bird Aviary

The bird aviary in Central Park has been a beloved fixture for many years, receiving renovations in 1988 in honour of Paul Warsap, who played a significant role in its creation. Paul served as a Park Keeper from 1979 to 1994. The aviary continues to bring joy to the community, with some residents even contributing birds over the years.



Toilets

There are gentlemen's and ladies' toilets located just outside the main gates of Central Park, along with a disabled toilet. Inside Central Park, there is an additional disabled toilet and a new Changing Places facility that was constructed in 2024 as part of the Changing Places initiative.

These Changing Places facilities provide a safe and accessible environment for individuals who cannot use standard accessible toilets. They are equipped with hoists, privacy screens, adult-sized changing benches, peninsula toilets, sinks, and ample space for caregivers. Access is granted using a code and key.

Kiosk / Café area

There is a small kiosk in the park currently operated by P.C Caterers and is a delightful spot for locals and visitors alike to get a drink and sweet treats. The café is on a 10-year lease, set to conclude in 2032. Its operating hours vary with the seasons: This seasonal schedule ensures that the kiosk/café caters to the needs of its patrons throughout the year.

Park Wardens welfare

The park warden/ grounds team have a small staff room alongside a toilet and storeroom

Healthy, Safe and Secure

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that that Central Park continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

Site Safety

All staff and contractors play an important role in terms of a visible staff presence. All are uniformed and where necessary will wear highly visible clothing. All works will have been risk assessed to ensure the highest level of public safety.

Dog fouling & Dog Control

The Parks Staff, Environmental Enforcement Officers and Community Safety Officers make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible.

Currently the council has a Public Spaces Protection Order in place in the borough to enable the council to effectively deal with, Dog Fouling, the exclusion of dogs from fenced off children's play areas, comply with a direction to put a nuisance dog or dangerous dog on a lead and provide evidence of the means of a suitable receptacle to pick up dog faeces.

Potential to design and install suitable signage continue to be reviewed.

Community Safety

The Community Safety Officers and Environmental Enforcement Officers employed by the council play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and integrity of the borough's parks and open spaces. They conduct patrols through Central Park at least six times daily, maintaining a strong presence during peak hours to promptly address incidents of anti-social behaviour.

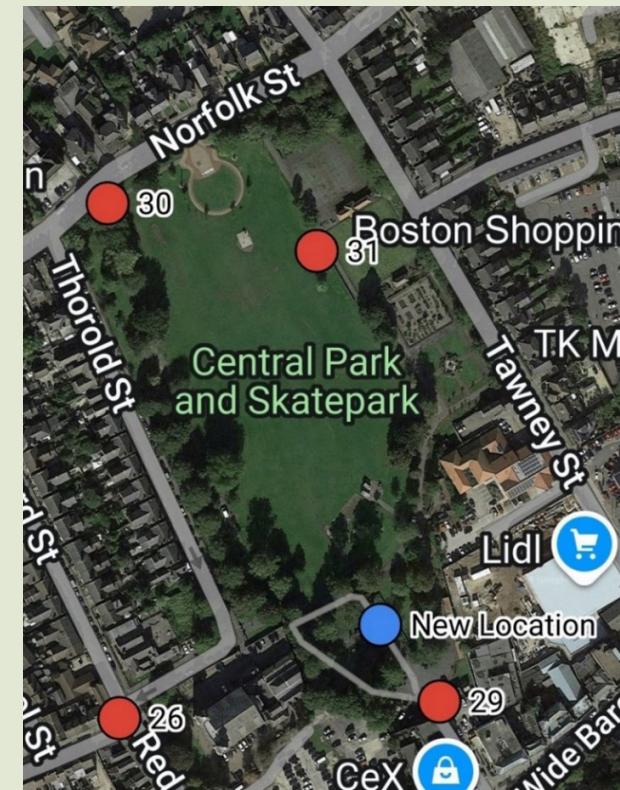
The Community Safety Officers, who commenced their duties in August 2025 through one-year funding from Boston Town Board, have taken on many responsibilities previously handled by the Rangers. Their functions are part of the stakeholder group, where any issues, whether arising or anticipated, are discussed collaboratively. These officers specifically handle alcohol-related incidents under the Alcohol Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) applicable to Central Park, along with general anti-social behaviour and nuisance issues.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Enforcement Officers focus on violations such as Dog Public Space Protection Orders, littering, public urination, and fly-tipping offences. To enhance community safety, these officers work closely with the CCTV control room to take legal action against offenders, ensuring accountability for those who breach community regulations. This collaborative effort not only reinforces the enforcement of existing laws but also contributes to a safer environment for all park users.

