



Public Document Pack  
**Boston Borough Council**

**Chief Executive  
Rob Barlow**

Municipal Buildings  
Boston  
Lincolnshire PE21 8QR  
Tel: 01205 314200

Friday 24 April 2026

**Notice of meeting of the Cabinet**

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Cabinet  
on **Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 6.00 pm**  
in the Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR

**Rob Barlow  
Chief Executive**

**Membership:**

Leader of the Council: Councillor Dale Broughton  
Deputy Leader: Councillor Mike Gilbert  
Councillors: John Baxter, Callum Butler, Sandeep Ghosh, Chris Mountain,  
Claire Rylott, Sarah Sharpe and Helen Staples

Quorum 4

**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**

To sign and confirm the minutes of the last meeting.

(Pages 1 - 4)

## **D Questions from Members of the Public**

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 Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

### **Part II - Agenda Items**

- 1 Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny (Standing Item)\***
- 2 Recommendations from the Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC) (Standing Item)**
- 3 Pride in Place Programme Delivery** (Pages 5 - 20)  
(A report by Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration)
- 4 Pride in Place Impact Fund** (Pages 21 - 28)  
(A report by Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration)
- 5 Local Government Association Annual Conference** (To Follow)  
(A report by John Medler, Service Director – Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer))

\* In accordance with the Constitution, recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Committees referred to Cabinet (if any) shall be included at this point in the agenda (unless they have been considered in the context of the Cabinet deliberations on a substantive item on the agenda) within six weeks of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee completing its report / recommendations.

**Call-In** – any decision taken by the Cabinet concerning an item on this agenda can be ‘called in’ in accordance with the Constitution, within 5 working days of the decision notice being published. It is expected that any decision notices will be published on Thursday 7 May 2026. Subject to this publication, the deadline for calling in a decision is **5 p.m. on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**.

### **Notes:**

Please contact Democratic Services ([demservices@boston.gov.uk](mailto: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 314591.

## Boston Borough Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held in the Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 6.00 pm.

### **Present:**

Councillor Dale Broughton (Leader), in the Chair.

Councillors Mike Gilbert (Deputy Leader), John Baxter, Callum Butler, Sandeep Ghosh, Chris Mountain, Claire Rylott, Sarah Sharpe and Helen Staples.

### **Officers:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Programme Delivery) and Assistant Director - General Fund Assets, Director of Finance, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) and Democratic Services Team Leader.

### **61 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

### **62 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **63 Minutes**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

### **64 Questions from Members of the Public**

No questions were received.

### **65 Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny (Standing Item)\***

There were no recommendations.

### **66 Recommendations from the Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC) (Standing Item)**

There were no recommendations.

### **67 Quarter 3 2025/26 Performance and Risk Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dale Broughton, presented a report by the Assistant Director – Corporate and the Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer, which set out the Council's performance and risk position as at the end of December 2025 (Quarter 3). The report was accompanied by four appendices: Appendix A – Q3 Performance, Appendix B – Q3 BBC Risk Registers, Appendix C – Q3 Partnership Risks, and Appendix D – Q3 Fraud Risks, each providing detailed monitoring information across the relevant areas.

The Leader explained that performance across the majority of targeted indicators remained generally stable, with many measures either achieving target or staying within acceptable tolerance levels. The report incorporated 27 targeted indicators and 65 trend indicators, offering broader context for service pressures and operational activity. The strategic risk register had also been fully reviewed for the quarter, supported by enhancements recommended through a recent Internal Audit review, including clearer target status commentary and improved tracking of mitigation actions.

During discussion, the Cabinet examined the information in detail. Attention was drawn to the position of the industrial units, where it was queried whether the remaining vacant units had been filled. Members were advised that although leases had not yet been completed, there continued to be active interest, with ongoing enquiries from prospective tenants. The units remained continually advertised and several applications had been progressed, though none had yet reached completion.

Members also reflected on wider performance trends, including planning activity, waste and environmental measures, and homelessness prevention indicators. They noted the contextual pressures set out within the report, recognising that some indicators were influenced by external market conditions and operational demand. Consideration was also given to the updated risk registers, with Members welcoming the clearer presentation of target status and the additional transparency around mitigation actions, particularly in relation to information governance, technological resilience, and the requirements of the Environment Act.

**The recommendations were moved by Councillor Dale Broughton and seconded by Councillor Sandeep Ghosh.**

**Resolved:**

**That the quarterly performance and risk monitoring information for Q3 of 2025/26 be noted.**

## **68 Quarter 3 2025/26 Forecast Outturn**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Growth, Councillor Sandeep Ghosh, presented a report by the Director of Finance (S151 Officer), who was in attendance, which set out the Council's financial position as at the end of December 2025 (Quarter 3) and the forecast outturn for the 2025/26 financial year. The report was accompanied by two detailed appendices: Appendix A – BBC Q3 Finance Revenue Report 2025-26, and Appendix B – BBC Q3 Finance Capital Report 2025-26, providing comprehensive analysis of revenue performance, reserves, treasury activity and capital programme monitoring.

The Portfolio Holder explained that the forecast for the full year showed a net revenue deficit of £0.457m, representing an improvement on the Quarter 2 position. Income shortfalls remained the primary pressure, particularly within planning (£250k), cremation services (£178k) and markets (£19k), although these had been partially offset by several favourable variances including recovery of housing benefit overpayments, reduced computer costs, vacancy savings within the Senior Leadership Team, and increased car parking income.

