

# Public Document Pack



Municipal Buildings  
Boston  
Lincolnshire PE21 8QR  
Tel: 01205 314200

Wednesday 3 June 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 11th June 2026 at 6.30 pm**  
in the Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR

**Rob Barlow**  
Chief Executive

### Membership:

Councillors: Alison Austin, Emma Cresswell, Anton Dani, Anne Dorrian, Neil Drayton, Sandeep Ghosh, Mike Gilbert, Paul Gleeson, Andy Izard, Patricia Marson, Jonathan Noble, Barrie Pierpoint, Lina Savickiene and Stephen Woodliffe

Quorum 6

**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 Election of Chairman**

Committee to vote for their elected Chairman for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

#### **B Election of Vice-Chairman**

Committee to vote for their Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

**C Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence.

**D Declarations of Interest**

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

**E Minutes**

(Pages 1 - 6)

To sign and confirm the minutes of the last meeting.

**F 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.

**G Public Questions**

To answer any written questions received from members of the public no later than 5 p.m. two clear working days prior to the meeting – for this meeting the deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**H Public Speaking Time**

To allow members of the public to address the Committee.

**Part II - Agenda Items**

**1 Boston Town Board**

(Verbal Report)

(A discussion with Claire Foster, Interim Chair – Boston Town Board)

**2 Pride in Place Impact Fund**

(Pages 7 - 16)

(A report by Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration)

**3 2025/26 Draft Outturn Financial Position**

(Pages 17 - 30)

(A report by Russell Stone, Executive Director – Finance (Section 151 Officer))

**4 BTAC Play Area Improvements ‘Aspirations’**

(Pages 31 - 46)

(A report by Victoria Burgess, Service Director – Neighbourhoods)

**5 Work Programme**

(Pages 47 - 50)

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

**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 314351.

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## Boston Borough Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC)** held in the Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 6.30 pm.

### **Present:**

Councillor Patricia Marson, in the Chair.

Councillors Alison Austin, Anne Dorrian, Neil Drayton, Sandeep Ghosh, Mike Gilbert, Andy Izard, Jonathan Noble, Lina Savickiene and Stephen Woodliffe.

In attendance:

Officers:

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

### **52 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Emma Cresswell, Paul Gleeson and Barrie Pierpoint.

### **53 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **54 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of the following information which was requested by Councillor Jonathan Noble:  
in relation to agenda item 3 - Central Park Green Flag Application, the cost of the application for Green Flag status was approximately £389 - £440 + VAT.

### **55 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 remained unlocked since 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. Democratic Services had continued to liaise with relevant Borough Council teams to monitor reports of criminality.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> September and the previous Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026, 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 the incidents had occurred during the period when the gates were previously locked.

Since the January meeting, two further incidents had been reported to the Council's departments:

- youths scaling the roof of the toilet block (which may have occurred during the period when the gates would previously have been locked)
- youths kicking Harris fencing.

Information had been requested from the Police in advance of the meeting but had not been received. Council departments had confirmed that no concerns had been raised by the Police since the last update.

Given the number of incidents remained relatively low, the Assistant Director – Leisure and Local Services suggested that the Committee may wish to receive a further update at its June meeting, particularly as a result of lighter evenings. It was confirmed that Democratic Services would liaise with the relevant teams nearer the time and ensure that the Committee received an update, and that Members would be informed in advance should reporting patterns change.

The Working Group had not met since the last meeting.

### **Central Park Green Flag application**

A judge had now been allocated to the Green Flag application. All judging would be completed by the end of May 2026, with further updates to be provided as the application progressed.

### **Highways**

Members had previously expressed an interest in hearing from the County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways. Several attempts to secure attendance had been unsuccessful and, despite a recent change in the Portfolio Holder, a date had still not been agreed. It was now anticipated that this would be sought in the new municipal year.

Confirmation was provided that efforts would continue to secure attendance as soon as possible and that provisional dates of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings for the new municipal year would be shared with the Portfolio Holder to facilitate this.

### **Community Governance Review**

The provisional terms of the Stage 2 consultation plan and communications strategy were presented to the Working Group at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The consultation launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and would remain open until 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

The Chair of the Working Group, Councillor Mike Gilbert, had circulated information to all Members encouraging them to promote the consultation in the wards, community groups and through social media. Supporting information had been provided to assist with this.

It was confirmed that a further update would be provided to the Committee following the close of the consultation.

**56 Public Questions**

No public questions were received.

**57 Public Speaking Time**

There were no public speakers.

**58 2025/26 Quarter 3 Financial Position**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Finance (S151 Officer), presented by the Head of Finance Delivery (PSPSL).

The report set out the 2025/26 Quarter 3 Financial Position for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, providing an overview of income and expenditure across BTAC services and the projected outturn position at the end of the financial year.

The forecast showed a surplus of £22,786, representing a positive movement since Quarter 2 of approximately £38,000, and a projected reserve balance of £312,885 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

The Head of Finance Delivery (PSPSL) summarised the key variances across service areas as detailed within the report:

- Open Spaces and Play Areas – a projected overspend of £15,412, primarily due to repairs and replacement of play equipment (approximately £9,000), alongside higher employee costs, which were offset within the Events service.
- Allotments - a small favourable variance of £20 due to additional rental income.
- Central Park – a forecast surplus of £1,979, reflecting savings achieved through the cessation of the gate-locking service, partially offset by repairs and maintenance costs arising from resurfacing works.
- Public Conveniences - an overspend of £17,495, resulting from vandalism requiring door replacements, increased electricity consumption and temporary loss of income during closures.
- Events –a forecast surplus of £59,990, largely attributable to staffing savings following an in-year service review and the reallocation of posts, with expenditure subsequently charged to the Borough Council rather than the Boston Town Special Expense.
- Administration –savings of £28,695, primarily arising from the street-cleaning service review.

Deliberation by members occurred and the Committee examined the factors contributing to the financial variances. The following points were considered:

- Concerns were raised regarding the costs associated with vandalism in public conveniences, with confirmation provided that CCTV was in place and that coverage had recently been enhanced;
- Discussion on the scale of the underspend within the Events budget, with clarification that underspends were returned to reserves unless specifically approved for alternative use by the Committee;
- Questions regarding street-cleaning variances, with assurance that service levels had not reduced and that differences reflected updated re-charge arrangements and forecasting assumptions. It was confirmed that a written explanation would be circulated following the meeting;
- Broader discussion regarding the level of BTAC reserves, with Members highlighting opportunities for future investment and liaison with the Town Board to maximise benefit to local communities; and
- Clarification that BTAC did not operate a formal contingency fund, with reserves providing the mechanism for responding to unforeseen expenditure where appropriate approvals were in place.

It was confirmed that the minimum reserve level would remain at £70,000 for 2025/6 with £100,000 adopted for future years.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the Committee noted the forecast surplus position of a £22,786 for 2025/26; and**
- 2) That the Committee noted the forecast reserve balance of £312,885 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.**

**59 Work Programme**

The Committee received an update from the Assistant Director – Leisure and Local Services on the current Work Programme and proposed items for the 2026/27 municipal year.