Through their consistent patrolling, Community Safety Officers create a visible presence that deters potential offenders. Their active engagement with the community fosters relationships with park visitors, encouraging residents and users to report any incidents they witness. This proactive strategy is bolstered by their collaboration with the Parks Team, which provides valuable insights and intelligence regarding ongoing anti-social behaviour issues.

In summary, Community Safety Officers and Environmental Enforcement Officers are essential in promoting a safe, clean, and welcoming atmosphere in Central Park and other public spaces. Their dedication to addressing anti-social behaviour not only protects the community but also enhances the enjoyment of these public spaces for everyone.

Currently, there are three CCTV locations within Central Park, making it one of the most CCTV-monitored areas in the town (as indicated on the map below as 29, 30, and 31). Positions 29, 30 and 31 feature a cluster of cameras, including a movable 'PTZ' camera and several 'static' cameras that provide continuous coverage of key areas. Additionally, a new CCTV installation (marked in blue) has been completed to enhance coverage of the children's play area. Further enhancements regarding network performance at position 30 are also being planned to future-proof the Central Park CCTV locations.



Well Maintained and Clean

Grass Maintenance

The large field features amenity grass, while the right-hand corner, near the Tawny Street/Norfolk Street junction, includes a wild area. Additionally, there are pockets of wildflower beds located near the skate park.

Grass cutting is usually performed during the growing season, which spans from March to October or November, depending on weather conditions. This period coincides with peak grass growth, making regular mowing essential for maintaining healthy and attractive grassy areas. Typically, the grass is mowed every two weeks throughout the cutting season. However, the frequency may fluctuate based on specific conditions, sometimes requiring additional cuts or, conversely, less frequent mowing.

In addition to grass maintenance, caring for shrub beds is crucial for fostering healthy plant growth and improving the overall look of landscaped areas. This maintenance is generally performed during the winter months, from September to February, to avoid disturbing nesting birds. Winter is an ideal time for activities such as pruning, mulching, and weeding, as many plants are dormant, allowing for meticulous attention to detail without the interference of active growth.

Trees

Central Park will champion the newly introduced 'Grown Locally – Homed Locally' ethos, which will guide future planting and landscaping decisions. This approach prioritises sourcing and nurturing trees within Lincolnshire, reinforcing

sustainability, supporting the local economy, and fostering community pride. The park currently hosts 170 trees across 24 species, creating a diverse and ecologically valuable landscape. Key species include *Tilia* (Lime), providing shade and pollinator-friendly flowers; *Prunus* (Cherry), offering seasonal blossom for early pollinators; *Acer* (Maple), contributing vibrant autumn colour and insect habitat; and *Sorbus* (Rowan), supplying berries for birds and mammals. *Betula* (Birch) adds visual contrast and supports biodiversity, while *Carpinus* (Hornbeam) and *Crataegus* (Hawthorn) enhance nesting and pollinator habitats. *Ilex* (Holly) ensures year-round greenery and winter food sources, and *Fagus* (Beech) forms a dense canopy for carbon storage and air quality improvement. Evergreen species such as *Cedrus* (Cedar) and *Chamaecyparis* (Cypress) provide structure and shelter, while rare specimens like *Ginkgo*, *Metasequoia*, *Laburnum*, *Robinia*, and *Salix* enrich genetic diversity and educational value. Maintenance is scheduled outside the nesting bird season (March–August), with emergency works only for safety, ensuring compliance with biodiversity regulations. For full details of species composition and individual tree data, please refer to Appendix 2 – Tree Species Report and Appendix 3 – Tree List.

Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of Boston's parks and open spaces and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter picking takes place daily, seven days per week.

Park Furniture & Fittings

Boston Borough Council ensure that all furniture is clean and will check benches, notice boards and bins on a regular basis. Items will be cleaned when necessary. Any necessary repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible.