Members were advised that 54% of the annual efficiency target (£1.429m) had been identified by Quarter 3, supported significantly by the £0.654m Internal Drainage Board (IDB) funding allocated by Government. Work continued with service managers to secure the remaining efficiencies required to reduce the deficit and support the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

During discussion, the Cabinet reviewed the revenue and capital monitoring information in detail. Members commented on the volatility of planning income and the difficulty in predicting major applications, noting that fluctuations of this type were common and influenced by national and local factors. The report also highlighted the ongoing pressures on bereavement income due to lower cremation numbers and increased local market competition.

Clarification was sought on the additional legal expenditure identified within the Governance and Monitoring budget. Members were informed that although the historic matter was not ideal, the expenditure had been authorised appropriately in line with the Council's financial procedures. The importance of strengthened oversight and safeguarding of financial decision-making was emphasised.

Members noted progress within the capital programme, as detailed in Appendix B, with expenditure of £14.023m against a revised full-year budget of £37.422m, and acknowledged the impact of re-profiling on several major projects.

The Cabinet Members expressed their thanks to the Portfolio Holder and the Finance Team for their continued hard work in a challenging financial climate.

**The recommendations were moved by Councillor Sandeep Ghosh and seconded by Councillor John Baxter.**

**Resolved:**

- 1. That the forecast revenue position of £0.457m deficit for 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix A – Table 1 within the report, and the need for continuous focus on the savings and efficiency programme be noted; and**
- 2. That the amendments to the Capital Programme at Appendix B – Table 3 within the report be noted.**

## **69 Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Growth, Councillor Sandeep Ghosh, presented a report by the Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer, which sought approval for the revised Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy, attached respectively as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 within the report. The Portfolio Holder explained that the policies had been updated to ensure continued compliance with statutory requirements, including the UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018, and the Data Use and Access Act 2025, and to align practice across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

In presenting the report, it was highlighted that the Records Management Policy provided a clear framework to ensure that the Council's records were accurate, accessible, secure and retained in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements. The Data Protection Policy set out the responsibilities of officers, Members, contractors and partners in relation to personal data, supporting organisational resilience, lawful processing, and the safeguarding of information assets. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny had been incorporated into both documents.

During discussion, the Cabinet noted the importance of all Members understanding their responsibilities when handling personal data, particularly when acting in their distinct roles as ward councillors, political representatives and Members of the Council. Attention was drawn to the section within the appendices outlining the treatment of councillors' personal data, and Members were encouraged to familiarise themselves with these distinctions.

Members further acknowledged that information governance was an evolving area, particularly in relation to artificial intelligence and emerging data-handling technologies. It was recognised that the policies would be subject to ongoing review as national guidance and regulatory expectations developed, and that the delegations proposed within the report would enable timely updates to be made.

**The recommendations were moved by Councillor Sandeep Ghosh and seconded by Councillor Sarah Sharpe.**

**Resolved:**

- 1. That the draft Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy, attached at Appendices 1 and 2 within the report, be approved;**
- 2. That amendments to the records management policy be delegated to the Assistant Director – Governance in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to reflect changes in ICO guidance when issued; and**
- 3. That amendments to the data protection policy be delegated to the Data Protection Officer in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to reflect changes in ICO guidance when issued.**

The Meeting ended at 6.17 pm.



|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Report To:</b>        | Cabinet   |
| <b>Date:</b>             | 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026  |
| <b>Subject:</b>          | Pride in Place Programme Delivery   |
| <b>Purpose:</b>          | To accept the UK Government's Memorandum of Understanding to enable delivery of the ten-year Pride in Place programme for Boston to commence in 2026/27. Delegated authority arrangements are also requested to ensure effective and lawful use of public funds under the programme and that robust decision-making arrangements are in place throughout the subsequent investment periods. |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>     | Yes   |
| <b>Portfolio Holder:</b> | Councillor Mike Gilbert, Deputy Leader of the Council   |
| <b>Report Of:</b>        | Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration   |
| <b>Report Author:</b>    | Jon Burgess, Programme Manager (Economic Growth)  |
| <b>Ward(s) Affected:</b> | Fenside, Witham, Town Centre, Trinity, Skirbeck, Staniland and St Thomas  |
| <b>Exempt Report:</b>    | No  |

## Summary

This paper seeks Cabinet approval to accept the UK Government's Memorandum of Understanding to enable the local authority to undertake the lead contracting and accountable body requirements to progress delivery of the Pride in Place programme for Boston. It will ensure that the spend decisions recommended by the Boston Neighbourhood Board are subject to appropriate compliance and assurance work by the Council prior to contracting and meet the requirement to ensure effective and lawful use of the allocated public funds.

## **Recommendations**

That Cabinet

1. Accepts the funding award for Boston and delegates authority to the Council's Executive Director – Finance and Section 151 Officer to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Pride in Place Programme in Boston, as attached at Appendix A;
2. Delegates authority to the Executive Director – Finance and Section 151 Officer to vary the Council's Capital and Revenue base budgets up to the limits of the provisions set out in Section 2 of the report for projects under the parameters of the Pride in Place programme for Boston;
3. Notes that it is the responsibility of the Boston Neighbourhood Board to consider and recommend how the funding is allocated to individual projects. The Cabinet will be kept notified and updated with the Board's priorities, approved projects, allocations and spend profile and monitoring of risks and benefits on regular basis;
4. Delegates authority to the Council's Executive Director – Finance and Section 151 Officer to approve the Neighbourhood Board's recommended expenditure, following due diligence and in consultation with the Executive Director – Economic Development and Deputy Leader of the Council; and
5. Delegates authority to the Council's Executive Director – Economic Development to enter into all associated delivery contracts and grant funding agreements on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Council's Executive Director – Finance and Section 151 Officer and the Deputy Leader of the Council.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- To enable the Council to receive the annual funding allocations under the Pride in Place Programme and support the Boston Neighbourhood Board to progress with the delivery of the subsequent investment periods.
- To ensure that all public funds associated with the programme delivery are used lawfully, effectively and in line with Government rules and relevant Council procedures.
- To ensure transparent, consistent and robust decision making and appropriate due diligence is undertaken on the recommended funding awards prior to formal contracting and expenditure.