The Work Programme included items previously agreed for future consideration, including reports on BTAC assets, park and open spaces provision following the Members' tour in September 2025, and an update on the Community Governance Review.

Members discussed the proposed programme and made a number of suggestions, including:

- Reiterating the importance of securing attendance from the Lincolnshire County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways at a future Overview and Scrutiny meeting, with support expressed for inviting both the Portfolio Holder and a senior highways officer;
- Requesting a future report on public conveniences, covering usage, maintenance costs, staffing, income and future service options;
- Discussing the reserves position, with confirmation provided that the forthcoming assets report would consider aspects of future investment and spending; and
- Agreeing to receive a report on the work of the Town Board and its future plans insofar as they affected Boston Town Wards.

In response to a question, Councillor Mike Gilbert advised that consideration was currently being given to the availability of £1.5 million of Pride in Place Impact Fund funding, including potential opportunities for match funding alongside BTAC expenditure.

**Resolved:**

**That the Work Programme be noted, with the amendments discussed incorporated into the Committee's Work Programme.**

## **60 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 4 of the 2025/26 financial year.

Four eligible applications had been received during the round, with three recommended for approval and one recommended for approval subject to conditions. The recommendations were presented to the Committee in line with its delegated authority to make community development grants.

Members discussed the scope of the scheme and clarified that, while a grant was generally expected to benefit the borough, there was no requirement for expenditure to take place solely within the borough, provided the eligibility criteria were met and the Committee was satisfied with the proposal.

It was confirmed that the following awards would be made:

- 1) £1,000 to Polish Support Initiative CIC for digital equipment to support residents with access to laptops and printing facilities.
- 2) £1,000 to Boston Hanse Group for insurance, entertainment and advertising for the annual Boston Hanse Day event.
- 3) £980 to Little Miracles – Boston to support activities for families with children with disabilities and additional needs, subject to receipts being provided confirming use of the amenities stated in the application.
- 4) £1,000 to Boston Hakusan City Exchange towards resources, venue hire and activities for the UK element of the exchange programme.

**The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Anne Dorrian and seconded by Councillor Mike Gilbert.**

**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.**

**61 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

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

The Meeting ended at 7.24 pm.



<b>Report To:</b>	Boston Town Centre Area Committee
<b>Date:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Pride in Place Impact Fund
<b>Purpose:</b>	For the Boston Town Centre Area Committee to consider the Pride in Place Impact Fund programme for Boston and identify opportunities where the Committee may wish to support, align with, or match fund complementary town centre projects.
<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 to support quick, practical enhancements that boost local community pride, wellbeing, and identity. The funding does not require submission of a delivery plan to Government for approval, but all spend must be committed by the end of March 2027. This report outlines the proposed programme structure and priority themes for the fund, with a particular focus on how investment in Boston town centre could be strengthened through partnership working and potential match funding.

The report is presented to Boston Town Centre Area Committee to support discussion on where the Committee may be able to complement the Impact Fund through its own priorities, local insight, and potential contribution to projects which improve the town centre, public spaces, and community assets. In particular, match funding could help increase the scale, visibility, and deliverability of priority schemes, enabling more ambitious improvements to be brought forward and helping projects to proceed at pace where there is a clear local case for investment. While the Pride in Place Impact Fund is separate from the wider ten-year Pride in Place programme for Boston, there is a

clear opportunity to align investment and maximise local impact through coordinated delivery.

## **Recommendations**

That Boston Town Centre Area Committee:

1. Notes the proposed priorities and delivery approach for the Pride in Place Impact Fund for Boston, as set out in this report;
2. Considers where the Committee's own priorities and resources could align with, complement, or match fund projects that support Boston town centre improvements, particularly where additional local investment would unlock greater impact, improve project quality, or enable delivery at a larger scale; and
3. Provides feedback on the types of town centre projects it would wish to see brought forward for potential joint investment and delivery, including the principles it would want to apply when considering any future match funding contribution.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- To enable the Committee to consider how its local priorities and available resources could help strengthen delivery of visible town centre improvements through aligned investment or match funding alongside the Pride in Place Impact Fund, securing greater leverage, stronger value for money, and the potential to bring forward more ambitious schemes.

## **Other Options Considered**

- To note the report without identifying any opportunities for alignment or match funding.
- To focus Committee resources on alternative town centre priorities outside the proposed Pride in Place Impact Fund themes.

## **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 intended to support immediate, visible improvements to high streets, local assets, and spaces of community value. Boston Borough Council is the lead contracting authority and accountable body for the funding programme and is 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 commenced delivery in April 2026.

- 1.2 The Council's Capital Programme, as approved by Full Council on 2 March, includes the £1.5 million Pride in Place Impact Fund. This report is brought to Boston Town Centre Area Committee to set out the proposed delivery model for the programme and to support discussion on whether the Committee may wish to align activity or provide match funding towards town centre projects that meet shared local priorities. Delivery arrangements are expected to include a mixture of direct Council-commissioned activity and grant funding to local organisations. All funding under the Pride in Place Impact Fund must be contractually committed by 31 March 2027. The allocation is 100% capital funding.
- 1.3 To maximise the impact of the Pride in Place Impact Fund and broaden its reach, local partners are encouraged to explore opportunities to leverage additional investment and secure match funding for initiatives that can unlock greater benefit, extend project scope, improve design quality, or bring forward complementary town centre improvements that would not otherwise be deliverable within the core allocation alone. Match funding may be particularly valuable where a project is already a local priority, where a larger intervention would create a stronger visible impact, or where coordinated funding would help reduce fragmentation across the town centre.

## **2. Report**

- 2.1 The Pride in Place Impact Fund has three broad objectives. There is no requirement within the funding guidance to undertake projects under all objectives; however, they provide a useful framework for considering where Boston Town Centre Area Committee may wish to support or match fund related projects.
  - 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, the following funding allocations are proposed as the basis for supporting and delivering new project activity. These headings also provide a practical structure for identifying where Committee priorities or match funding could add value, particularly in relation to Boston town centre. This could include schemes where modest additional local investment would increase project scope, improve quality of finish, support linked works in adjacent areas, or strengthen the overall visibility and public benefit of the intervention.

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

Boston is a borough rich in heritage, culture, and community spirit. Investment through the Pride in Place Impact Fund creates an opportunity to strengthen local pride, improve public spaces, and ensure community facilities remain fit for purpose. For Boston Town Centre Area Committee, this also presents an opportunity to consider how local funding could complement wider investment where projects have a clear town centre benefit, particularly where match funding would help increase the overall impact of a scheme or support a more joined-up package of improvements.

2.4 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.