Playgrounds

At Central Park, we prioritise a heightened level of safety for all visitors by implementing a comprehensive inspection regime. Daily visual inspections are carried out by the on-site park attendant to identify and address any immediate hazards. In addition, our in-house trained operatives, qualified to RPII Playground Inspector Level, conduct thorough weekly and quarterly inspections to ensure that all equipment remains in excellent condition and meets safety standards. The playground is also inspected regularly by our insurance company, providing an additional layer of oversight.

Furthermore, an independent inspector undertakes an annual inspection to confirm compliance with ROSPA standards. Any hazards identified during these inspections are dealt with promptly and effectively, ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces will be kept clean with litter and leaves removed. Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state with spot treatment weed spraying. Paths will be kept in a good state of repair and all paths being inspected annually and any necessary repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible.

Environmental Sustainability

The following regimes are designed to ensure that Boston Central Park is managed in a sustainable way.

Litter Recycling

As a District Council, all refuse collected from our litter bins is taken directly to Lincolnshire County Council's Waste Sorting Centre. At present, approximately 39% of all waste processed there is recycled. It's important to note that this percentage reflects the recycling rate for all collected waste streams combined, not specifically the contents of our park litter bins.

In reality, the types of materials typically deposited in park bins are likely to contain a significantly higher proportion of recyclable items. Establishing accurate, reportable figures for park-specific waste will form part of our ongoing development work for Central Park. This will sit alongside plans to introduce dedicated recycling bins and receptacles to help improve both recycling opportunities and data accuracy moving forward.

Green Waste Recycling

Currently, we chip tree branches from our tree work and use the resulting wood chips in country parks, spreading them around paths and trees to enhance the natural environment. All shrub pruning's from our winter work are collected and taken to the green waste recycling facility. Once the work is done, we collect the green waste and transport it directly to the composting facility at the Lincolnshire County Council Waste Transfer Station in Boston. From there, Lincolnshire County Council manages the disposal process, transporting the green waste to the Energy Waste Plant in North Hykeham, where it is converted into energy. This process not only helps

in managing waste sustainably but also contributes to energy production. We measure the collected and processed waste, receiving weight tickets from the weighbridge at the composting site

Pesticides

Boston Borough Council is committed to minimizing the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides in the management of its parks and green spaces. In recent years, we have significantly reduced herbicide usage as part of our broader sustainability objectives, ensuring that our approach supports biodiversity and environmental health.

To further support this commitment, we are actively trialling non-glyphosate herbicides such as Finalsan. These alternatives are intended to reduce reliance on traditional chemical treatments that can have a greater environmental impact, while still providing effective weed control where necessary.

Moving forward, the use of herbicides will be carefully restricted and only considered in situations where non-chemical alternatives are not practical. For example, targeted herbicide application may be required to manage invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, which pose a serious threat to local ecosystems.

While reducing herbicide use is a positive step, it introduces operational challenges. Herbicides have traditionally been a cost-effective solution, offering quicker results with less labour. To address this, our parks and grounds team is reviewing operational schedules to ensure adequate resources and strategies are in place for weed control without relying on chemical options.

To further bolster our efforts, we are engaged in ongoing discussions with a local volunteer group. This collaboration aims to leverage their support in weed

removal as part of community service activities. By working together, we can foster community involvement while effectively managing weed growth in our parks and public spaces.

Boston Borough Council remains committed to balancing effective weed management with environmental stewardship, ensuring that our green spaces are maintained in a sustainable and ecologically responsible manner.

Peat Use

Boston Borough Council is strongly committed to eliminating the use of peat-based products as part of its sustainability and environmental responsibility goals. Over the past few years, the Council has successfully reduced peat usage by an impressive 90%, demonstrating significant progress toward this objective.

Moving forward, the team is prioritising the adoption of natural soils and peat-free compost wherever possible. This approach not only supports biodiversity and soil health but also aligns with national efforts to protect peatlands, which are vital carbon stores and essential for combating climate change. By embracing sustainable alternatives, Boston Borough Council is helping to preserve these critical ecosystems for future generations.

