



Report To:	Boston Town Centre Area Committee
Date:	11 th June 2026
Subject:	Pride in Place Impact Fund
Purpose:	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.
Key Decision:	Yes
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Mike Gilbert, Deputy Leader of the Council
Report Of:	Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration
Report Author:	Maria Cotton, Service Director – Culture & Regeneration
Ward(s) Affected:	Coastal; Fenside; Fishtoft; Five Villages; Kirton and Frampton; Old Leake and Wrangle; Skirbeck; St Thomas'; Staniland; Station; Swineshead and Holland Fen; Trinity; West; Witham
Exempt Report:	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: -

Document title

Pride in Place Impact Fund: Prospectus

Where the document can be viewed

[link](#)

Chronological History of this Report

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

Report Approval

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