2.5 To support this ambition it is proposed to offer targeted grants to support improvements across the borough. The objectives of the Impact Grants are 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

2.6 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. Where projects contribute directly to the vitality and attractiveness of Boston town centre, they may also present opportunities for complementary local match funding, for example where additional investment could enable a broader public realm scheme, higher quality materials, linked wayfinding, seating, lighting, or complementary works that improve the coherence and visibility of the overall intervention.

2.7 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 The Impact Grants will be accessed through an open call for projects, with applications checked for eligibility, risk, and deliverability before full assessment and due diligence. A member panel will then moderate applications and make decisions on the projects selected for grant funding. Feedback from Boston Town Centre Area Committee can help inform the type of town centre outcomes and local priorities that should be emphasised through this process.

2.10 Eligible organisations

- 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

2.11 **Borough High Streets and Town Centre Revitalisation - £700,000**

2.12 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, enhance community pride, and improve perceptions of community safety. Examples of initiatives that could be funded include building frontage improvements, adaptations that bring premises back into use, streetscape improvements, and supporting infrastructure. This is the area most likely to offer opportunities for direct alignment with the Committee's own town centre investment priorities, particularly where match funding could support linked interventions, close funding gaps on priority schemes, or help deliver a more comprehensive package of improvements in key locations.

2.13 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

2.14 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.

- 2.15 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.
- 2.16 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.
- 2.17 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 allocations for the Boston Pride in Place Impact Fund provide a framework for delivering visible investment across the borough while also creating a timely opportunity for Boston Town Centre Area Committee to consider how its own priorities and resources could complement or match fund projects that support the continued revitalisation of the town centre. Used selectively, match funding could help the Committee support schemes that are more ambitious, better coordinated, and more visibly transformational in their overall effect.
- 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. Alignment with other externally funded programmes and any potential Committee match funding will help maximise impact and avoid duplication of resources.
- 3.3. The Committee is invited to use this report as the basis for identifying whether there are projects within its remit that could be advanced, enhanced, or delivered more effectively through alignment with the Pride in Place Impact Fund, and where any future match funding contribution would add the greatest value.

### **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 undertaken extensive consultation with the local community as part of developing a ten-year vision for Boston under the Pride in Place programme. This has helped inform the priorities for investment under the Pride in Place Impact Fund and provides a strong evidence base for considering where Boston Town Centre Area Committee may wish to align support or match funding with projects that respond to local needs and opportunities.

### **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>
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Pride in Place Impact Fund: Prospectus	<a href="#">link</a>
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## **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, Assistant Director (Culture and Regeneration)  
[maria.cotton@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:maria.cotton@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

Signed off by: Pranali Parikh, Director of Economic Development  
[pranali.parikh@boston.gov.uk](mailto:pranali.parikh@boston.gov.uk)

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

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<b>Report To:</b>	Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC)
<b>Date:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	2025/26 Draft Outturn Financial Position
<b>Purpose:</b>	To present the 2025/26 Draft position for the period ending 31 March 2026.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Sandeep Ghosh, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Growth
<b>Report Of:</b>	Russell Stone, Executive Director – Finance (Section 151 Officer)
<b>Report Author:</b>	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL)
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	All BTAC Wards
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	No

## Summary

This report sets out a summary of the current draft financial position for BTAC at the end of 2025/26.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that BTAC Members note:

1. The draft outturn position of £104,153 underspend for 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix A – Table 1; and
2. The reserve balance to 31 March 2026.

## Reasons for Recommendations

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

## **Other Options Considered**

None.

### **1. Report**

- 1.1 Appendix A sets out the income and expenditure details for the draft outturn of 2025/26.
- 1.2 The draft outturn shows an underspend of £104,153, which will be transferred to the BTAC reserve.

### **2. Reserve Position**

- 2.1 The opening balance of the BTAC reserve as at 1 April 2025 was £293,825. Following the posting of the surplus, the draft reserve balance is £396,788, as set out in Appendix A – Table 2.
- 2.2 This includes the minimum required reserve balance of £70,000 and £1,925 ringfenced funds relating to small grants from previous years.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1. The Committee are requested to note the draft outturn position and the reserve balance at year end.

## **Implications**

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

None.

### **Corporate Priorities**

None.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Workforce Capacity Implications**

None.

### **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

None.

### **Data Protection**

None.

## **Financial**

As contained in this report and the associated appendix.

## **Risk Management**

None.

## **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

No consultation undertaken.

## **Reputation**

None.

## **Contracts**

None.

## **Crime and Disorder**

None.

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

None.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

None.

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

None.

## **Acronyms**

BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee  
EHC – Empowering Healthy Communities

## **Appendices**

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

Appendix A - BTAC Draft Outturn Finance Report 2025-26

## **Background Papers**

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

## Chronological History of this Report

None.

### Report Approval

Report author: Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery – BBC (PSPSL)  
[Nicole.Hayes@pspsl.co.uk](mailto:Nicole.Hayes@pspsl.co.uk)

Signed off by: Russell Stone, Executive Director – Finance (Section 151 Officer)  
[Russell.Stone@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:Russell.Stone@sholland.gov.uk)

Consultation complete: Councillor Sandeep Ghosh, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Growth  
[Sandeep.Ghosh@boston.gov.uk](mailto:Sandeep.Ghosh@boston.gov.uk)

## BTAC – Draft Outturn Finance Report for 2025-26

### Finance Summary

- The draft outturn shows a surplus position of £104,153 as of 31 March 2026.
- The anticipated reserve balance as of 31 March 2026 is £396,788.

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

Table 1 – Financial Summary				
Service	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Outturn 2025/26 £	Variance (under)/ over £	Comments on main variances
Open Spaces & Play Areas	111,370	110,038	(1,332)	Overspends relating to the maintenance of play equipment and employee costs have been offset against ground maintenance savings.
Allotments	(580)	(855)	(275)	Additional rental income and development costs not incurred in 2025/26.
Central Park	192,220	148,765	(43,455)	Savings on grounds maintenance and gate locking service not in operation offset against resurfacing costs.
Public Conveniences	168,130	181,093	12,963	Overspend relating to door replacement costs impacting income and additional cash collection service charges within year.
Events	160,133	86,954	(73,179)	Staff cost savings arising from a recent service review, alongside reductions in supplies and services expenditure relating to event costs.
Town Centre Maintenance	114,524	102,438	(12,086)	Savings have been realised through lower vehicle costs, alongside reduced spending on supplies and services.
Administration	58,292	36,472	(21,820)	Primarily related to the street cleaning service review offset against support service recharges.
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>804,089</b>	<b>664,905</b>	<b>(139,184)</b>	
Council Tax Income	(769,058)	(769,058)	-	
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>35,031</b>	<b>(104,153)</b>	<b>(139,184)</b>	
Efficiency Savings Target	(35,031)	-	35,031	
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(104,153)</b>	

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

<b>Table 2 – Reserve Balance</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Reserve Balance as of 1 April 2025</b>	<b>(293,825)</b>
Less: Current Projected Planned Spend:	
Empowering Healthy Communities Grants remaining balance	-
Small Grants Balance from Prior Years	-
Repair to Central Park gate	1,190
	<b>(292,635)</b>
2025/26 Surplus	(104,153)
<b>Draft Reserve Balance as of 31 March 2026</b>	<b>(396,788)</b>
<b>Ringfenced balances included in reserve balance</b>	
Small Grants balance from Prior Years	<b>1,925</b>
Minimum reserve balance required	<b>70,000</b>
<b>Available Reserve balance</b>	<b>(324,863)</b>

Based on the Section 151 Officer's recommendation, the minimum required reserve balance is set to increase to £100,000 from 1 April 2026.

