

Supplementary Questions and Written Responses
Full Council – 12th January 2026

2. Supplementary Question to Councillor Sandeep Ghosh from Councillor Jonathan Noble:

Historically these kind of agreements are useful for smaller value items which require repeat orderings. But we have this framework agreement with Pagabo. But do we have any other framework agreements, other than the Pagabo one?

Response from Councillor Sandeep Ghosh:

It's a bit technical. I will respond to you with a written answer.

Written response from Councillor Sandeep Ghosh to Councillor Jonathan Noble:

Yes – Boston Borough Council does utilise other framework agreements to enter into contracts with suppliers. Please see some examples below:

- Fuel Card Services – Crown Commercial Services framework was utilised. This enabled savings compared to the previous contract in place, as well as a compliant route to market.
- Gas & Electricity Contracts – ESPO Framework was utilised. This offers a value for money solution with ESPO purchasing gas & electricity in advance to sell at competitive rates, proving value for money.
- Purchase of Personal, Protective Equipment (PPE) – ESPO Framework was utilised. This solution provided better value for money, with a % reduction in spend going via the framework instead of direct with the supplier.

The Contracts Register, which is published on the Council website, shows details of all contracts, including the “Tender Process Type”, which includes a Framework Agreement.

4. Supplementary Question to Councillor Dale Broughton from Councillor Anne Dorrian:

Actually, a decision was made at that meeting. You voted during that meeting with the mayor, the Reform Mayor Dame Andrea Jenkyns, to withdraw free ESOL courses for the residents of Boston and given our reliance on migrant workers in our healthcare and medical industries, our food processing plants, our tourism and culture sections, how on earth are you going to mitigate the impact that it's going to have on those migrant workers?

Response from Councillor Dale Broughton:

I'm happy to send Councillor Dorrian a written response.

Written response from Councillor Dale Broughton to Councillor Anne Dorrian:

The issue of ESOL funding is one that does impact on our communities and residents, which I am very aware of. I was content to support a wider look at how this funding and service was delivered and that is what was discussed by the GLCCA and at that time I was content to support the proposal being put forward by the Mayor and supported by other colleagues on the Board.

It was made very clear that a detailed consultation would take place.

Since that meeting, all Lincolnshire Leaders have been contacted and lobbied by Mark Locking, CEO of Lincoln College and chair of the Lincolnshire Federation of Colleges. They made very clear their concerns at how the change in funding would impact their provision of ESOL training and other endeavours the colleges provide to our residents.

At the most recent meeting of the GLCCA full council the proposal by the Skills Board was again discussed and while the vote was still to support the review, colleagues were able to challenge the reasoning behind the review and make sure that the consultation would be meaningful.

Colleagues highlighted the value of ESOL to businesses and those working who wanted to progress their potential and further integrate within our communities. They also asked that the consultation is meaningful and that the concerns of the colleges are understood and mitigated by discussion and agreement. The ESOL funding is not the major part of the funding package that affects colleges. They have other concerns that need to be understood.

All positions that I fully support following the letter from Lincolnshire colleges.

So, in answer to your direct question, the issues you raise will be mitigated by responding positively to the consultation and supporting the colleges, which I am happy to do.

5. Supplementary Question to Councillor Dale Broughton from Councillor Anne Dorrian:

So, for Boston residents, what binding decision making powers will neighbourhood or area structures have over budgets, service priorities and policy decisions? And how will Boston's elected members be prevented from being consistently outvoted by a much larger Southern Lincolnshire authority?

Response from Councillor Dale Broughton:

Thank you for that Councillor Dorrian. I'm really surprised you're taking such an interest now in our Greater Lincolnshire For All proposal when we've had several Full Council meetings on it and none of you or any of your Boston independent councillors could be bothered to turn up, send apologies or anything else to the meeting. So, it's quite comical that you're now starting to question the proposal when you had no interest up to now, but I will give you a written response.

Written response from Councillor Dale Broughton to Councillor Anne Dorrian:

How the new area committees function will ultimately be for the new councils to decide. We have proposed a model in GLFA but the final decision rests with the new councils.

6. Supplementary Question to Councillor Dale Broughton from Councillor Anne Dorrian:

How will Boston residents be able to scrutinise and challenge financial decisions such as capital investment priorities, adult social care spend or homelessness funding, when those decisions are taken at scale, and what guarantees exist that Boston's high levels of deprivation and service, demand will not be diluted by competing priorities elsewhere in the southern Unitary?

Response from Councillor Dale Broughton:

Again, Councillor Dorrian, I'll give you the same answer to the last one if you'd have shown interest previously, you might know the answer to them questions. But I will give you a written response.

Written response from Councillor Dale Broughton to Councillor Anne Dorrian:

Like there is now, there will be a range of mechanisms that allow elected councillors and the community to scrutinise priorities and decisions of the new councils and to engage in their decision making. The detail of the methods/approach will be for the new councils to decide.