

# BOSTON TOWN DEAL ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2021



# BOSTON TOWN DEAL JOURNEY

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# TOWNS FUND PROSPECTUS

- The Government launched a £3.6bn Towns Fund to unleash the full economic potential of over 100 places and to level up communities throughout the country.
- Boston was one of the towns selected to apply for up to £25 million to help increase economic growth with a focus on regeneration, improved transport, better broadband connectivity, skills and culture.



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Towns Fund

Prospectus



November 2019  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

# TOWN DEAL BOARD

We've put together a great board of people who are positive about Boston and want to see the town move forward, attract investment and prosper!



*Neil Kempster*  
**Chair of the Boston Town Deal  
 and  
 Land and Development Director of  
 Chestnut Homes**

“In such difficult and challenging times, the Town Deal provides a fantastic opportunity to attract significant government funding to make a real difference to the local economy in Boston. It has provided the platform for some of the key stakeholders from across all sectors to work together to formulate a plan to help deliver key projects to enable the town to kickstart economic growth and act as a catalyst for future investment to realise the undeniable potential in the area. With a particular emphasis on the skills agenda and raising the aspirations of the people of Boston, the Town Deal aims to build on the unique and historic nature of the town to deliver a better future for everyone.”



# ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The vision for Boston and its Town Investment and projects are the result of extensive consultation and engagement with key cross-sector stakeholders throughout Boston and the region.



*Consultation event with Team Lincolnshire members*



*Oldrids department store consultation with members of the public*



*Haven High Academy consultation with pupils*

# ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

This has included networking across the town with key cross-sector stakeholders which underpin the membership of the Town Board.

For full interviews visit our Town Deal website [www.bostontowndeal.co.uk/category/video-blogs/](http://www.bostontowndeal.co.uk/category/video-blogs/)



## HERITAGE

So we're excited to have a number of projects all working together to try and make the most of Boston's **incredible heritage** and bring the town centre back to its former glory, **repairing historic buildings in the town centre**. This will hopefully **create growth and jobs** and will really benefit the town, all through the Towns Deal funding.

**Greg Pickup - Heritage Lincolnshire**



## FOOD

"The ambition is that Boston becomes a **global centre for food logistics**. We're already in the right place, as Lincolnshire is at the **heart of the food industry and for fresh produce** in particular. We also have major food manufacturing businesses here too, what's important is that we give them access to the best in technology."

**Prof Val Braybrooks MBE, University of Lincoln**



## EDUCATION

"The building we are standing in is the Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology Building, which is ready to **ensure that businesses get exactly what they need in terms of skills**. We've also got a **transport and logistics academy that's going to be ready by Christmas 2020**, which will focus on the **Port of Boston as well as the digital parts of the industry.**"

**Claire Foster, Boston College**



## TRAIN STATION

"The station improvements that we are hoping to make at Boston train station mean that we are looking to provide a gateway to Boston along with the PE21 project, ensuring we have the **right walkways, cycle access and delivering that entrance that Boston really needs.**"

**Kirsty Green, East Midlands Railways**



## WELLBEING

"**Integrating health and other activities** is a real driver for us and the opportunity to be in a **collaborative space** where we can show people what they **might be able to achieve is fantastic**. How we can work together to **support the people of Boston** is a really exciting opportunity."

**Jacqui Bunce, Partnerships and Planning at NHS Lincolnshire CCG**



## YOUTH

"Our ambition for the Youth Ambassadors project is to see a youth hub for the town of Boston. It could be a central location for **young people to relax, have fun, learn and make progress**. It could also act as a place to socialise because I truly believe that the future belongs to young people and **they need a space to collaborate to create a bright future for this town.**"

**Aureja Sarkauskaite, Voluntary Services**

# ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

## BOSTON TOWN DEAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Following the Government's announcement of the Towns Fund, Boston Borough Council championed and promoted the MyTown portal [www.gov.uk/guidance/mytown-campaign](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/mytown-campaign) leading to Boston receiving the largest number of suggestions out of 100 towns.

The #MyTown links were actively promoted through social media and between 16th February and 29th March the Town Deal posts reached 94,281.

### MAYFLOWER

"We need more focus on the business we have in Boston building better connections with schools and our college so our young people can see the jobs they can aspire to."

### HERITAGE

"I would like the town deal to investigate how to connect heritage to all communities and businesses, bringing people together, increasing access, strengthening relationships and investing in the towns tourism offer."

### BOSTON RAILWAY

"Creating a sense of arrival with attractive (and well maintained) tree planting alongside main routes into town is a cost effective way to say this is a pleasant place to visit and live in."