## **Other Options Considered**

- To not accept the Pride in Place funding for Boston
- To work with the Boston Neighbourhood Board to identify an alternative accountable body structure for the governance and management of the approved funding

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Boston has been allocated the award of up to £20million of new grant funding over a ten-year period under Phase One of the Pride in Place Programme (formerly Plan for Neighbourhoods and Long Term Plan for Towns). The programme forms part of the UK Government's wider Pride in Place Strategy published on the 25th September 2025 which is intended to represent a new way for government to work in partnership with communities and neighbourhoods, empowering them with the tools and levers to drive meaningful change that reflects their priorities.
- 1.2 Decision-making responsibility on how and where this new funding is spent sits with Boston Neighbourhood Board, working in partnership with Boston Borough Council. The Neighbourhood Board must develop a plan for their local area and distribute funding to the projects to deliver on this vision. All activities supported by the programme must be shaped and informed by undertaking meaningful, iterative engagement with the local community, ensuring that any future investment reflects local need and evidencing that that people's priorities have been acted upon.
- 1.3 The submission of the Neighbourhood Board's Regeneration Plan for Boston was approved by Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, following a widespread programme of community consultation to ensure that any future investment reflects local need and evidencing that local people's priorities have been acted upon. Cabinet has also previously received a report on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 to approve delivery arrangements for the capacity funding received under the programme to date and help move the programme towards the first year of delivery commencing in 2026/27.
- 1.4 The Deputy Leader of the Council is appointed onto the Neighbourhood Board to represent Boston Borough Council.
- 1.5 The geographic boundary of the Pride in Place programme has been determined by and agreed with the UK Government. It is therefore a place specific funding programme that is deliberately targeted on delivering new investment into the town of Boston, rather than the wider Borough and the intended beneficiaries are expected to live or work within the intervention boundary as set out in the submitted Regeneration Plan (link provided in the Background Papers section of this report).

## **2. Report**

- 2.1 On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, the Council received a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from the UK Government to enable the local authority to undertake the lead contracting and accountable body responsibilities to deliver the Pride in Place programme for Boston. The MoU is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2 In order to undertake the programme arrangements and requirements, approval is needed to accept the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding as attached at Appendix A. It is therefore requested that Cabinet provides authority for the Council's Section 151 Officer to sign the MoU on behalf of Boston Borough Council.

## 2.3 Financial Implications

2.4 The Pride in Place programme is due to release the following funds to the accountable body for Boston over the next ten years. This provides the basis of the recommendation to vary the Council's capital and revenue budgets under the parameters of 'Pride in Place for Boston' up to the limit of the provisions set out below.

| Grant type                 | 26/27      | 27/28        | 28/29        | 29/30        | 30/31        | 31/32        | 32/33        | 33/34        | 34/35        | 35/36        | Total         |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Revenue funding (capacity) | 150        | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 600           |
| Revenue funding (grants)   | 232        | 256          | 432          | 432          | 432          | 432          | 437          | 450          | 450          | 450          | 3,999         |
| Total revenue funding      | 382        | 256          | 432          | 432          | 432          | 432          | 437          | 450          | 450          | 450          | 4,599         |
| Capital funding (grants)   | 360        | 1,736        | 1,605        | 1,605        | 1,605        | 1,605        | 1,605        | 1,605        | 1,605        | 1,605        | 14,936        |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>742</b> | <b>1,992</b> | <b>2,037</b> | <b>2,037</b> | <b>2,037</b> | <b>2,037</b> | <b>2,042</b> | <b>2,055</b> | <b>2,055</b> | <b>2,055</b> | <b>19,535</b> |

2.5 To allow the Government to undertake periodic spending and performance reviews, the funding model will be delivered across three investment periods:

- Period 1: 2026–27 to 2029–30 (4 years)
- Period 2: 2030–31 to 2032–33 (3 years)
- Period 3: 2033–34 to 2035–36 (3 years)

2.6 The local authority retains responsibility and accountability for ensuring that all expenditure is managed in line with public sector financial principles and is compliant with procurement law and subsidy control requirements. As such, it is recommended that delegated authority is given to the Council's Executive Director – Finance and Section 151 Officer to approve the expenditure decisions recommended by the Neighbourhood Board prior to contracting in consultation with the Executive Director – Economic Development and the Deputy Leader of the Council.

## 2.7 Governance and Assurance

2.8 It is expected that the spend allocations recommended by the Boston Neighbourhood Board will be delivered via either a direct Council led commission or by passporting funds to a local community group, business or other appropriately constituted organisation to deliver the approved activities and investments.

2.9 The Council will therefore need to undertake a range of duties to ensure that robust, consistent and transparent decision-making arrangements are in place prior to the contracting of any approved spend. Contracts for the delivery of new works, goods or services undertaken directly by the Council will be managed in accordance with the local authority's adopted contract and financial procedure rules. Where the delivery is to be undertaken indirectly via an external partner, the Council will require a signed grant funding agreement to be in place prior to commencement which will clearly set out the requirements of all parties in undertaking the agreed investment and activities.

