



BOSTON TOWN BOARD MEETING

Thursday 30 March 2026 at 2pm

Venue: Mayflower Building, Boston College, or via TEAMS

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 Minutes of the Boston Town Board Meeting held on 26 February 2025 (**Enc**) & Action Plan (**Enc**)
- 5 Pride in Place Programme -
 - (a) Update on Skills Audit Update **IA**
 - (b) Update Workshops & Engagement Programme **IA**
 - (c) Update on Sub-Group **IA**
- 6 CVS Lincolnshire Board Presentation - Community Masterplan (**3pm**)
- 7 Communications Update (**Enc**)
- 8 Any Other Business



**Minutes of the Boston Town Board Meeting
held on Thursday 26 February 2026 at 2pm
Committee Room, Boston Borough Council Offices & via Teams**

Board Members: Claire Foster, Chair - Boston College, Cllr Mike Gilbert - BBC, Alison Fairman BEM - Community Representative, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Councillor Sam French - LCC, Neil Kempster - Chestnut Homes, Andy Lawrence - Port of Boston, Inspector Ian Cotton - Lincs Police, Tracy Stringfellow - Heritage Lincs and Marc Jones - Lincs PCC

Support Team: Maria Cotton, Jon Burgess, Michael Dow, Ivan Annibal and Michelle Gant

1 Welcome

CF opened the meeting and welcomed attendees in person and online.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David Fannin, Jaqui Bunce, Michael Morris and Luisa Stanney.

3 Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

4 (a) Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 29 January 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2025 were reviewed and approved as a true and accurate record. The minutes were proposed by MG and seconded by AF.

(b) Action Tracker

MJ confirmed the PCC annual survey data would be shared before the March meeting. No update was available on Community Safety Officers; this would return in March. Skills Audit and Workshops papers were scheduled later on the agenda. LCVS were confirmed for the March agenda.

5 Pride in Place Programme

Member Skills Audit - The Board considered the report at Item 5a. IA presented the revised Skills Audit - now amended with clearer language. Members supported merging questions 4 and 5, adding whether members lived or worked in Boston and included an open contribution question. The audit would be issued the following week and reported back in March.

Workshops & Engagement - The Board considered the report at Item 5b. IA outlined the four-stage process, beginning with three workshops on 3-5 March. Further sub-group meetings were expected on 12 or 19 March and 8 May. The open call would run from 23 March to 1 May. Members discussed cross-theme links, youth engagement and transparent scoring.

Volunteers for the proposed Programme Development Sub-Group included Emma Tatlow, Councillor French, Tracy Stringfellow, Michael Dow and Neil Kempster, with Councillor Gilbert subject to availability. IA would contact absent members and confirm meeting dates.

6 Towns Fund Projects Update

The Board considered the report at Item 6 and JB reported receipt of the new Memorandum of Understanding simplifying Towns Deal and Levelling Up into the Local Regeneration Fund. All projects were assessed as green.

Updates included:

- Healing the High Streets: Shodfriars nearing completion; shop fronts progressing.
- St Botolph's Lighting: installation under way, final claim received.
- Railway Station: progressing towards a summer 2026 completion.
- Boston Leisure: foundation works complete, steel frame due in March.
- Rosegarth Square: completion expected August 2026, hoarding limitations noted.
- Partnership Fund projects were progressing well.

JB would clarify the Five Lamps position and report back. A future paper on underspend allocations would be brought to a future Board meeting for consideration.

7 Communications Update

The Board considered the report at Item 7. MG reported extensive promotion of Pride in Place workshops, strong engagement with heritage-related posts and increasing LinkedIn activity. Upcoming work included support for the Mayflower celebration event and communications for the open call.

8 Any Other Business

Youth Council progress would be confirmed at the next meeting. MC updated on the Town of Culture Expression of Interest due on 31 March. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Sport England bid development work was shared by ET. MG updated on the new Boston Traders Association.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 30 March 2026 at 2.00pm - Mayflower Building, Boston College Campus, Boston.



OUTSTANDING ACTIONS 2026

BOARD MEETING	ACTION	TO BE COMPLETED BY
9.12.25	<p>[REDACTED] Marc Jones to include perception of crime questions in the Lincs PCC annual survey.</p>	Throughout 2026
29.1.26	Press release required for the Shodfriars project - MG. PP and CF to visit the site around Easter - LS to organise.	COMPLETED
29.1.26	Sub Group to be developed to support programme development, along with themed workshops.	COMPLETED
29.1.26	A clear timetable for the themed workshops, including clarification of intended outputs and how the outcomes would inform programme development, to be developed and shared by IA/MG with the Board to support effective communication and encourage good attendance.	26.2.26
29.1.26	LCVS to be invited to the March Board meeting to present the Community Masterplan to support understanding of community led delivery.	COMPLETED



