

# BOSTON & SKEGNESS STATIONS

## TOWNS FUND





In 2022, transformational multi-million pound projects for Boston and Skegness stations were approved by the UK government. The projects, managed by EMR, were endorsed by the Boston Town and Connected Coast Boards, who oversee a wide programme of projects for each town.

East Midlands Railway has received over £5m in funding to transform both Boston & Skegness stations to make significant improvements for our customers, with both projects to be fully completed in 2025.

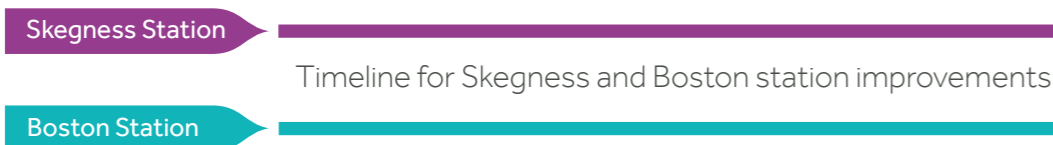
## About the opportunity



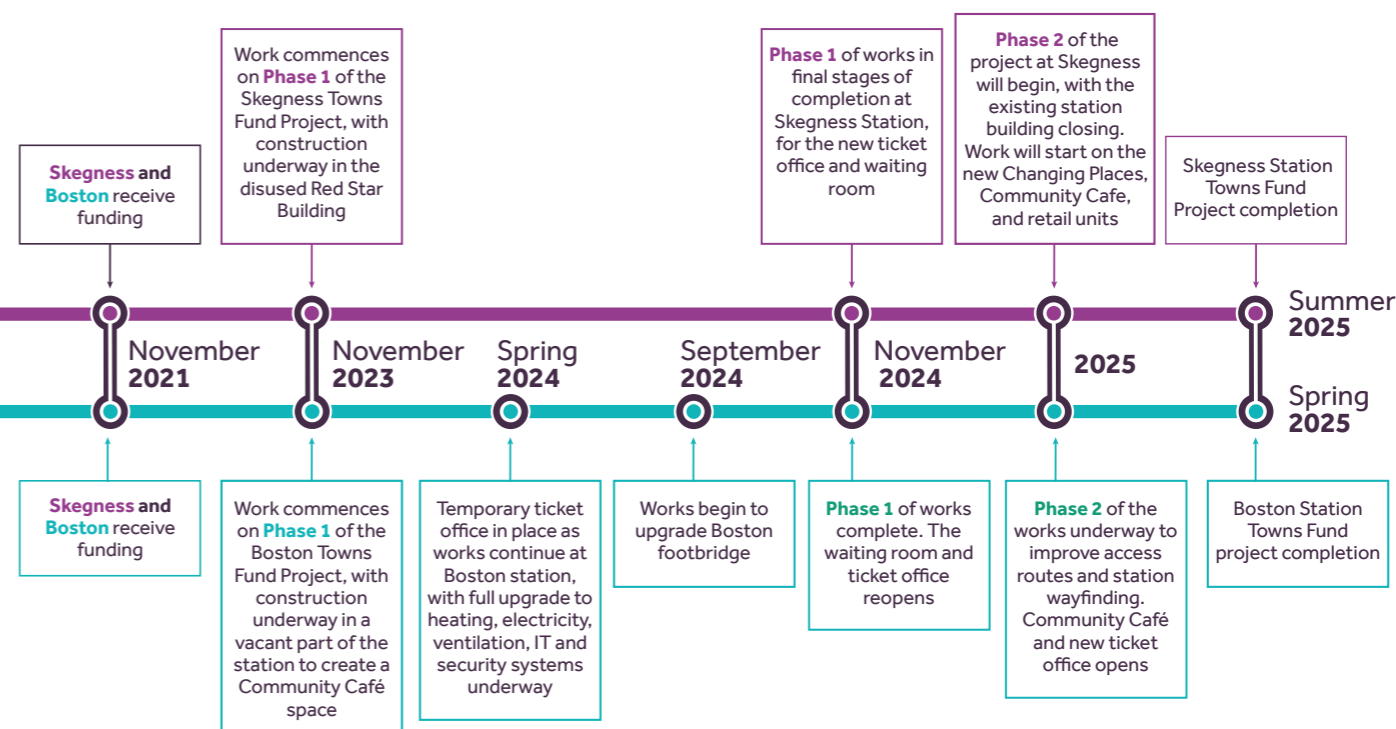
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In 2021, it was announced that Skegness would receive £24.5M in government funding through the Towns Fund and Boston would receive £21.9M. The Towns Fund was set up to regenerate towns and support long-term economic growth with the funding focused on supporting a number of projects to make a difference in both towns.