2.10 It is therefore recommended that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director – Economic Development to enter into all of the necessary contractual arrangements and grant funding agreements to deliver the approved programme of investment.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1. The Pride in Place programme requires the local authority to act as the accountable body responsible for overseeing the management and use of public funds. The Boston Neighbourhood Board is required to provide strategic direction and make recommendations on project selection and prioritisation of spend. The delegated authorities recommended within this report will ensure that the Council undertake an appropriate level of due diligence on the proposed spend decisions prior to contracting and reserve the right to withhold approval of any proposal that does not meet the necessary legal requirements.
- 3.2. The latest policy guidance for the Pride in Place programme sets out an expectation that the Neighbourhood Board should look to move to a community led delivery model by Year Three of the programme (i.e. by March 2029). As such, the role of the local authority may be subject to change over the delivery period but the recommendations in this report set out the immediate recommendations and requirements needed to progress delivery in Year One of the programme in 2026/27.

### **Implications**

#### **South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership**

Cumulatively, the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is due to receive up to £80m of new investment for the local area over the next ten financial years under the Pride in Place Programme. This represents a significant opportunity to provide enhanced places and better outcomes for the residents, businesses and visitors of South and East Lincolnshire and to achieve economies of scale in the delivery of a coordinated approach to linked interventions across four towns in the Partnership area. Boston, Skegness and Spalding are included in Phase One of the current Programme. Mablethorpe is allocated under Phase Two of the programme, due to commence delivery from April 2027.

#### **Corporate Priorities**

The Pride in Place programme provides the opportunity for existing Council and public services to deliver additional benefit in the approved towns under the agreed themes and proposed interventions. Group Managers and service leads will be consulted as part of the development and delivery phase.

#### **Staffing**

Initial project management resources have been approved by the Neighbourhood Board to enable the Council to proceed with the recruitment and employment of a dedicated programme manager and programme coordinator post to help deliver the Boston programme (roles to be shared with the Spalding Neighbourhood Board). Additional programme management support to be provided by the substantive Economic Development directorate with additional associated support services from PSPS Ltd.

#### **Workforce Capacity Implications**

The delivery of the Plan may require additional capacity within the teams. Capacity implications of any actions included in the regeneration plan will need to be considered and monitored on an ongoing basis.

## **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

The Council will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the Nolan Principles and Managing Public Money principles. The Council will also be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement. As an accountable body, the Council must comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 when administering public money under the programme.

The Council will be responsible for ensuring that all funding is managed in accordance with relevant public contract regulations.

## **Data Protection**

Any exchange of data and information with Neighbourhood Board and other partners will be subject to data protection regulations.

## **Financial**

As set out in Section 2 of the report.

## **Risk Management**

The key risks to be managed in the process of the submission of the Regeneration Plan are:

1. Capacity – to prepare the Regeneration Plan in compliance with the guidance and in timescales prescribed by the Government.
2. Inclusive engagement – Boston communities from all quarters have an opportunity to influence the Regeneration Plan.
3. Partnership – relationship between the Council, the Neighbourhood Board and partners is constructive and collaborative to maximise the benefits of the community.
4. Deliverability – the Regeneration Plan is aspirational and deliverable to ensure the desired outcomes are achieved.
5. Accountability – the Council as accountable body is responsible for compliance to a range of issues as identified in the legal implications above.

## **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

The Neighbourhood Board membership was reviewed in March 2025 in alignment with the priority themes of the Plan for neighbourhood. The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Gilbert, sits on the Neighbourhood Board for Boston. Engagement with stakeholders and communities is part of the programme of activities that the Neighbourhood Board is leading in preparation of the Plan. The Regeneration Plan submitted (and approved by Cabinet in November 2025) provides detailed evidence of stakeholder engagement undertaken to date and of further scheduled activities. The guidance for the Pride in Place programme makes clear that the Board is expected to undertake stakeholder engagement and consultation across the full 10-year funding period to ensure Plans are aligned to emerging priorities. Boston Scrutiny Committee also received a presentation on the process in October 2025.

## **Reputation**

The Programme presents a positive and good news story for increasing Pride in Place in Boston. It places the Council in a positive position at the heart of a partnership with the Neighbourhood Board and MHCLG to drive and deliver meaningful change for the community. The investment builds on a successful track record with Government in delivering major regeneration programmes in Boston via the previous Towns Fund and Levelling Up funds.

### **Contracts**

The local authority in each place will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the Nolan Principles and Managing Public Money principles. The Council will also be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control and procurement.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Safety and security is one of the key themes as part of the Plan for Boston.

### **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding**

Equality, inclusivity and accessibility are key principles for the preparation of the Plan for Boston.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Health and Wellbeing is one of the key priority themes for the Plan for Boston.