BOSTON TOWN BOARD MEETING
Date 30 March 2026

Agenda Item No:	5a		
Report Title:	Skills Audit Feedback		
Author:	Ivan Annibal	Presenter:	Ivan Annibal
		Item For:	
		Information	x
		Discussion	X
		Decision	
1.	Report Executive Summary and Main Issues		
	<i>What are the key bullet points contained in the detail of the report?</i>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To update on Skills Audit Progress 		
2.	Detail		
	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The Skills Audit Questionnaire was issued on 16 March 2026. To date 4 responses have been received. No-one has yet requested a telephone discussion.</p> <p>Results to Date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy – strong 7.5 out of 10 Governance – strong 7.5 out of 10 Fairness – strong 8 out of 10 Programme Management – strong 7.5 out of 10 Project Management – very strong 8.25 out of 10 Risk Management – relatively weaker 7 out of 10 Environment – strong 7.5 out of 10 Digital – relatively weak 5.75 out of 10 Financial Leverage – relatively weaker 7.25 out of 10 Finance – strong 8 out of 10 (one response though only 5) Arts/Culture – relatively weak 6.25 out of 10 Partnerships - very strong 8.75 out of 10 Local connections – strong 8.25 out of 10 <p>One wider comment:</p>		

“Boston is on the cusp of significant positive change in economic and community regeneration. I believe we have the makings of a very strong board and would be delighted to be part of the team to take this forward.”

There are currently too few responses to draw significant inferences from however it is clear from these comments that the skills audit has yielded some interesting results and will lead to the generation of a significant body of evidence relating to the skills and capabilities of the current team.

3. Implications / Risk Register (*must be completed*)

Risk Register No.	Strategic Driver	Topic	Detail
1	Board Capability & Governance	Low response rate to Skills Audit Questionnaire	Only 4 responses have been received since the questionnaire was issued on 16 March 2026, with no requests for telephone discussions.
2	Digital Transformation & Modern Delivery	Identified weakness in digital skills	The early results show digital capability as relatively weak (5.75 out of 10). In the context of ongoing regeneration programmes (including data-driven decision-making, monitoring and evaluation, and potential future use of digital tools for community engagement or project management), this gap merits a discussion about member skills development in this area.
3	Financial Management & Leverage	Relatively weaker areas in risk management and financial leverage	Risk management scored 7/10 and financial leverage 7.25/10 (with one outlier at 5 for finance overall).

4. Recommendation(s) and Proposed Actions

- Members are invited to note the early results of the audit and reflect on overall progress in this context.

Boston Town Board

5. Appendices



BOSTON TOWN BOARD MEETING
Date 30 March 2026

Agenda Item No:	5b		
Report Title:	Workshop Feedback		
Author:	Ivan Annibal	Presenter:	Ivan Annibal
		Item For:	
		Information	
		Discussion	
		Decision	x
1.	Report Executive Summary and Main Issues		
	<p><i>What are the key bullet points contained in the detail of the report?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the outcome of the workshop and the response of the Board to the work of the 20 March Sub-Group to build the insights into the development of the amination of the Investment Strategy 		
2.	Detail		
	<p>Introduction 5 workshops have now been held to engage the community in the development of the Pride in Place Plan. Workshops were held at the end of 2025 to consider Safety and Security and the Town Centre. 3 subsequent workshops covering: Skills and Enterprise, Art and Culture and Community Well-being/Greenspace were held on 3,4 and 5th of March 2026. This report sets out the findings arising from those workshops. It also provides an update on the detailed consideration of the outcomes of all 5 workshops and the approach proposed to moving forward with thematic investments arising from the consideration of the outcomes in detail at the Board Sub-Group held on 20 March 2026.</p> <p>Overview Across the 5 meetings over 100 participants commented on the key themes underpinning the priorities of the plan. More work is underway to engage young people as a discrete group in scoping out the issues linked to the 5 themes.</p> <p>Details Notes of each of the 5 groups were taken and a synthesis is attached at Appendix A. In big picture terms the workshop discussions point to a clear strategic direction. Boston's issues are not being framed as single-theme problems; they are being described as interconnected challenges around confidence, access, inclusion, opportunity and the quality of the town</p>		

centre experience.

Participants repeatedly returned to five cross-cutting priorities: better collaboration and brokerage; stronger perceptions of safety and welcome; targeted support for groups currently excluded from opportunity; a more coherent cultural and tourism proposition; and practical, place-based interventions that animate underused assets and town centre spaces.

There was also a strong delivery message. Stakeholders want an approachable process that encourages collaboration, includes smaller or less formal groups, and allows existing good projects to scale where they already demonstrate local trust and delivery capability.

In project terms, the workshops suggest that Boston should avoid a long list of disconnected small activities. A better approach would be to develop a smaller number of investable programme lines that each combine capital, revenue and convening functions and can generate visible town-wide impact.