Through the Towns Fund, EMR is transforming both Boston and Skegness, by carrying out significant improvements to the train stations serving these communities.







## Red Star Building

Phase 1 of the work at Skegness station focused on the front building of the station, named the 'Red Star Building', and housed the former booking hall decades ago.

The 'Red Star Building' fell into a state of disuse in the 1990s, and extensive work has been carried out through the Skegness Towns Fund to preserve this historic station building and bring it back into modern-day use.

Unveiled in Autumn 2024, the first phase of the Skegness Towns Fund station project is a major milestone, seeing the most significant upgrade to Skegness station in decades.

*Lauren supports the delivery of the Skegness and Boston Towns Fund Projects, leading design workshops and hosting key meetings with stakeholders throughout the duration of the project.*

*"Since November 2023, we've been working on the first phase of the project at Skegness station, which is refurbishing the front building of the station, known as the Red Star building. Within this building we will have a brand new ticket office, waiting room, back of house areas, and three fantastic retail units."*

*"These improvements will not only benefit our customers and community, but also enhance the working environment for station staff, including better access to the staff car park, a new cycle shelter on platform 1, and modernised security, IT, and fire systems."*

**Lauren Fülep**, Assistant Project Manager, East Midlands Railway



## A Connected Coast

Through the Towns Fund investment, the Connected Coast Board oversee a once in a generation opportunity to invest in projects that will transform Skegness and Mablethorpe for residents and visitors alike. The projects will deliver huge benefits to the Lincolnshire area, creating a truly Connected Coast.

Here more from Chris and the project team here:



**Chris Baron**, Chair of Connected Coast Board



*Chris Baron, Chair of Connected Coast Board, expressed his enthusiasm for the transformation of Skegness Railway Station, made possible by the £24million received through the Towns Fund.*

*"We're incredibly fortunate in Skegness to have secured this funding. One of the major projects is the revitalisation of the railway station, bringing it up to the 21st century".*

*"The current plain brick façade will be redesigned to bring in natural light, with new facilities such as a waiting room, café space, and left luggage area. It's fantastic to see these improvements, but we're also focusing on the needs of the community by creating rentable office spaces, offering local business owners a place to establish and grow their ventures".*

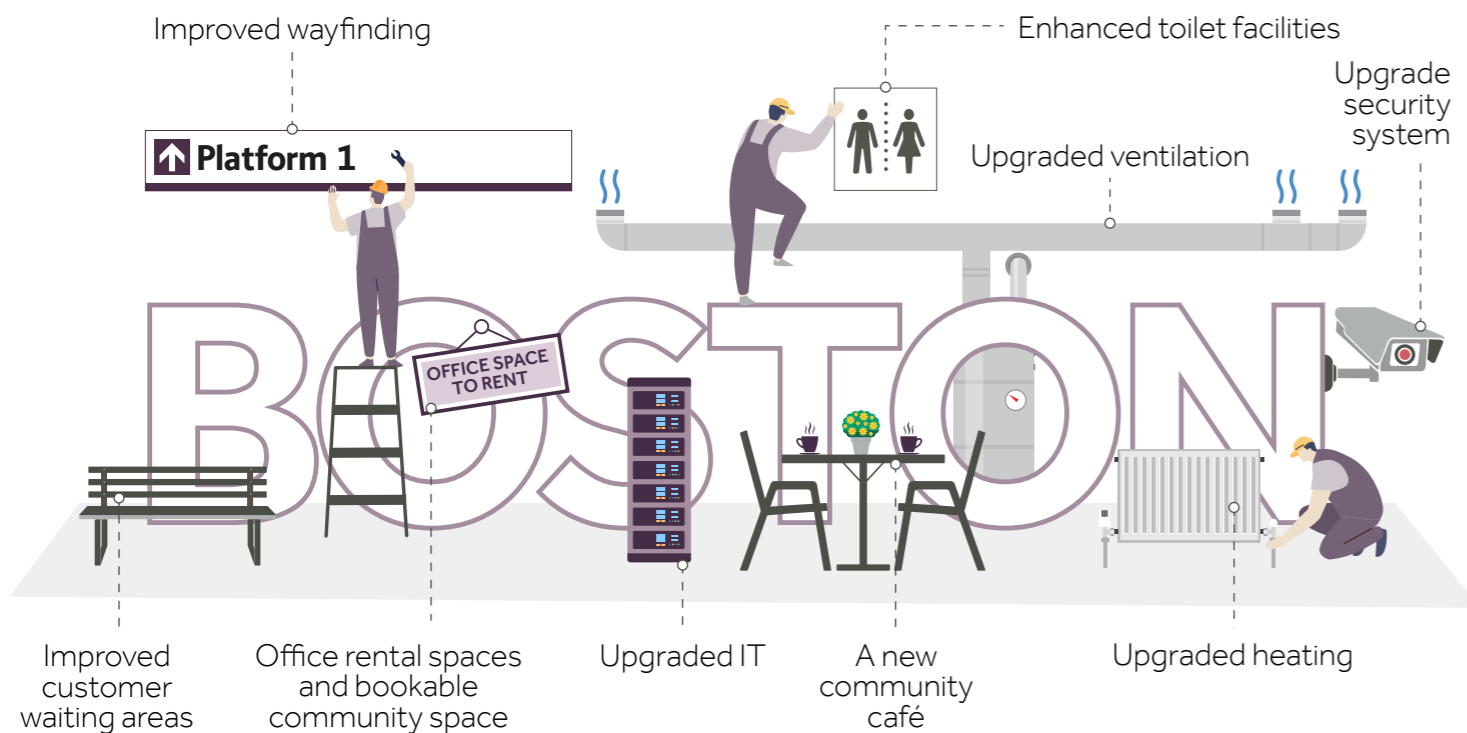
*"An essential part of the Connected Coast initiative is the installation of a Changing Places toilet, ensuring that disabled people have a fully accessible and appropriate facility upon arrival in Skegness."*