**Table 3** details the draft outturn for maintaining and managing the Open Spaces and Play Areas within the BTAC area for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 31 March 2026.

<b>Table 3 – Open Spaces &amp; Play Areas</b>				
<b>Account</b>	<b>Approved Budget 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Draft Outturn 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Variance (under)/over £</b>	<b>Comments on main variances</b>
Employee Costs	<b>6,060</b>	<b>12,040</b>	<b>5,980</b>	The transfer of roles from Events, offsetting against employee costs within the Events service (Table 7).
<b>Premises</b>				
Repairs & Maintenance	3,840	-	(3,840)	No spend incurred in 2025/26.
Premises Insurance	60	184	124	Insurance costs vary due to assumptions made at budget setting.
	<b>3,900</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>(3,716)</b>	
<b>Transport</b>				
Car Allowances	10	-	(10)	Minor variance.
	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(10)</b>	
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>				
CCTV Camera Maintenance	2,060	2,387	327	Spend in line with supplier contract.
Maintenance of New Play Equipment	1,000	9,033	8,033	Repairs & replacements for play equipment.
Professional & Contractor Fees	1,190	1,152	(38)	Annual inspection costs.
Insurance	40	42	2	Minor variance.
	<b>4,290</b>	<b>12,614</b>	<b>8,324</b>	
<b>Third Party Payments</b>				
Grounds Maintenance	94,770	81,671	(13,099)	Costs associated with service provided.
	<b>94,770</b>	<b>81,671</b>	<b>(13,099)</b>	
<b>Support Services</b>				
Property Services Support Recharge	1,670	1,707	37	Increase resulting from the employee pay award.
Communication & Marketing Recharge	-	162	162	Costs reflective of employee costs charged.
Finance Recharge	-	900	900	Recharge costs for services provided.
HR & Payroll Recharge	670	760	90	Recharge costs for services provided.
	<b>2,340</b>	<b>3,529</b>	<b>1,189</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
Other Income	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111,370</b>	<b>110,038</b>	<b>(1,332)</b>	

**Table 4** details the draft outturn for the management of Allotments located within the BTAC area for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 31 March 2026.

Table 4 – Allotments				
Account	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Outturn 2025/26 £	Variance (under)/ over £	Comments on main variances
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>				
Development	255	-	(255)	No spend incurred in 2025/26.
	<b>255</b>	-	<b>(255)</b>	
<b>Support Services</b>				
Management & Administration Support	1,385	717	(668)	Costs reflective of services provided.
Property Service Recharge	-	683	683	Costs associated with invoice administration and query handling.
	<b>1,385</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
Rental Income	(2,220)	(2,255)	(35)	Additional rental income.
	<b>(2,220)</b>	<b>(2,255)</b>	<b>(35)</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(580)</b>	<b>(855)</b>	<b>(275)</b>	

**Table 5** details the draft outturn for the operations of Central Park for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as 31 March 2026.

Table 5 – Central Park				
Account	Approved Budget 2025/26 £	Draft Outturn 2025/26 £	Variance (under)/over £	Comments on main variances
<b>Premises</b>				
Repairs & Maintenance	4,920	11,072	6,152	Costs associated with resurfacing works, gate repairs, and other maintenance activities.
Electricity	4,500	3,708	(792)	New utility rates received and usage reviewed.
Water	320	73	(247)	Reduction in charges received.
Premises Insurance	1,260	1,974	714	Insurance costs vary due to assumptions made at budget setting.
	<b>11,000</b>	<b>16,827</b>	<b>5,827</b>	
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>				
Birds	660	408	(252)	Costs lower than anticipated.
Gate Locking Service	16,980	8,250	(8,730)	Gate locking service not in operation, ceased Aug 25.
	<b>17,640</b>	<b>8,658</b>	<b>(8,982)</b>	
<b>Third Party Payments</b>				
Trade Waste Contract	1,480	1,480	-	
Grounds Maintenance	164,100	123,684	(40,416)	Costs associated with service provided.
	<b>165,580</b>	<b>125,164</b>	<b>(40,416)</b>	
<b>Support Services</b>				
Communication & Marketing Recharge	341	325	(16)	Costs reflective of employee costs charged.
Property Services Support Recharge	2,679	2,731	52	Increase resulting from the employee pay award.
	<b>3,020</b>	<b>3,056</b>	<b>36</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
Rents – Kiosk	(3,830)	(3,750)	80	In line with the lease agreement.
	<b>(3,830)</b>	<b>(3,750)</b>	<b>80</b>	
Reserves Movement	(1,190)	(1,190)	-	To fund gate repairs.
	<b>(1,190)</b>	<b>(1,190)</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>192,220</b>	<b>148,765</b>	<b>(43,455)</b>	

**Table 6** details the draft outturn for operating the Public Conveniences within the BTAC area for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 31 March 2026.

<b>Table 6 – Public Conveniences</b>				
<b>Account</b>	<b>Approved Budget 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Draft Outturn 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Variance (under)/over £</b>	<b>Comments on main variances</b>
<b>Employee Costs</b>	<b>122,800</b>	<b>121,347</b>	<b>(1,453)</b>	Minor saving generated.
<b>Premises</b>				
Repairs & Maintenance	7,650	19,954	12,304	Door replacements for Central Park and Wide Bargate PCs.
Electricity	4,090	5,286	1,196	Usage higher than budgeted.
Water Rates	18,350	16,943	(1,407)	Actual costs incurred during the year.
Premises Insurance	1,540	1,726	186	Insurance costs vary due to assumptions made at budget setting.
Depot/Office Accommodation	580	-	(580)	Relocation of van storage.
	<b>32,210</b>	<b>43,909</b>	<b>11,699</b>	
<b>Transport</b>				
Vehicles	5,560	2,553	(3,007)	Costs associated with service provided.
Car Allowances	30	-	(30)	No spend incurred in 2025/26.
	<b>5,590</b>	<b>2,553</b>	<b>(3,037)</b>	
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>				
Clothing	500	472	(28)	Minor saving generated.
Materials	5,000	8,020	3,020	Costs reflect previous years trend
Mobile Phones	70	66	(4)	Minor saving generated.
Employee Insurance	900	847	(53)	Insurance costs vary due to assumptions made at budget setting.
Cash Collection Service	510	2,522	2,012	Changes in cash collection arrangements.
	<b>6,980</b>	<b>11,927</b>	<b>4,947</b>	
<b>Third Party Payments</b>				
Grounds Maintenance	4,150	-	(4,150)	Service not provided.
	<b>4,150</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,150)</b>	
<b>Support Services</b>				
Communication & Marketing Recharge	170	162	(8)	Costs reflective of employee costs charged.
Finance Recharge	7,020	7,540	520	Recharge costs for services provided.
HR & Payroll Recharge	5,590	6,320	730	Recharge costs for services provided.
	<b>12,780</b>	<b>14,022</b>	<b>1,242</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
Sale of Keys	(60)	(9)	51	Reflective of current sales.
Fees & Charges	(16,320)	(10,797)	5,523	Loss of income due to PC vandalism.
Other Income	-	(1,859)	(1,859)	Income from extended opening hours for events.
	<b>(16,380)</b>	<b>(12,665)</b>	<b>3,715</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>168,130</b>	<b>181,093</b>	<b>12,963</b>	

