



<b>Report To:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Boston Plan 2040
<b>Purpose:</b>	To present to Cabinet the Boston Plan for 2040
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Anne Dorrian, Leader of the Council
<b>Report Of:</b>	James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate
<b>Report Author:</b>	Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights & Transformation
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	All
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	No

### **Summary**

This report provides for Cabinet's consideration the Boston Plan for 2040, revised and updated following consultation and scrutiny.

This document provides a vision for the entire Borough and sets out key themes and priorities.

### **Recommendations**

1. For Cabinet to approve the Boston Plan for 2040; and
2. For Cabinet to provide delegated authority to the Director of Economic Growth, in consultation with the Leader, to keep the Plan up to date as new work emerges and circumstances change.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. The Boston Plan for 2040 will provide a shared vision for the Borough, supporting by working groups and key actions.
2. It is intended that the Boston Plan for 2040 is a live document and delegated authority is requested to ensure it is kept up to date as new actions and initiatives develop and as circumstances change and evolve.

## **Other Options Considered**

Not to agree a shared vision and priorities. It is considered that this will not provide the focus required to bring partners together and drive improvement.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 A consultation document has been drafted for 'The Boston Plan for 2040'. It sets out a shared vision for the entire Borough – all 19 parishes and including the town. The revised document is attached at Appendix 1, with highlighted changes to show the amendments from the initial drafts
- 1.2 The draft Plan has been out for public consultation, including with residents, local businesses, schools and parish councils, from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- 1.3 The draft has also been scrutinised by the Corporate & Community Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## **2. Report**

- 2.1 Section 1 of the draft Plan sets out the local, sub-regional and national context.
- 2.2 Section 2 sets out the proposed vision and high-level priorities.
- 2.3 Section 3 provides more detail on each of those priorities and draws out the strategic aims which are proposed to support each one.

### Thriving Economy – Enabling Growth in Boston

- 1.1: Enhancing a Vibrant Town Centre and Delivering Regeneration.
- 1.2: Supporting Priority Economic Sectors and Businesses.
- 1.3: Developing Skills, Learning and Employment Opportunities.
- 1.4: Enabling Economic and Housing Growth.
- 1.5: Proactively Attracting Inward Investment.

## Community Cohesion and Resilience – An Inclusive and Supportive Boston

2.1: A Borough that Celebrates Difference and Works Together.

2.2: A Borough Where People Feel Safe.

2.3: A Borough that Fosters Inclusive Engagement and Collaboration Among Diverse Community Members.

2.4: A Borough Where People are Financially Secure.

## A Healthy and Sustainable Borough

3.1: A Net Zero community.

3.2: A Flourishing Natural Environment for All to Enjoy.

3.3: A Place that Supports Healthy Lives.

3.4: Ensuring a Boston Legacy is there for Future Generations.

2.4 Section 4 sets out proposals for how progress will be monitored and reported. It is proposed that multi-agency working groups will deliver agreed key actions and report performance against key indicators. Reports on progress will come to Scrutiny and Cabinet on a regular basis.

### **3. Feedback from consultation**

3.1. A summary of the feedback received during consultation is attached at Appendix 2.

3.2. The feedback overall supports the vision and priorities currently in the Plan. The detailed comments will feed into the action planning process and will be shared with teams who are already working on some of the projects mentioned e.g. Rosegarth.

3.3. Comments which are inappropriate for publication due to their nature (e.g. defamatory or offensive) have been redacted for publication but have been previously available to Cabinet Members for full visibility in decision making.

3.4. Headlines:

- 71% of all respondents 'Strongly Agreed' or 'Agreed' with the overall vision of making Boston 'A borough that is fit for the future'.
- 75% agreed that the three main priorities (Thriving Economy, Community Cohesion and Resilience, Healthy and Sustainable Boston) aligned with the needs of Boston.
- 65% agreed that both rural and urban aspects were sufficiently covered.
- The biggest challenge was believed to be 'Economy and Employment' (74%).
- The highest priority identified for economic growth was 'developing the town centre' (35%).
- 54% agreed that the regeneration plans (e.g. Rosegarth Square, new leisure facilities, Mayflower development) would have a positive impact on the borough.
- The highest priority identified for business support was 'Grants and Funding' (72%).
- 40% agreed that Boston supported diverse communities 'Very well' or 'Well'
- The highest priority identified for community cohesion was 'Improved communication between communities' (53%).
- The highest priority for supporting residents facing financial challenges was 'Providing affordable housing' (34%).
- 46% of respondents felt safe living in Boston.