Fuel, Fleet & Power Tools

All handheld machinery currently operates on petrol, while ride-on mowers use diesel. To support our sustainability goals and reduce carbon emissions, we are actively exploring funding opportunities to replace machinery at the end of its service life with electric alternatives. This phased approach ensures cost efficiency while aligning with environmental commitments, see Appendix 6 – Environmental Management Plan.

Biodiversity

At Central Park in Boston, Lincolnshire, we are dedicated to maintaining and enhancing our parks and open spaces to ensure a diverse range of age, species, and structure within the canopy, understory, and herb layers. Our approach includes:

Managing Site-Specific Habitats: We focus on preserving unique habitats such as acid grasslands and mature veteran trees, which are integral to the park's ecological balance.

Enhancing Terrestrial Habitats: By supporting a diverse range of flora and fauna, we aim to enrich the park's terrestrial habitats. This includes planting native species and creating environments where wildlife can thrive.

Creating New Habitats: We explore opportunities to introduce new habitats, such as wildflower meadows and native hedge planting. These initiatives not only beautify the park but also provide essential resources for pollinators and other wildlife.

Sympathetic Mowing Regimes: Where suitable, we implement mowing regimes that leave areas of rough grassland around trees. This practice helps maintain biodiversity and provides shelter for small animals and insects.

Addressing Climate Change: We recognise the impacts of climate change, including droughts, wildfires, floods, disease, and biosecurity threats. Our management strategies prioritise resilience and adaptability to these challenges.

Sustainable Planting: To ensure long-term sustainability, we focus on planting drought-tolerant trees and plants. These species are better equipped to withstand changing climate conditions and contribute to the park's overall health.

Managing Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS): We actively manage invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Pennywort, and Himalayan Balsam. Controlling these species is crucial to protecting native biodiversity and maintaining the park's ecological integrity.

By implementing these strategies, we strive to create a vibrant, resilient, and sustainable environment in Central Park, Boston, Lincolnshire, for the enjoyment of all visitors and the benefit of local wildlife.

Community Involvement

There are currently two dedicated groups that are regularly involved in the maintenance and enhancement of Central Park, Boston in Bloom and the Green Volunteers.

Boston in Bloom focuses on a specific area of the park, where they engage in activities aimed at beautifying and maintaining the landscape to promote community pride and environmental stewardship. Their commitment not only improves the aesthetics of the park but also fosters a sense of ownership among residents.

The Green Volunteers collaborate with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to create a wildlife garden in Central Park. This initiative aims to promote biodiversity and provide a habitat for various species, while also educating the community about the importance of wildlife conservation. Their efforts are crucial in making the park a more vibrant and ecologically friendly space.

Initiatives such as establishing raised beds for planting and creating designated wildlife areas can serve as excellent educational tools for students. Organising Park tidy-ups not only enhances the environment but also instils a sense of responsibility in young people. The Green Volunteers work closely with schools

and involve groups of students in meaningful projects.

Community involvement and engagement are further fostered through a variety of events held in Central Park. In the summer Boston Borough Council (through external & BTAC funding) installs a temporary beach area in Central Park and this becomes a vibrant hub of activity, hosting a variety of family-friendly events that catered to diverse interests and age groups. In 2024 families enjoyed two days of beach-themed fun, culminating in the Boston Big Local Legacy event, which brought the community together for an unforgettable experience.

For those over 55, the Golden Oldies Sing-a-long provided a delightful musical gathering, allowing attendees to reminisce and enjoy classic tunes. Additionally, the Fun in the Sun initiative ensured that individuals with additional support needs could partake in enjoyable activities around the beach, promoting inclusivity and community spirit.

Meanwhile, younger children delighted in the Teddy Bears Picnic, a fun event designed specifically for preschoolers, which added charm and joy to the summer festivities.

In addition to these events, the Skate Jam competition at the skate park attracted over 150 riders, ranging from toddlers to adults. This annual Saturday event, which runs from 12 noon to 4 PM, is expertly managed by Team Rubicon and showcased the skate park's popularity, particularly during weekends and school holidays when foot traffic significantly increased.

Other notable attractions included the Dinosaur and Mermaid trails, which captivated the imagination of many visitors. The community in recent years has also enjoyed external events like the Holi Indian Festival and the Ska and Reggae Festival and Boston's first ever Pride Festival which added cultural richness to the summer lineup.