**Table 7** details the draft outturn for Events within the BTAC area for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 31 March 2026.

<b>Table 7 – Events</b>				
<b>Account</b>	<b>Approved Budget 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Draft Outturn 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Variance (under)/over £</b>	<b>Comments on main variances</b>
Employee Costs	<b>85,370</b>	<b>32,835</b>	<b>(52,535)</b>	Costs reallocated to Open Spaces service and Markets Officer post removed. Additional savings as a result of the recent service reviews.
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>				
Printing	260	43	(217)	Expenditure captured within event costs.
Advertising	4,000	-	(4,000)	Expenditure captured within event costs.
Postages	-	123	123	Postage for Strongest & Food Fest.
Mobile Phones	50	34	(16)	Minor saving generated.
Employee Insurance	630	591	(39)	Insurance costs vary due to assumptions made at budget setting.
Health & Safety Service	1,020	-	(1,020)	Budget not required.
Event Costs	41,500	30,224	(11,276)	Costs reflective of service provided.
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,400	-	(3,400)	No spend incurred in 2025/26.
Grants & Contributions	17,000	17,000	-	
	<b>67,860</b>	<b>48,015</b>	<b>(19,845)</b>	
<b>Third Party Payments</b>				
Street Cleaning	1,420	-	(1,420)	Service review savings.
	<b>1,420</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,420)</b>	
<b>Support Services</b>				
Communication & Marketing Recharge	1,363	1,299	(64)	Costs reflective of employee costs charged.
Finance Recharge	3,410	3,860	450	Recharge costs for services provided.
HR & Payroll Recharge	2,710	3,230	520	Recharge costs for services provided.
	<b>7,483</b>	<b>8,389</b>	<b>906</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
Event Space Hire & Events Income	(2,000)	(2,285)	(285)	Additional income generated.
	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>(2,285)</b>	<b>(285)</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>160,133</b>	<b>86,954</b>	<b>(73,179)</b>	

**Table 8** details the draft outturn for the maintenance of the Town Centre for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 31 March 2026.

<b>Table 8 – Town Centre Maintenance</b>				
<b>Account</b>	<b>Approved Budget 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Draft Outturn 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Variance (under)/ over £</b>	<b>Comments on main variances</b>
Employee Costs	<b>76,210</b>	<b>75,215</b>	<b>(995)</b>	Saving as a result of current staffing levels.
<b>Premises</b>				
Business Rates	2,470	2,470	-	
Electric	600	962	362	Costs reflective of current utility rates.
Rental Fees	3,830	3,750	(80)	Costs in line with current agreement.
Depot Recharge	480	395	(85)	Costs reflective of service provided.
	<b>7,380</b>	<b>7,577</b>	<b>197</b>	
<b>Transport</b>				
Vehicles	7,270	2,817	(4,453)	Costs reflective of service provided.
	<b>7,270</b>	<b>2,817</b>	<b>(4,453)</b>	
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>				
Equipment Purchases	2,550	-	(2,550)	No spend incurred in 2025/26.
Materials	4,182	2,198	(1,984)	Materials purchased for repairs within the BTAC area.
Clothing	710	30	(680)	Minor spend incurred in year.
Employee Insurance	560	523	(37)	Insurance costs vary due to assumptions made at budget setting.
Mobile Phones	50	47	(3)	Minor saving generated.
Purchase & Provisions	6,191	3,761	(2,430)	Bin purchases.
	<b>14,243</b>	<b>6,559</b>	<b>(7,684)</b>	
<b>Support Services</b>				
Finance Recharge	4,750	5,100	350	Recharge costs for services provided.
Communication & Marketing Recharge	681	650	(31)	Costs reflective of employee costs charged.
Training Recharge	210	240	30	Costs attributable to staff training.
HR & Payroll Recharge	3,780	4,280	500	Recharge costs for services provided.
	<b>9,421</b>	<b>10,270</b>	<b>849</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>114,524</b>	<b>102,438</b>	<b>(12,086)</b>	

**Table 9** details the draft outturn for administrative functions for the 2025/26 Financial Year Outturn as of 31 March 2026.

<b>Table 9 – Administration</b>				
<b>Account</b>	<b>Approved Budget 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Draft Outturn 2025/26 £</b>	<b>Variance (under)/over £</b>	<b>Comments on main variances</b>
Employee Costs	<b>4,900</b>	<b>5,538</b>	<b>638</b>	As a result of the shared pay arrangements.
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>				
Grants Programme	13,402	13,800	398	In line with grants awarded.
London Road Running Costs	1,040	576	(464)	Costs in line with current utility rates.
Equipment Maintenance	1,050	-	(1,050)	Speed Indicator device service not carried out for 2025/26.
Coach Hire	-	180	180	Coach hires to visit sites.
Footway Lighting Electricity & Maintenance	4,200	3,420	(780)	Savings attributable as a result of the reduced rates from prior year LED works.
Employee Insurance	40	34	(6)	Insurance costs vary due to assumptions made at budget setting.
	<b>19,732</b>	<b>18,010</b>	<b>(1,722)</b>	
<b>Third Party Payments</b>				
Street Cleaning	26,140	-	(26,140)	Service review savings.
	<b>26,140</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(26,140)</b>	
<b>Support Services</b>				
Finance Recharge	310	350	40	Recharge costs for services provided.
Communication & Marketing Recharge	510	487	(23)	Costs reflective of employee costs charged.
HR & Payroll Recharge	250	280	30	Recharge costs for services provided.
Property Services Support Recharge	640	686	46	Increase resulting from the employee pay award.
Caretaker Service Recharge	360	360	-	
Senior Manager Recharges	2,030	7,332	5,302	Increase resulting from the employee pay award.
Democratic Services Support Recharge	3,420	3,429	9	Minor variance.
	<b>7,520</b>	<b>12,924</b>	<b>5,404</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>58,292</b>	<b>36,472</b>	<b>(21,820)</b>	

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<b>Report To:</b>	Boston Town Area Committee
<b>Date:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	BTAC Play Area Improvements 'Aspirations'
<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide information on the 'aspirations' of potential improvements identified during the tour of open spaces on 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2025.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Claire Rylott, Portfolio Holder for Green Spaces and Travel
<b>Report Of:</b>	Victoria Burgess, Service Director – Neighbourhoods
<b>Report Author:</b>	Carl Beacock, Group Manager - Street Scene & Commercial Services Scott Higgins, Leisure Services & Contracts Manager
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	All BTAC Wards
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	No

## Summary

This report presents the outcomes of the 2025 biennial tour of BTAC-managed open spaces and play facilities, highlighting a range of proposed 'aspirations' improvements identified by Members & officers. These proposals focus on enhancing accessibility, inclusivity, environmental value, and overall user experience, while recognising increasing financial pressures and the need for sustainable long-term management.