### PE21

"Having multi use areas/buildings in the town centre that incorporate offices, culture, restaurants, leisure, learning hubs, residential units, open spaces and health facilities will attract people in and they will then use the shops more."

### SHODFRIARS

"Blackfriars, Sam Newsom, the Guildhall and the redevelopment of Shodfriars should be fully supported"

### 3G SPORTS PITCH

"I would like to see investment within the town centre for facilities that can be utilised by and for young people to use."

# OUR VISION

“To define and deliver the investment in professional and technological support needed for strategic interventions that will shape the development of an aspirational, skilled and healthy population. To achieve sustainable economic growth and pride of place through bold urban design, digital solutions and connected communities. This will launch Boston into the future, build on its unique heritage and make our town an exciting place to live, work, invest and visit for generations to come.”





# ACCELERATED FUNDING

**Boston was awarded £750K on 14th August 2020 to bring forward five projects to help level up Boston in a range of areas**

## 1. Experience Boston - Trade, Travel and Influence - £80,000

The monoliths and brass plaques are interpretative schemes, guiding people through our place and raising awareness of the wider offer of the town of Boston.



“Boston is a beautiful town with such a rich history and culture and, with an expected growth in ‘staycations’ that’s likely to mean more visitors coming to our town this year, the project couldn’t be more perfectly timed. Experience Boston celebrates and commemorates the stories that make our town so special and helps bring to life the heritage of our area for residents and businesses alike.”

*Councillor Richard Austin*

# ACCELERATED FUNDING

## 2. Boston Town Heritage Project - £277,700

Renovating shop fronts in the eastern area of the town's historic market place for the benefit of local businesses, the local community and visitors to the town.



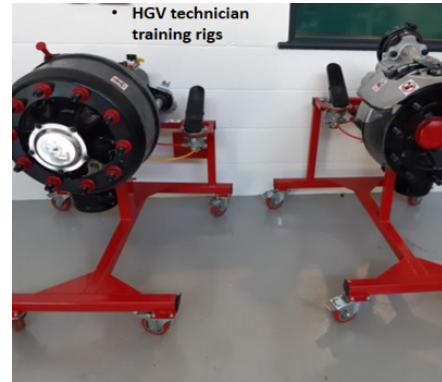
“Town Centre improvement is a long-known driver for wider regeneration schemes, and the same goes for the work in Boston. The shop front improvements have been really positively received by owners, occupants and the wider public and they have been the driver for wider investment in the town centre. With more properties in the pipeline, we are extremely excited to work with the Town deal team to reinstate a character and history into these buildings, in turn reinstating some pride back into the town.”

*Heritage Lincolnshire*

# ACCELERATED FUNDING

## 3. Boston College Digital Transport and Logistics Academy - £182,976

New courses will be introduced that provide skills training for Lincolnshire's established logistics and transportation industry with a focus on digital innovation and technologies for the future.



“The Town Deal is an unprecedented opportunity to improve the prospects of Boston. Many organisations, businesses and residents have been involved to firstly identify the possible barriers to sustained success such as skills and enterprise and then to define projects to make a critical difference now and to harness future investment. The Town Deal is not only an enormous achievement for Boston but also testament to the overwhelmingly powerful collaborative work that is already making great things happen. This is just what we needed, especially after such difficult times, to enable our beautiful, heritage-packed place to be proud, to flourish and to thrive.”

*Claire Foster*

Principal of Boston College

# ACCELERATED FUNDING

## 4. Haven High Academy 3G Pitch Development Project - £120,000

Accelerated funding has enabled Haven High to unlock this much needed facility that will be used not just by the school, but the wider community.



*Groundworks commence at Haven High Academy for the 3G pitch*



*Completion of the 3G pitch*

“We are delighted to see our 3G pitch delivered on time and to budget. This is an excellent example of collaboration between Haven High, the Borough Council, Boston Town Deal Board and the Football Federation. We cannot wait for members of the academy and the local community to benefit from this investment.”

*Matthew Van Lier*

Headteacher Haven High Academy

# ACCELERATED FUNDING

## 5. PE21 Feasibility Funding - £89,000

Boston Borough Council undertook a feasibility study on a 10-acre under-utilised town centre location to maximise the economic potential working closely with both the public and private sectors. This included architect works, building design and masterplanning which has helped to shape the town deal projects around health, leisure and skills, whilst supporting a further bid for the levelling up funding.