Weekly Junior Park Runs every Sunday for children aged 4 to 14 further enhanced the active spirit of the community.

These events not only bring the community together but also create opportunities for volunteers to participate in organising and facilitating various activities.

To further enhance community engagement, BBC have recently formed a group of volunteers dedicated to Central Park. This initiative is part BBC's broader Volunteer Scheme and is aimed at fostering a sense of community ownership and involvement. Roles for these volunteers have been identified and agreed upon.

We have recently held the first Central Park Community Clean Up event to highlight volunteering opportunities and engage residents in helping to maintain and take ownership of the park. Attended by a small but enthusiastic group of volunteers and supported by Councillors and staff, activities included cleaning waste bins, play equipment and benches, litter picking and leaf clearing. The aim is to hold regular clean-up events in the park and grow volunteer numbers. Furthermore, we are in the process of working with HMP North Sea Camp to provide suitable volunteering opportunities for inmates within the park.



Boston Borough Council promotes Central Park through its corporate communications channels, using a range of straightforward methods to share information with the local community. These include promoting park-based activities and events such as Park Run, the Santa Fun Run, and skate-related events, helping to raise awareness and encourage participation from residents and visitors.

Information about the park is also shared via the Council's social media platforms, where posts, images, and short videos are used to highlight activities, volunteering opportunities, and seasonal updates, with the aim being to reach a broad and diverse audience of local residents and visitors.

Within Central Park itself, a digital display screen is used to share public information messages. The screen operates year-round and can display content in multiple languages. It provides a visible point for communicating council-led messages directly to park visitors, including occasional public safety messaging, such as information designed to raise awareness of the consequences of carrying knives and to promote appropriate behaviour in shared public spaces. The screen also displays general information relating to the town centre.

The Council also promotes volunteering opportunities within the park, recognising the important role volunteers play in supporting its ongoing management and encouraging wider community involvement across the borough.



Visual content, such as photographs and occasional aerial imagery, is used to document improvements and changes within the park over time. This helps to demonstrate ongoing maintenance, enhancement works, and community-led initiatives, while also supporting efforts to present the park as a welcoming and well-managed public space.

Looking ahead, Central Park will benefit from the launch of a dedicated website in 2026, designed to serve as a central hub for all park-related information and services. The website will provide an event calendar, volunteering opportunities, and interactive maps to help visitors navigate the park and discover its features with ease. It will also include educational content showcasing the park's biodiversity, raising awareness of conservation efforts and encouraging visitors to appreciate and protect the natural environment. A dedicated section will explore the history of Central Park, celebrating its cultural and social significance within the community and strengthening the sense of place. To ensure ongoing dialogue and continuous improvement, the platform will offer an accessible channel for residents and visitors to share feedback and suggestions. By creating this digital space, we aim to make it easier for people to connect with the park, stay informed, and participate in its development, ensuring it remains a welcoming and sustainable green space for future generations.

Overall, the Council uses a combination of online, on-site, and community-focused communication methods to raise awareness of Central Park and to support its continued development as a well-used, inclusive, and valued green space.

GREEN FLAG MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 26

Central Park

Boston Lincolnshire



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BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER / GUEST	PORTOFOLIO HOLDER
5 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTAC Small Grants • Biennial update from Lincolnshire Police 	BTAC Small Grants Officer Guest: Inspector Ian Cotton (Lincolnshire Police)	Cllr Broughton
25 September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed BTAC Budget 2026/27 and MTFS to 2030/31 • Events 2025/6 • Central Park Green Flag Application 	Finance Manager Emily Spicer – Assistant Director, Communities and Housing Services Assistant Director Leisure & Local Services	Cllr Ghosh Cllr Broughton Cllr Rylott

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER / GUEST	PORTOFOLIO HOLDER
26 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTAC Small Grants • BTAC Q3 Financial Position as at 31 December 2025 • Park and open spaces provision including infrastructure, maintenance and funding. 	BTAC Small Grants Officer Finance Manager Assistant Director Leisure & Local Services	Cllr Broughton Cllr Ghosh Cllr Rylott

Pending confirmation for potential addition to the Work Programme:

- Review of status of Ingelow Park, Boston
- Tour of assets, including skate park provision.
- Community Governance Review – update in mid-2026

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.

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