### **Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment**

None

### **Acronyms**

None

### **Appendices**

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

Appendix A                      Pride in Place for Boston: Memorandum of Understanding

### **Background Papers**

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

[Pride in Place Programme: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)  
[Boston Regeneration Plan - Submitted Copy](#)

### **Chronological History of this Report**

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

Previous Cabinet reports have agreed recommendations on the use of programme capacity funding (31<sup>st</sup> July 2025) and the submission of the Regeneration Plan for Boston (16<sup>th</sup> November 2025)

### **Report Approval**

Report author: Jon Burgess, Programme Manager (Economic Growth)  
[Jon.Burgess@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:Jon.Burgess@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

Signed off by: Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration  
[Maria.Cotton@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:Maria.Cotton@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

Approved for publication: Councillor Mike Gilbert, Deputy Leader of the Council  
[Mike.Gilbert@boston.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Gilbert@boston.gov.uk)

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**Between**

**The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government**

**-and-**

**Boston Council**

**-and-**

**Boston Neighbourhood Board**

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets out the terms that will apply to the relationship between the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (the Secretary of State), Boston Council (the local authority) and the Boston Neighbourhood Board regarding the administration and delivery of the Pride in Place Programme (the programme).
- 1.2. This MoU relates to the allocation set out in the [Programme Prospectus](#).
- 1.3. This MoU will be for the first investment period of the programme which spans the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2030. Changes will be made only where signatories deem it necessary.
- 1.4. The MoU sets out the conditions and expectations for the Programme.
- 1.5. The Secretary of State and the local authority shall be parties in this agreement.
- 1.6. This MoU is not intended to create legal or binding obligations. It describes the understanding between both parties for the use of funding specified in section 3 of this agreement.
- 1.7. The Neighbourhood Board for Boston is not a formal party to this agreement, but a signatory in acknowledgement of the Neighbourhood Board's role and responsibilities in programme delivery within their place, as set out in the programme guidance.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. The Pride in Place Programme was launched on 25 September 2025. The Secretary of State has agreed the Neighbourhood Board's Pride in Place Plan for Boston.
- 2.2. This MoU covers the funding commitments from the Secretary of State and the delivery, financial expenditure, agreed milestones, reporting and evaluation,

communications and branding expectations between the Parties as well as the steps the Secretary of State could take in the event of underperformance, if required.

2.3. The Secretary of State has published guidance on the delivery of the programme in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#). The Secretary of State will notify the local authority of any changes to the prospectus and, if necessary, provide guidance on how changes are to be managed.

### **3. Purpose of the Funding**

3.1. The funding from the programme is being provided to deliver activity in line with the prospectus and the priorities for investment agreed by the Neighbourhood Board, based on community engagement activity carried out throughout the programme lifetime.

3.2. The allocation to the local authority is set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#). The local authority will receive annual grant payments as set out in this allocation, subject to the conditions in sections 5 and 6.

3.3. Any changes to the allocation will be notified to the local authority as soon as practicable. Funding will not be withdrawn unreasonably.

3.4. Funding must be spent in line with the rules set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

3.5. Funding should be managed through a partnership between the Neighbourhood Board and the local authority, as set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

3.6. The local authority is expected to agree a way of working with the Neighbourhood Board which:

- recognises and upholds the Neighbourhood Board's role as decision-maker in relation to how programme funding is used to deliver the strategic aims of the programme in the local area;
- enables development and embedding of appropriate processes and controls for the funding allocation; and
- ensures that residents, businesses, and grassroots organisations are actively involved in programme design and decision-making throughout the lifetime of the programme.

3.7. Funding should be used to deliver in line with the Pride in Place Plan for Boston which has been agreed with MHCLG. The partnership can make changes to the plan agreed by the Secretary of State. The scale, type and process for making changes is set out in published guidance and at section 10 of this agreement.

#### 4. Reporting

- 4.1. As part of the delegated delivery model, the local authority will provide formal reporting on the use of Pride in Place Programme funding as set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

#### 5. Financial Arrangements

- 5.1. The agreed funds will be issued to the local authority as grant payments under Section 50 of the United Kingdom Internal Markets Act 2020 ('UKIM').
- 5.2. Details of the annual funding allocation, broken down into capital and revenue funding, will be confirmed in annual grant determinations.
- 5.3. The grant payment and grant determination letters (GDL) for 2026-27 will be made after this MoU is signed.
- 5.4. The 2027-28, 2028-29 and 2029-30 grant payments will be paid in Quarter 1 (April-June) of each year. Release of payments is dependent on submission of satisfactory Statement of Grant Usage and monitoring reports in the preceding year as set out in [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#) and ongoing compliance with the Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance.
- 5.5. Grant determination letters (GDL) for years 2027-28, 2028-29 and 2029-30 will be provided following confirmation of the annual payment for each year.
- 5.6. The grant payment arrangements for financial year 2030-31 and beyond will be set out in a separate memorandum of understanding.
- 5.7. Where the local authority is holding any underspend from the Pride in Place programme capacity funding payments made in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, this may be retained and brought forward to be spent in future years in line with the Funding Flexibility rules outlined in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#). The 2026/27, 2027-28, 2028-29 and 2029-30 grant payments from MHCLG will not be adjusted as a result of any brought forward funding.
- 5.8. Capital grant funding, as set out in grant determinations, may only be used for capital expenditure.
- 5.9. Revenue grant funding may be used for revenue or capital expenditure, in line with the local authority's accounting practices.
- 5.10. If the Secretary of State has concerns around future spending plans, based on the experience of local delivery to date, or wider financial issues or governance affecting delivery, then the Secretary of State may pay in instalments, withhold or recover funding.

5.11. The local authority accepts responsibility for meeting any costs over and above the Secretary of State's contribution, agreed in the annual grant determination. This includes potential cost overruns and the underwriting of any funding contributions expected from third parties.