# BOSTON TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN

Boston Town Deal Board developed a vision and Town Investment Plan which has secured a Town Deal worth £21.9m for what are called ‘interventions’. The object being to deliver, *“economic productivity through urban regeneration, planning and land use, skills and enterprise infrastructure and connectivity.”*



# GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

“I am delighted to be offering you a Town Deal for Boston to a value of up to £21.9 million.”



HM Government

# BOSTON TOWN DEAL PROJECTS

Boston's Town Investment Plan is built on three pillars: Skills and Aspirations, Sustainable Economic Growth and Pride in Place. The successful £21.9m Boston Town Deal will see investment into the following eight projects:



## SKILLS & ASPIRATIONS

1. **Boston Mayflower:** A new learning environment at the heart of the town themed around its heritage. Led by Boston College, the 'Mayflower' will enable business and learners to connect, create and innovate.
2. **Centre for Food & Logistics:** new skills and innovation in food chain logistics.



## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

3. Investment in **Boston's Railway Station.**
4. Adjacent to the Boston Mayflower, a new **leisure hub** will include new swimming facilities.
5. The **Smarter Homes** initiative will build the resilience of people living in their own homes for longer and open up a new economic sector in Boston.



## PRIDE IN PLACE

6. **Healing the High Street:** Townscape Heritage proposal to engage people and upskill them, shop front scheme and bring **Shodfriars Hall** back into use as a culture centre.
7. **St Botolph's** lighting and medieval library.
8. **Blenkin Memorial Hall** refurbishment.

# BOSTON TOWN DEAL PROJECTS



*Boston Train Station*



*Plans for Mayflower*



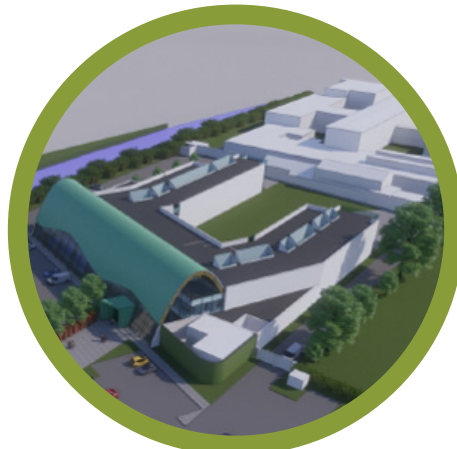
*Dolphin Lane*



*Shodfriars*



*St Botolph's Church*



*Plans for Mayflower*



*Centre for Food and Fresh Produce Logistics*



*Blenkin Memorial Hall*



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Expenditure - Government Capacity Funding	
Project and Programme Management and Support	47,190
Equipment Purchase	851
Hospitality	271
Printing and Stationery	3
Professional Services	51,950
Mobile Phones	403
Software Services	291
Publicity	260
Miscellaneous	4
Expenses carried forward 2021/22	61,061
<b>First Allocation Received</b>	<b>162,284</b>

# NEXT STEPS

Town Deal Board to assist the following projects develop full business cases by March 2022 in accordance with government requirements:

- Boston Mayflower (lead by Boston College)- £10m
- Centre for Food and fresh Produce Logistics (lead by University of Lincoln) - £2m
- Boston's Railway Station (lead by Boston Railway Station) - £2.5m
- Health and Leisure Hub (lead by Boston Borough Council) - £2.199m
- Connected Living (Smarter Homes) - £250k
- Healing the High Street (lead by Heritage Lincolnshire) - £3.9m
- St Botolph's Lighting and Library (lead by St Botolph's) - £230k
- Blenkin Memorial Hall (lead by St Botolph's) - £810k

# TIMELINE

November 2019	MHCLG Towns Fund Prospectus launched.
January 2020	Boston Town Deal structure established. Website: <a href="http://www.bostontowndeal.co.uk">www.bostontowndeal.co.uk</a>
August 2020	Accelerated Funding received of £750k.
October 2020	Town Investment Plan submitted: <a href="http://www.bostontowndeal.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Boston-Town-Investment-Plan-October-2020.pdf">www.bostontowndeal.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Boston-Town-Investment-Plan-October-2020.pdf</a>
March 2021	Heads of Terms offer letter (received/accepted - £21.9m allocation).
May 2021	Project summary documentation, including monitoring and evaluation plan and financial profile submitted to MHCLG.
July 2021	Boston grant offer letter received confirming projects/financial profile.
July 2021	Business cases submitted for two town funds projects - St Botolph's Library and Lighting and Blenkin Memorial Hall.
September 2021	If approved, funding will be allocated to Boston Borough Council as the accountable body for the two town funds projects above.
September 2021	Funding allocation for business case development to be released.
October 2021 / January 2022 / March 2022	Deadlines for Business Case submission of further towns fund projects.