Members are asked to prioritise which improvements should be progressed to full costing, enabling officers to seek funding opportunities that will maximise community benefit across the open spaces within the Committee's responsibility.

## Recommendations

That the Committee determine 1which of the proposed 'aspirations' improvements should be taken forward for full costing.

## Reasons for Recommendations

To seek Members views on potential improvements to open spaces and play facilities in the BTAC area.

## Other Options Considered

Do nothing.

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Members of BTAC carry out a biennial tour of the open spaces and play facilities within the Committee's remit to assess their condition, identify maintenance needs and highlight opportunities for enhancement. The most recent visit took place on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025, following the previous tour on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.
- 1.2 The 2025 tour generated a 'aspirations' of potential improvements across several sites, reflecting Member observations and priorities. This report summarises those suggested enhancements and provides an updated overview of all BTAC-managed open spaces to support informed decision-making.

### 2. Report - 'aspirations'

- 2.1 BTAC Members are asked to prioritise the improvements outlined below so officers can progress detailed quotations and explore funding options for delivery. For any projects approved, officers will also seek to secure external funding wherever possible to maximise BTAC's investment.
- 2.2 BTAC's approach to its parks will be increasingly shaped by rising costs, long-term sustainability, and the need to deliver inclusive, accessible spaces that meet a wide range of community needs. There is a growing emphasis on combining traditional play provision with environmental enhancements, biodiversity, and green infrastructure to maximise wider health and wellbeing benefits. The detailed park-by-park proposals and improvement priorities are set out in Appendix A.
- 2.3 **Ingelow Avenue Play Park** - Separate report to be presented to 23 July BTAC meeting.
- 2.4 **Woodville Row Play Park** - Focus on low-cost, high-impact improvements that significantly enhance accessibility and inclusivity, including the installation of compacted stone pathways for year-round access. Expand sensory and inclusive play features to diversify the offer, and increase seating provision, particularly accessible benches, to better support families, carers, and older visitors.
- 2.5 **Broadfield Lane** - Build on a strong existing offer by expanding inclusive play opportunities, particularly through wheelchair-accessible and sensory equipment. Introduce more imaginative and varied play features such as zip wires, diverse swing

types, and rockers to broaden appeal and ensure the site continues to meet a wide range of user needs.

- 2.6 **St John's Road Park** - Maintain the park's strong performance through proactive repair and replacement of ageing equipment, particularly deteriorating slides. Enhance the play experience with additional climbing, agility, and creative elements, ensuring the site continues to evolve while protecting its current quality and popularity.
- 2.7 **Burgess Pit** - Position the site as a flagship for environmental and ecological enhancement by increasing tree planting, creating a community orchard, and introducing wildflower areas to support biodiversity. Complement these improvements with seating and nature-focused features such as bird boxes to encourage community engagement and wellbeing
- 2.8 **Sheltons Field** - Strengthen inclusivity by introducing accessible swings, roundabouts, and ground-level sensory play features, alongside installing a 5-way swing to encourage wider participation. Address lifecycle needs through the replacement of ageing equipment such as the scramble net and targeted repairs to safety surfacing to maintain quality and safety.
- 2.9 **Central Park** - Prioritise major investment in pathway restoration to improve accessibility across the park and support events, healthy activity, and inclusive use. Complement this with continued enhancements such as interactive surface markings for younger children, ensuring the park retains its status as a flagship, high-quality destination space.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1. The 'aspirations' of improvements identified through the 2025 site visits identified options for enhancing BTAC-managed open spaces. By prioritising schemes that improve accessibility, inclusivity, and environmental value, the Committee can ensure that investment is targeted where it will deliver the greatest community benefit.
- 3.2. Subject to Member approval, officers will progress selected projects to detailed costing and funding exploration, with a view to report back at a future meeting.

### **Implications**

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

None.

#### **Corporate Priorities**

The proposed improvements align with Partnership priorities around healthier communities, environmental sustainability, and inclusive access to services. Enhancing open spaces supports wider objectives linked to wellbeing, place-making, and community resilience.

## **Staffing**

Delivery of the proposals will be managed within existing service structures. Specialist support may be required for design, procurement, and project delivery depending on the scale of schemes taken forward.

## **Workforce Capacity Implications**

There will be a manageable increase in officer workload associated with developing detailed costings, procurement, and project management. This will be prioritised within existing resources, although large-scale schemes may require phased delivery to ensure capacity is not overstretched.

## **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

All proposed works will be delivered in accordance with the Council's Constitution, including procurement rules and decision-making processes.

## **Data Protection**

None.

## **Financial**

At this stage, the proposals represent a 'aspirations' with no committed expenditure. External funding opportunities will be explored to minimise impact on Council budgets.

## **Risk Management**

None.

## **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

The proposals are informed by Member site visits. Further stakeholder engagement may be undertaken for larger schemes. Timescales will depend on Committee prioritisation, funding availability, and procurement processes.

## **Reputation**

Investment in parks and open spaces is likely to have a positive impact on the Council's reputation by demonstrating commitment to community wellbeing, environmental improvement, and inclusive services.

## **Contracts**

None.

## **Crime and Disorder**

Well-designed and maintained parks can contribute positively to community safety by encouraging greater use and natural surveillance. Improvements to layout, visibility, and activity may help reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour.

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

The proposals place a strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusive design, ensuring parks are usable by people of all ages and abilities. This supports the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010 and promotes fair and equitable access to public spaces.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

Enhancements to parks and play areas will support physical activity, mental wellbeing, and social interaction, contributing to improved health outcomes and supporting wider public health objectives.

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

Not undertaken.

