



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

Summary

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

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

Recommendations

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

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

Other Options Considered

To not provide funding towards events for 2026/27

1. Background

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

2. Report

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

2.7 Both Options would also include the following events:

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

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

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

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

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

3. Conclusion

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

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None recorded within this report.

Corporate Priorities

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

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

Staffing

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

Workforce Capacity Implications

None.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

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

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

Data Protection

None

Financial

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

Risk Management

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

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

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

Portfolio Holder for Town Centre.

Reputation

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

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

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

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

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

Health and Wellbeing

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

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

None

Acronyms

BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – BBC Events 2025 Impact Report

Appendix 2 – BTAC Events 2026 Budget

Background Papers

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

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
BTAC report – Review of 2024/25 Events and looking forward to 2025 events programme	www.boston.gov.uk

Chronological History of this Report

None recorded within this report.

Report Approval

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