*"This is a really exciting project for the community and holidaymakers alike".*

# Connecting Communities: Boston Towns Fund

Over £2.8 million has been invested at Boston railway station, funded by the Government Towns Fund through Boston Town Board, The Railway Heritage Trust, and EMR. The significant development will transform Boston railway station, offering an improved customer experience to all station visitors in the future, with better integration with the community.

Boston station is the gateway to the town; the project aligns with the development of Rosegarth Square, which will revitalise and repurpose the area between the River Witham and the bus station, creating a welcoming experience to both visitors and residents of Boston.



## What's happening at Boston station?

Construction has been underway throughout 2024 to complete back of house works, including redeveloping the plant room, start-up offices, external painting of the windows, doors, and canopies to refresh the station environment. Towards the end of 2024, we will see the new ticket office and waiting room opened. Works have taken place to improve the footbridge between Platforms 1 and 2, and redevelopment of the station toilet facilities.

We are excited to unveil the new Community Café, which will be bookable through the cafe tenants for community events.

**Tim Hedley-Jones**, Executive Director of The Railway Heritage

### Q. What is the source of the funding for this investment at Boston from The Railway Heritage Trust?

*The Railway Heritage Trust gets the majority of its funding from Network Rail. But we're independent of them – we are a not for profit company. We look at projects across the country which are restoring railway heritage and give grants to restore historic structures and bring disused space back into use. We're pleased to be supporting East Midlands Railway at Boston.*

### Q. Which improvements are The Railway Heritage Trust excited about to seeing being delivered?

*We're especially pleased to see that space which was not used efficiently is being brought back into use for the community. Over time the space at stations changes in function, for example space for sending parcels by train is no longer needed. Stations must adapt for what the railway and its communities need.*



# Transforming Boston Station

**Q. Which improvements are Network Rail excited about to seeing being delivered at Boston and Skegness?**

*I am most looking forward to seeing the vacant areas at the stations being brought back into use, there are lots of underutilised spaces within our regional stations and as such I am excited to see the impact that these works have as this could become a template for future developments at other stations across the network.*

*I think involving the local Community in occupying these spaces and therefore taking ownership and pride in their local facilities will be vital to the projects success.*

**Q. Why is this project important for the Network Rail?**

*Network Rail is generally funded to maintain the status quo, except where we receive funding for specific projects, and therefore it is always exciting to see vacant and redundant spaces brought back into use. Although they aren't listed buildings both stations are historic assets within their communities and therefore it is important that projects such as this provide funding to support their maintenance, preservation and regeneration as important local hubs.*

*We know how important stations are for the communities they serve and as the first and last impression that visitors receive to these towns. It's fantastic to see work underway at both stations and I look forward to seeing the new facilities being used by passengers and their local communities.*

**Rob Goulding,**  
Station & Depot  
Portfolio Surveyor,  
Network Rail



Scan the QR code to learn more about the transformation at Boston station.

A big thank you to contributors to the Boston and Skegness Towns Fund Project. **Paul Boswell** - Principal Project Manager, **Lauren Fülep** - Assistant Project Manager, **John Collis** - Construction Delivery Manager



The information in this document was correct at the time of sharing in January 2025.  
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