## **Acronyms**

BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee

## **Appendices**

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

Appendix A                      Park Development

## **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**

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

## **Report Approval**

Report author:                      Carl Beacock, Group Manager - Street Scene & Commercial Services  
[Carl.Beacock@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:Carl.Beacock@sholland.gov.uk)  
Scott Higgins, Leisure Services & Contracts Manager  
[Scott.Higgins@boston.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.Higgins@boston.gov.uk)

Signed off by:                      Victoria Burgess, Service Director – Neighbourhoods  
[Victoria.Burgess@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.Burgess@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

Approved for publication:        Councillor Claire Rylott, Portfolio Holder for Green Spaces and Travel  
[Claire.Rylott@boston.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Rylott@boston.gov.uk)

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## Introduction

The development and enhancement of play parks has evolved significantly in recent years, with both the scale of provision and the expectations around quality continuing to increase. The delivery of new facilities now carries not only a higher capital investment requirement but also a growing commitment to long-term maintenance and lifecycle management. As a result, play provision must be carefully planned to ensure sustainability, value for money, and continued community benefit.

In response to these pressures, many public authorities have adopted a broader, more strategic approach to parks and open spaces. This includes a shift towards integrating environmental and ecological improvements alongside traditional play provision. Enhancements such as biodiversity planting, natural habitats, and green infrastructure are now recognised as key components in improving the overall appeal, usability, and environmental value of public spaces.

At the same time, there is increasing national recognition of the need to ensure that parks are inclusive, accessible, and welcoming to all members of the community. Modern play design is expected to support a diverse range of users, including those with differing physical, sensory, and social needs, while also creating spaces that encourage interaction, wellbeing, and community cohesion.

This proposal reflects these evolving priorities, identifying targeted improvements across a range of sites that will enhance accessibility, inclusivity, environmental value, and overall user experience, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Council's parks portfolio.

## Parks Improvement Proposal

### Ingelow Avenue Play Park (17,000 sqm)

This large green space includes a multi-activity unit and basketball court. However, the current layout positions these key features at the far end of the site, reducing accessibility and limiting casual use.

#### **Recommended Improvements:**

- Relocate future play provision closer to main access points to improve accessibility, visibility, and user safety.
- Introduce football goals or informal play features to activate underused open areas.
- Consider a phased reconfiguration to enhance overall layout, inclusivity, and usage.

**Estimated Cost:** Football goal(s) and installation £2,500

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## Woodville Row Play Park (2,500 sqm)

A compact neighbourhood play space with a good range of toddler equipment and some outdoor fitness provision. The site benefits from an attractive green backdrop and mature boundary planting. However, the absence of formal pathways limits accessibility for wheelchair users, pushchairs, and those with reduced mobility.

### Recommended Low-Cost Improvements:

- Install compacted stone paths to improve accessibility and year-round usability.
- Introduce inclusive and sensory play panels to broaden the play experience.
- Increase seating provision, including benches with armrests to better support older users and carers.

These interventions would significantly improve accessibility and inclusivity at relatively low cost.

**Estimated Cost:** Standard geotextile, crushed compacted stone and edging £35-70 per sqm.

Sensory play-panels 750-1000 per item.

Seating 320 – 550 installed (dependant on design/material)

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## Broadfield Lane

This site offers a strong range of equipment catering to a wide age group, with a good balance of active and physical play opportunities. It currently includes a basket swing as its primary inclusive feature.

### Recommended Improvements:

- Expand inclusive play provision with wheelchair-accessible equipment and sensory features.
- Enhance imaginative play through themed or creative elements.
- Consider additional equipment such as a zip wire, varied swing types, and rockers to broaden appeal.

Targeted enhancements would further strengthen an already well-performing site.

**Estimated Cost:** Appendices at foot of document.

## St John's Road Park

A well-equipped and popular facility providing a balanced mix of sport, fitness, and play opportunities, supported by attractive green space.

### Condition & Improvement Priorities:

- Existing slides show signs of deterioration and should be prioritised for repair or replacement.
- Future enhancements could include additional agility, climbing, and creative play features.

The site is performing well and requires proactive maintenance alongside incremental improvements.

**Estimated Cost:** Appendices at foot of document.

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## Burgess Pit

An outstanding green space with significant potential for ecological and environmental enhancement. The site is well suited to nature-based initiatives.

### Recommended Improvements:

- Increase tree planting and explore the creation of a community orchard.
- Establish areas of nectar-rich native wildflowers to support pollinators.
- Install seating and bird nesting features to encourage community engagement with nature.
- Position the site as a leading example of carbon-positive public space management.

Investment should prioritise biodiversity and environmental value.

**Estimated Cost:** Appendices at foot of document.

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## Sheltons Field

A well-regarded play space within a high-quality green setting. While offering good general play value, it reflects wider challenges around inclusivity.

### Recommended Improvements:

- Improve inclusive provision, particularly for swings, roundabouts, and ground-level sensory play.
- Plan for the replacement of the ageing scramble net.
- Undertake targeted wet-pour surfacing repairs to maintain safety.
- Install a 5-way swing, which has proven effective in encouraging participation among female users.



This is a strong asset that would benefit from targeted investment in inclusivity and lifecycle maintenance.

**Estimated Cost:** Appendices at foot of document.

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## Central Park

The district's flagship park, offering a high-quality mix of recreation, sport, environment, and play with a recent £70, 000 of horticultural enhancement paving the way for potential Green Flag accreditation. Already benefiting diverse play and inclusive features it sits firmly as one of the upper portfolio Parks. The priority and focus of this prized space should be replacement pathways that open up the park for quality access for all and enable regular events including Park run and healthy lifestyles. Linking in with wider service such as Active Lincolnshire may enable realisation. Costs to reinstate/repair are extensive owing to significant damage, lifting and decay. A full resurface of the parks infrastructure is 157k – 210k dependant on finishing spec.

External funding is in-situ for the Park with thoughts of brightening up some of the hard surface area with thermoplastic activity for toddlers/young children. Illustration below.



**Spotlight on sensory Play**

Adding play features such as sensory panels into parks is a key part of inclusive design, ensuring spaces are accessible, engaging, and enjoyable for a wide range of users—including those with disabilities. Here’s a clear explanation of how they help and why they’re important. It is encouraging that sensory panels/play are financially lower in cost than solid/large structures.

**Engage Multiple Senses (Not Just Physical Ability)**

Traditional play equipment often relies on mobility (climbing, running). Sensory panels:

- Stimulate **touch, sound, sight, and movement**
- Include elements like textures, spinning parts, mirrors, or musical components  
Enables participation for children with:
  - Physical disabilities
  - Limited mobility
  - Visual impairments
  - Autism or sensory processing differences



## **Spotlight on costs**

In recent years, the cost of park improvements and new play equipment has increased significantly. This reflects wider pressures across the UK construction sector, where rising material costs (including steel, timber and concrete), labour shortages, and higher energy and compliance costs have all driven up project prices. Industry data shows that construction costs have risen by around 15–20% since 2020, with some key materials increasing even more sharply, while ongoing wage inflation continues to add further pressure. As a result, even relatively modest upgrades to public parks now require substantially higher budgets than in previous years, making affordability and prioritisation a key challenge for local authorities.

