




RECORD OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION

TITLE:	Release of Boston Town Fund – Healing the High Street
DECISION:	<p>To authorise the spend of £1,196,000 of funds for the Healing the High Street project from Boston Town Fund.</p> <p>To delegate to the Interim Consultant for Culture & Regeneration, in consultation with the Leader and Section 151 Officer, authority to enter into grant funding agreements and other relevant agreements required to secure and obligate performance of grant to release the £1,196,000 of funds for the Healing the High Street project from Boston Town Fund.</p>
DECISION MADE BY:	Leader of the Council
DATE DECISION MADE:	25 th March 2025
REASON FOR DECISION:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healing the High Street is one of seven approved projects contained within the approved Town Deal Investment Plan for Boston that were awarded the following Central Government grant funding in March 2021, to run across financial years 2021/22 to 2025/26. The Healing the High Street project is intended to transform Boston's historic town centre through a town centre regeneration programme. The project will offer grants to building owners to invest in their buildings, as well as directly funding adjacent public realm and green space improvements. 2. To authorise grant expenditure of up to £1,196,000 of external Towns Deal grant funding that is allocated to Boston Borough Council as lead contracting authority and accountable body for the approved Healing the High Street project and business case. 3. The grant funding is to support the acquisition of Shodfriars Hall acquisition by Scorers Hawkins Pension Trust and subsequent programme of works to reinstate and repair the heritage asset. 4. To enable the completion and execution of the formal grant funding agreements to meet compliance with the terms of the Boston Town Fund requirements. 5. The grant funding agreements are provided by the Council's appointed legal advisors and include contractual provisions on eligible works, grant payment mechanisms and the associated expenditure requirements. 6. To ensure the grants have adequate security provisions and clawback of funding arrangements if the eligible works and agree outputs are not delivered by the grant recipient. 7. The project is approved by HM Government and previously approved by Council to accept the grant funding and be amended into the Capital Programme for delivery. 8. Subsequent Town Board reports and project adjustments have been considered and agreed by the Boston Towns Board to amend the allocation of individual grants to be awarded under the Towns Deal award.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:	<p>To do nothing – however Members have already supported the principle of spending the Town Deal award.</p> <p>To divert the funding to another Town Deal project – this is considered only as a path in default if not appropriate opportunities arise subject to additional clearance by the Ministry of Housing, Local Communities and Growth (MHCLG). All Project Adjustment Requests, delegated or non-delegated, must be submitted to MHCLG. The Department will then issue written confirmation regarding whether the PAR is delegated or not before any changes can proceed. All interventions must continue to meet Towns Fund value for money requirements.</p>	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION:	<p>Contained within existing Towns Deal Grant award for Healing the High Street, which must be contractually committed by the end of March 2026. S151 officer has been consulted and is content.</p>	
AUTHORITY FOR DECISION:	<p>This is being made through an urgent decision, with the exclusion of call-in, to meet the requirements posed by a short, externally imposed deadline (27th March), which gave the Authority one week to complete a particular grant funding agreement.</p>	
SUPPORTING PAPERS:	<p>None</p>	
OFFICER/COUNCILLOR INTERESTS DECLARED:	<p>None Arising</p>	
CONTACT PERSON:	<p>Debbie McLatch Interim Consultant for Culture & Regeneration</p>	<p>Email Contact – Debbie.McLatch@e-lindsey.gov.uk</p>
SIGNATURE		<p>24/03/2025</p>

Notes: When the decision has been made the lead officer should complete this written statement and send it to the Democratic Services Team for publication on the Council's website in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.