## **6. Conditions of Approval**

6.1. MHCLG's agreement of the Pride in Place Plan for Boston is conditional upon the following condition/s being completed:

a) N/A

6.2. In the event that the above conditions are not met by the date set out, the Secretary of State may withhold further annual payments until such time as the conditions are satisfactorily completed.

## **7. Branding and Communication**

7.1. The Secretary of State will provide the local authority with guidance on the Branding and Communication associated with the programme in due course.

7.2. The Parties agree to adhere to the guidance and any updates subsequently released by the Secretary of State or HMG on communications linked to the programme.

7.3. The local authority agrees to publish details of Neighbourhood Board membership, place governance arrangements and key documents regarding delivery of the programme in the local area, as outlined in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

7.4. The local authority agrees to make monitoring returns submitted to the department publicly available as outlined in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

## **8. Evaluation**

8.1 The Secretary of State will publish an evaluation strategy, setting out how the programme will be evaluated, in due course.

8.2 The local authority will support any evaluation of the fund through capturing and providing relevant monitoring data and engaging as appropriate with MHCLG or its contractors.

## **9. Assurance**

- 9.1. The Secretary of State has set out the approach to assurance for the programme in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).
- 9.2. Funding will be managed within the finance governance framework adopted by local authorities and the existing local authority accountability and assurance regime, under the oversight of the local authority's Chief Financial Officer [England and Wales: Section 151, Scotland: Section 95, Northern Ireland: Section 54].
- 9.3. The Chief Financial Officer will be required to submit an annual Statement of Grant Usage return to MHCLG. This will provide confirmation that they have undertaken to actively apply all the necessary checks to ensure proper administration of its financial affairs regarding the funding programme, and that the funding has been managed with propriety, regularity and value for money.
- 9.4. The local authority is expected to have the necessary governance and assurance arrangements in place and that all legal and other statutory obligations and consents will be adhered to.
- 9.5. As set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#), the local authority is responsible for applying management controls that:
- mitigate the risk of fraud;
  - ensure funding has been used in accordance with UK subsidy control legislation;
  - ensure that any procurement undertaken by a contracting authority funded by the fund has complied with public procurement rules;
  - ensure compliance with its statutory equality obligations;
  - ensure adequate assessment of environmental impacts arising from programme activities and compliance with environmental duty; and
  - ensure that any personal data obtained in connection with the fund's activities is handled in compliance with data protection legislation.
- 9.6. The local authority will respond directly to questions addressing the local delivery of the fund and cooperate with the Secretary of State in any inquiries regarding the delivery of the fund.

## **10. Changes to agreed Pride in Place Plan**

- 10.1. The local authority will notify the Secretary of State of any changes to the activities, expenditure, management processes and governance arrangements set out in their Pride in Place Plan through routine monitoring returns. The local authority does not need approval from the Secretary of State to make changes to its delivery unless the change constitutes a 'material change' as set out in the [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance](#).

10.2. Requests for material changes can be made to the Secretary of State as and when required during delivery, following the published process.

### **10. Compliance with the MoU**

10.1. The Parties to this MoU are responsible for ensuring that they have the necessary systems and appropriate resources in place within their respective organisations to comply fully with the requirements of this MoU.

### **11. Changes to the MoU**

11.1. The arrangements under this MoU will be kept under review. Amendments to this MoU may only be made upon written agreement between the Parties.

### **12. Resolution of Disputes**

12.1. Any dispute that may arise as to the interpretation or application of this MoU will be settled by consultation between the parties.

**Signed on Behalf of the Local Authority (by Chief Executive / Chief Financial Officer):**

**Name:**

**Job Title:**

**Date:**

**Signed on Behalf of Secretary of State:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Withers', written in a cursive style.

**Name: Kay Withers**

**Job Title: Director, Communities, Cohesion and Inclusive Growth**

**Date: 31 March 2026**

**Signed on Behalf of the Neighbourhood Board in acknowledgement of the Neighbourhood Board role in delivery of the programme:**

**Name:**

**Job Title:**

**Date:**

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|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Report To:</b>        | Cabinet  |
| <b>Date:</b>             | 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026   |
| <b>Subject:</b>          | Pride in Place Impact Fund   |
| <b>Purpose:</b>          | For Cabinet to approve the use of the Pride in Place Impact Fund for Boston and delegate authority to the Executive Director – Economic Development to authorise all associated delivery and contractual matters, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Council’s Section 151 Officer |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>     | Yes  |
| <b>Portfolio Holder:</b> | Councillor Mike Gilbert, Deputy Leader of the Council  |
| <b>Report Of:</b>        | Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration  |
| <b>Report Author:</b>    | Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration  |
| <b>Ward(s) Affected:</b> | Coastal; Fenside; Fishtoft; Five Villages; Kirton and Frampton; Old Leake and Wrangle; Skirbeck; St Thomas’; Staniland; Station; Swineshead and Holland Fen; Trinity; West; Witham   |
| <b>Exempt Report:</b>    | No   |

## Summary

Boston Borough Council has received a funding allocation of £1.5 million from Central Government under the Pride in Place Impact Fund with a requirement from Government that the funding is prioritised by the local authority to support quick, practical enhancements that will boost local community pride, wellbeing, and identity. Local authorities are not required to submit a proposal or plan setting out how they intend to use their Pride in Place Impact Fund allocation for MHCLG approval and all spend must be committed by the local authority by the end of March 2027. This report sets out a proposed funding model which prioritises investment of the funding into the three priority project themes set-out in the guidance for this funding.