A real-world comparison that reflects both supplier pricing and inflation over roughly the last decade focussing on the higher end of Park investment:

### **Example: Large Multi-Play Unit (UK)**

#### **Around 2015 (10 years ago)**

- A **large multi-play unit** (e.g. tower with slides, nets, bridges):
  - Typically **£25,000 – £40,000 installed**
- Evidence:
  - Mid-range to large playground schemes were commonly **£18k–£40k**, with higher-end schemes starting around £40k+
  - Individual large structures often formed a big share of those budgets

A flagship unit in a council park would commonly sit in the **£30k range**

#### **Today (2025–2026 equivalent)**

- Similar **large multi-play unit (like-for-like complexity)**:
  - Typically **£40,000 – £70,000+ installed**
- Evidence:
  - Modern medium schemes: **£25k–£60k**, with larger projects **£60k–£150k+**
  - Individual large towers can reach **£60k+** depending on scale

The same style flagship unit now commonly sits in the **£50k–£60k range**

### **Simple Comparison**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Approx Cost 2015</b>	<b>Approx Cost Today</b>
Large multi-play unit	£25k–£40k	<b>£40k–£70k+</b>

**Spotlight on Safety Surfacing**

Safety surfacing is a critical component of any play area, as it is designed to reduce the risk and severity of injuries from falls, which are the most common cause of playground accidents. Materials such as wet pour rubber, rubber mulch, or bonded aggregates provide impact absorption beneath equipment, helping schemes meet required safety standards. However, this comes with notable cost implications: safety surfacing typically ranges from **£40 to £120+ per m<sup>2</sup>**, meaning it can account for a significant proportion of a project budget, often matching or exceeding the cost of the equipment itself on larger sites. In addition, unlike equipment, surfacing carries ongoing liability, as it must be maintained and repaired over time—with patch repairs, wear from heavy use, and degradation potentially requiring further investment. This means initial installation costs must be considered alongside a continuing maintenance provision to ensure the surface remains compliant and safe throughout its life.

**Spotlight on footpaths/pathways**

Footpaths are a fundamental element of any park, both in terms of cost and inclusivity. A typical compacted stone or self-binding gravel path in a UK park generally ranges from £40 to £70 per m<sup>2</sup>, rising to £60–£100+ per m<sup>2</sup> where higher specifications are required, such as deeper sub-bases, improved drainage, or formal edging. While these costs can represent a substantial portion of park improvement budgets, they are essential for creating safe, durable, and all-weather access routes. Well-designed paths enable people of all abilities—including wheelchair users, those with mobility impairments, parents with prams, and older visitors—to navigate the space easily and confidently. As such, investment in footpaths is not just an infrastructure cost, but a key component of delivering inclusive parks, ensuring that facilities, play equipment, and green spaces are accessible and usable by the whole community.

**Spotlight on Environmental**

Parks are experienced very differently today than they were 20 years ago. With a much greater understanding of environmental issues, there is now increased recognition that enhancing green space through biodiversity, habitat creation, and ecological improvements can deliver significant benefits for both people and nature. In many cases, these improvements can have an impact equal to traditional infrastructure or play investments, while often being more affordable and sustainable to deliver and maintain over time.

**Indicative costings generalised**

Item	Cost supply/install

Inclusive roundabout and surface	13, 000 - 20,000
Safety surfacing	110 per sqm
Mixed swings and surface	9, 000 - 15, 000
Rockers/Spinners	1,500 - 3, 000
Large multi-unit	26, 000 - 70, 000
Sensory panels/boards	1, 000
Zip-line	14, 000 - 22, 000
5-way swing	7,200 - 9, 000
Toddler multi-unity	7, 000 - 14, 000
See-saw	2,900 - 8, 000
Slide	4, 800 - 16, 000

**Why the price disparities?**





Low-End



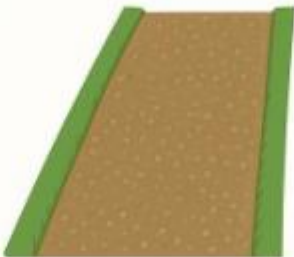
Mid-Range



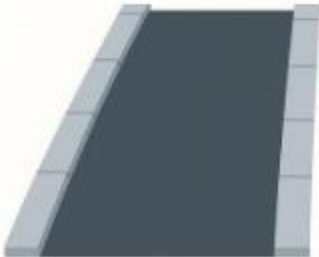
High-End



Low-End



Mid-Range



High-End

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## BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2026/27

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER / GUEST	PORTOFLIO HOLDER
June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by representative of Boston Town Board</li> <li>• BTAC Q4 2025/26 Financial Outturn report</li> <li>• BTAC Assets (Park and open spaces provision)</li> <li>• Pride in Place Impact Fund</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Claire Foster, Interim Chair - Boston Town Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assistant Director (Culture &amp; Regeneration)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Service Director – Leisure and Local Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Ghosh</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Rylott</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Gilbert</p>
July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Governance Review Update</li> <li>• Status of Ingelow Park, Boston</li> <li>• BTAC Small Grants</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Gilbert, Chair (CGR Working Group)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assistant Director - Neighbourhoods</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BTAC Small Grants Officer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Service Director – Leisure and Local Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Broughton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Rylott</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Broughton</p>

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER / GUEST	PORTOFLIO HOLDER
September 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BTAC Q1 Financial Position as at 30 June 2026</li> <li>• BTAC Small Grants</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>	Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL)  BTAC Small Grants Officer  Service Director – Leisure and Local Services	Cllr Ghosh  Cllr Broughton
November 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BTAC Q2 Financial Position as at 30 September 2026</li> <li>• BTAC Small Grants</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>	Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL)  BTAC Small Grants Officer  Service Director – Leisure and Local Services	Cllr Ghosh  Cllr Broughton
January 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BTAC Budget 2027/28</li> <li>• Events 2026/27</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>	Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL)  Assistant Director – Communities and Housing Services  Service Director – Leisure and Local Services	Cllr Ghosh  Cllr Broughton
March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BTAC Q3 Financial Position as at 31 December 2026</li> <li>• BTAC Small Grants</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>	Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL)  BTAC Small Grants Officer  Service Director – Leisure and Local Services	Cllr Ghosh  Cllr Broughton

**Pending confirmation for potential addition to the Work Programme:**

- Skate/bike park provision.

**Additional Working Groups active as at issue of agenda:**

- Green Flag Award: Working Group remains active but no meeting dates fixed pending the outcome of the application for Green Flag status..
- Small Grants:  
Meeting dates (at 6pm and via Microsoft Teams): to be confirmed.
- Central Park security:  
Working Group remains active but no meeting dates fixed pending the outcome of the application for Green Flag status - be confirmed following outcome of current officer deliberations.

Chairman:

Vice Chairman:

Lead Officer: Phil Perry. Service Director – Leisure and Local Services

Clerk: Paul Stonebridge, Democratic Services Officer

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