- The highest priority for health was 'Combating alcohol and substance abuse' (61%).
- 77% has adequate access to green spaces, with the priority being 'Enhanced safety and cleanliness' (75%).
- 38% thought it was 'Very important' or 'Important' that Boston achieved its Net Zero target by 2030, with the highest priority being 'Improving energy efficiency' (49%).
- 53% of all respondents considered that the Boston Plan did reflect the needs and aspirations of the borough's residents.
- Specific comments were made around heritage/tourism; immigration; traffic/transport; perception of safety; training/skills; public toilets; agriculture; crime/antisocial behaviour; health/GPs/dentists; retail; small business support; dog fouling. These will all be picked up as part of the development of the actions.
- One area in particular which has been bolstered in the revised draft and will also feature heavily in the action plan is more detail for rural areas and the surrounding villages.

### 3.5. Summary of changes made:

- Addition of feedback from consultation results (throughout and highlighted in the attached)
- Addition of wording around Devolution/Local Government Reorganisation and potential impact on delivery (paragraph 1d)
- Additional wording around rural areas, including a commitment to report progress to the parish council liaison meetings (paragraph 1e and throughout, highlighted in the attached)

## 4. Feedback from Scrutiny

### 4.1. Headlines

- Overall, Committee Members were in favour of the Plan and made some suggestions for additional wording and clarification as set out below and highlighted in the revised Plan at Appendix 1.
- Committee Members were also keen to make it clear that it was the role of the current Councillors to ensure they have enabled everything they can for the community to be resilient and local, before whatever changes occur with LGR, and that this document would help to do that.

### 4.2. Summary of changes made:

- Clarification of the figures under priority 1 around those seeking work and those on universal credit
- Add positive examples of inward investment under strategic aim 1.5
- Additional wording under priority 3 around our country parks and Boston 2030 Anniversary
- Other practical suggestions will be shared directly with the teams who will take this forward, for example, around engaging with communities, bringing more visitors in, encouraging new businesses, infrastructure needed, and making the planning and licensing processes as easy as possible.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1. In conclusion, the Boston Plan for 2040 is presented to Cabinet for approval.
- 5.2. Should the Plan be agreed, it is proposed that multi-agency working groups will be established to deliver agreed key actions. Delivery oversight will sit in the Economic Development Directorate.
- 5.3. Reports on progress will come to Cabinet and Scrutiny on a regular basis.
- 5.4. The Plan will be a live document which will be kept up to date as new actions and initiatives develop and as circumstances change and evolve.

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

This Plan will be important to the sub-region as well as locally to Boston.

## **Corporate Priorities**

The Plan links to all of the priorities in the Sub-Regional Strategy: Growth and Prosperity; Healthy Lives; Safe and Resilient; and Environment

## **Staffing**

No specific implications

## **Workforce Capacity Implications**

No specific implications.

## **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

No specific implications.

## **Data Protection**

No specific implications.

## **Financial**

No specific implications.

## **Risk Management**

No specific implications.

## **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

The draft Plan has been out for public consultation, including with residents, local businesses, schools and parish councils, from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

It has also been scrutinised by the Corporate & Community Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## **Reputation**

No specific implications.

## **Contracts**

No specific implications.

## **Crime and Disorder**

No specific implications; links to priorities

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

No specific implications.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

No specific implications; links to priorities

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

No specific implications; links to priorities

## **Acronyms**

LGR: Local Government Reorganisation

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1	Revised Boston Plan for 2040
Appendix 2	Consultation Feedback

## **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**

Corporate & Community Committee: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## **Report Approval**

Report author: Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights & Transformation  
[suzanne.rolfe@boston.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.rolfe@boston.gov.uk)

Signed off by: James Gilbert, Assistant Director – Corporate  
[james.gilbert@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:james.gilbert@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

Approved for publication: Cllr Anne Dorrian, Leader of the Council