The Pride in Place Impact Fund is a separate external funding scheme to the Pride in Place programme for Boston which the Council has supported the Boston Town Board to submit a ten-year regeneration vision and four year investment plan in November 2025 and will commence delivery in April 2026. The Council will seek to ensure close

alignment of the two funding programmes to maximise impact and benefit for our local communities.

## **Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

1. Agrees the funding allocations and priority themes for the Pride in Place Impact Fund for Boston, as set out in Section 2 of the report; and
2. Delegates authority to the Executive Director – Economic Development to approve all of the necessary delivery arrangements and the award of funding allocations to individual projects in consultation with the Council's Leader, Deputy Leader, and Section 151 Officer.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

To enable the Council to proceed with the process of agreeing and commencing the delivery of the funding programme and ensure to fully commit the spending by March 2027.

## **Other Options Considered**

- To not allocate the funding to any priorities (do nothing)
- To allocate the funding to different priorities which are less closely aligned to the Council's priorities and evidence of local community's priorities as evidenced through recent engagement activities.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 In the 2025 Spending Review, the Government announced funding of £1.5 million under the Pride in Place Impact Fund for Boston. The funding allocation is in response to an identified need for immediate support to ensure that the local authority is able to deliver tangible visible improvements to high streets, local assets and improve spaces of community value. Boston Borough Council is the lead contracting authority and accountable body for the funding programme and responsible for agreeing and managing how the funding is used. The funding is in addition to and separate from the ten-year Pride in Place Programme for Boston which will commence delivery in April 2026 and does not require Town Board approval of the expenditure.
- 1.2 The Council's Capital Programme as approved by Full Council on March 2<sup>nd</sup> includes the £1.5 million Pride in Place Impact Fund. This paper recommends that Cabinet subsequently approve a funding model for delivery of a local programme which prioritises investment into projects which support the continued revitalisation of Boston town centre and the creation of new or enhanced creative spaces and parks

and gardens across the Borough. Subsequent delivery arrangements are expected to be via a mixture of direct Council commissioned activities and the passporting of grant funding to local organisations to deliver approved investments. All funding under the Pride in Place Impact Fund must be contractually committed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027. The Pride in Place Impact Fund allocation is 100% capital funding.

- 1.3 To maximise the impact of the Pride in Place Impact Fund and broaden its reach, local authorities are encouraged to explore opportunities to leverage funding and/or seek match funding for initiatives to unlock additional support and accelerate progress on shared priorities for local pride.

## **2. Report**

- 2.1 The Pride in Place Impact Fund has three objectives. There is no requirement within the funding guidance to undertake projects under all of the objectives:

- i) Community Spaces - creating, extending, improving or refurbishing existing community facilities and enabling community organisations to take control or ownership of underused but valued local assets
- ii) Public Spaces - enhancing the physical environment in public spaces - examples of initiatives include new or improved green spaces or public squares, improved outdoor play, sports and leisure spaces, installing street furniture, public art or wayfinding.
- iii) High Street and Town Centre Revitalisation - making the local high street and town centres more attractive and welcoming places where people congregate and which encourage economic activity.

- 2.2 In developing a bespoke investment programme for Boston, it is recommended that the following funding allocations are prioritised as the basis for supporting and delivering new project activities.

### **2.3 Pride in Place Impact Grants - £750,000**

- 2.4 Boston is a borough rich in heritage, culture and community spirit. Our villages and neighbourhoods deserve investment that strengthens local pride, enhances public spaces, and ensures our community facilities can serve residents for generations to come.

- 2.5 Improving public spaces is one of the core objectives of the Pride in Place Impact Fund. Good quality public realm together with well-maintained parks and gardens are considered vital assets to local communities because they provide open and accessible places for leisure, recreation and community connection. They support healthier lifestyles, reduce stress, and encourage local biodiversity. The Borough Council currently manages 16 parks or play areas across the Borough with additional green spaces and nature reserves under separate ownership and maintenance.

- 2.6 To support this ambition it is proposed to offer targeted grants to: -
- Enhance Boston's public realm and green spaces
  - Strengthen community facilities
  - Support environmental improvements
  - Enable high-impact projects across multiple communities
  - Encourage collaborative, community-driven regeneration

- 2.7 Examples of supported projects may include upgraded landscaping, new arts or heritage trails, enhanced street furniture, accessibility improvements, new play equipment or installations for live performance, music or other events.
- 2.8 The Impact Grants will split into two levels of support:
- Small Grants: £5,000–£25,000 suitable for minor capital works and smaller-scale or localised improvements to facilities, green spaces or neighbourhood amenities.
  - Large Grants: £25,000–£75,000 for more strategic, multi-settlement or high-impact projects requiring significant capital or revenue investment.
- 2.9 All funded projects must demonstrate:
- Public Value - Clear benefits to Boston residents, businesses or visitors.
  - Impact - Long-lasting improvements to local quality of life, perception and pride in place.
  - Inclusivity - Facilities and spaces should be accessible, welcoming and usable for all.
  - Sustainability - Projects must have a plan for maintenance and long-term operation beyond the grant period.
  - Local Leadership - Strong community involvement, partnership working and local ownership.
- 2.10 The Impact Grants will be accessed through an open call for projects in May with the first project awards expected by July following assessment. Each application submitted will be checked for eligibility and risk. They will then be fully assessed and due diligence carried out. A member panel will then moderate the applications and make the decision on the projects selected for grant funding. This follows the model of similar successful project grant schemes delivered across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.
- 2.11 Eligible organisations to apply for the funding are:
- Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations
  - Registered Charities
  - CICs and Social Enterprises
  - Private Sector Organisations (where community benefit is clear)
  - Higher/Further Education Institutions
  - Parish Councils
  - Boston Borough Council departments
- 2.12 **Borough High Streets and Town Centre Revitalisation - £700,000**
- 2.13 Funding will be prioritised towards enhancements to the natural and built environment within Boston town centre and borough-wide local high streets that support the Council's objectives to increase trade and footfall for local businesses, to enhance community pride and improve perceptions of community safety by reducing incidences of anti-social behaviour. Examples of initiatives that could be funded include building frontage improvements, adaptations that bring premises back into use, streetscape improvements, and creating or improving the infrastructure.

- 2.14 A cohort of students from Boston College are undertaking a structured audit of the town centre to identify:
- Areas that appear unloved, neglected or underinvested
  - Things that could be repaired, improved or refreshed
  - Opportunities that could make the town centre more welcoming, safe and enjoyable
- 2.15 The audit will gather fresh, independent perspectives on the condition and experience of Boston town centre through on-site student observation and evaluation. This will result in a presentation and report back to the Council which will help to articulate young people's experience of the town centre and provide their insights into how specific areas could be made to look and feel more vibrant, welcoming and secure for the local community through future investment ideas and opportunities.
- 2.16 A similar assessment will be carried out for local high streets across the borough. All issues identified through the reports will be costed and prioritised to shape an improvement programme for our high streets and town centre to be delivered during 2026/27 as a commissioned project.
- 2.17 The headline allocations above of £1.45m, allow a **contingency fund of £50K** within the overall funding envelope that will be made available to support the implementation and delivery of the programme. This will be used to procure additional legal, promotional or programme delivery support including assessing and approving any onward grant disbursement, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring which will be undertaken by the Council's Economic Growth directorate. It can also be used to undertake and encourage further community engagement, support and participation. The contingency provision would also enable the Council to consider increased funding for approved projects which experience any unforeseen increases in risk or delivery costs during the investment period.
- 2.18 Local authorities will be asked to provide financial reporting in May 2026, October 2026 and June 2027. These reports will collect actual spend, commitment levels and forecasts under the Pride in Place Impact Fund objectives.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1. The proposed funding themes and financial allocations for the Boston Pride in Place Impact Fund provide a model for the Council to deliver new investments across the Borough which are aligned with local community priorities and respond proactively to the Government's requirement to deliver visible, tangible improvements in community spaces, high streets, and local assets by March 2027.
- 3.2. Funding will be managed within the finance governance framework adopted by the local authority and the existing accountability and assurance regime, under the oversight of the Council's Section 151 officer. Delivery of the funding will be aligned with other externally funded grant programmes for Boston to maximise impact and avoid duplication of resources.

3.3. It is recommended that delegated authority is agreed by Cabinet to enable the Executive Director – Economic Development to approve and enter the Council into all of the necessary delivery arrangements to implement the programme and allocate funding to individual projects under each theme in consultation with the Council's Leader, Deputy Leader, and Section 151 Officer.

## **Implications**

### **South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership**

The Pride in Place Impact Fund supports the following strategic priorities of the South and East Lincolnshire Council Partnership

- Supporting economic growth,
- Improving health and wellbeing, enabling communities to live healthier, more active lives,
- Strengthening community cohesion, resilience, and supporting inclusive, thriving neighbourhoods
- Protecting and improving the natural and built environment, and
- Enhancing green spaces

### **Corporate Priorities**

The Pride in Place Impact Fund supports the Council's corporate focus on ensuring Boston is a place where people want to live, work and visit, and where communities feel supported and valued.

### **Staffing**

The programme will be managed by the Council's Economic Growth Directorate using existing staffing resources. It is proposed that the contingency fund allocation of £50K is available to buy in additional time limited expertise to help the Council manage individual elements of the programme if required and subject to agreement of the Council's Section 151 Officer.

### **Workforce Capacity Implications**

None

### **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

The Pride in Place Impact Fund will operate under the financial assistance power in the UK Internal Market Act 2020.

Funding may be spent anywhere in the local authority area, whilst being mindful of the importance of supporting communities most in need. There is no requirement for local authorities to meet all of the objectives set or spend a specific percentage of funding on any objective. All of the funding may be spent under one objective or a mixture of objectives.

### **Data Protection**

None

## **Financial**

As outlined in Section 2 of the Report.

## **Risk Management**

The Council's delivery team will maintain a live risk register and a programme level to ensure that key strategic and cross-cutting risks are captured, prioritised, monitored, and managed in a structured, transparent, and proactive way supporting effective governance, decision-making, and successful delivery. Individual projects will be responsible for managing their own project level risk registers.

## **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

The Council has managed a programme of detailed consultation with the local community as part of developing a ten year vision for Boston under the Pride in Place programme. This has helped to inform the priorities for future investment under the Pride in Place Impact Fund and ensure that the funding priorities and financial allocations are aligned to areas and activities which support local community pride in their town and Borough.

## **Reputation**

None

## **Contracts**

None

## **Crime and Disorder**

None

## **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding**

None

## **Health and Wellbeing**

None

## **Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment**

None

## **Acronyms**

MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

## **Appendices**

None

## Background Papers

None

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

| <b>Document title</b>                  | <b>Where the document can be viewed</b> |
|--|---|
| Pride in Place Impact Fund: Prospectus | <a href="#">link</a>                    |

## Chronological History of this Report

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

## Report Approval

Report author: Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration  
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