High Level Themes in Relation to Each Workshop are set out below:

Town Centre

There were very strong overlaps with the safety and security workshop. The challenges around the function of the town centre for a retail perspective with closed shops was a theme. The opportunities arising from the significant legacy of potentially very attractive heritage buildings and public open spaces were raised. Maximising footfall in conjunction with improving the retail offer and the town centre was identified as important. Maximising the potential of the waterways was identified as key. Finally linking into the other investments taking place across the town arising from the Towns Fund and Levelling Up activities was also identified as very important

Safety and Security

Perception of crime emerged as a key theme. Work to build on the organic activities of retailers to help manage the challenges facing them in terms of shop based security were discussed and agreed to be very impactful as a complement to formal enforcement. The perceived threats arising from large scale gathering of principally single men speaking in other languages than English was discussed as both a challenge but potentially a basis for strategies to engage and support these groups around social integration. Opportunities to use capital funding to design out crime threats in the town centre were also discussed.

Skills, enterprise and remote working

The discussion did not call for broad, classroom-style skills delivery. It pointed towards practical access-to-opportunity interventions: transport to learning and work, work-readiness, mentoring, apprenticeship brokerage, leadership and management support for small firms, enterprise support for younger people, and space for co-working or incubation in empty property. There was a notable emphasis on soft skills, resilience and pathways for people who are not yet ready for direct labour market entry.

Heritage, culture and tourism

The strongest message was that Boston already has ingredients for a stronger cultural and tourism proposition, but they are fragmented. Participants identified the Cultural Quarter as an existing anchor geography and suggested projects around Blackfriars, Morris Towers, Custom House Quay, improved accessibility, audience development, brand and PR refresh, Open Doors-style programming, and a clearer tourism strategy supported by visitor infrastructure and collaboration mechanisms.

Community well-being, safety and green spaces

This workshop linked safety, inclusion and cohesion very directly. Participants raised SEND provision for young adults, older people needing supported access to technology and services, poor active travel infrastructure, outdoor gyms and green space activation, community

dialogue across different groups, and programming that uses food, music and sport as practical ways to build trust. The emphasis was on visible, shared activity that reduces intimidation and increases belonging.

Next Steps

It is proposed that the key insights from these workshops should be deployed to support the development of the commissioning and open calls to be run by the Board.

3. Implications / Risk Register (*must be completed*)

Risk Register No.	Strategic Driver	Topic	Detail
1	Community Engagement	Limited engagement of young people	Additional targeted engagement with young people is still required (as noted in the report). Failure to secure meaningful input from this group risks the Pride in Place Plan and Investment Strategy not fully reflecting the needs and aspirations of younger residents, potentially limiting long-term community ownership and impact.
2	Partnership Working	Fragmented collaboration across stakeholders	Workshop participants repeatedly emphasised the need for stronger collaboration and brokerage. However, the current fragmented organisational landscape and wide variation in group capacity creates a risk of siloed working and missed opportunities to deliver coherent, cross-cutting programmes.
3	Investment Prioritisation & Delivery	Dilution of resources through small disconnected projects	The workshops clearly stated a preference for fewer, larger investable programme lines that combine capital, revenue and convening functions. There is a risk that the forthcoming commissioning and open-call process results in a long list of disconnected small activities, spreading resources too thinly and reducing visible town-wide impact.

4. Recommendation(s) and Proposed Actions

- Members are invited to offer both their own insights linked to any of the sessions they attended and any reflections arising from the summary above.

Boston Town Board

5. Appendices

Detailed Workshop Notes Attached

Appendix

Boston Pride in Place

Workshop Themes and Project Opportunities

Synthesis of talking points from the Skills, Enterprise & Remote Working; Heritage, Culture & Tourism; and Community Well-being, Safety & Green Spaces workshops

*Prepared from workshop notes
March 2026*

Headline message: Across all three workshops, participants consistently called for investment that is collaborative, visibly improves confidence in the town, and turns isolated activity into joined-up, inclusive place change. The strongest project ideas were those that combined physical improvements with programming, access support and partnership delivery.

1. Executive summary

The workshop discussions point to a clear strategic direction. Boston's issues are not being framed as single-theme problems; they are being described as interconnected challenges around confidence, access, inclusion, opportunity and the quality of the town centre experience.

Participants repeatedly returned to five cross-cutting priorities: better collaboration and brokerage; stronger perceptions of safety and welcome; targeted support for groups currently excluded from opportunity; a more coherent cultural and tourism proposition; and practical, place-based interventions that animate underused assets and town centre spaces.

There was also a strong delivery message. Stakeholders want an approachable process that encourages collaboration, includes smaller or less formal groups, and allows existing good projects to scale where they already demonstrate local trust and delivery capability.

In project terms, the workshops suggest that Boston should avoid a long list of disconnected small activities. A better approach would be to develop a smaller number of investable programme lines that each combine capital, revenue and convening functions and can generate visible town-wide impact.

2. Common trends emerging across the three workshops

Cross-cutting theme	What participants were saying	Strategic implication
Collaboration and brokerage	Participants wanted collaboration to be a design principle, not an afterthought. They raised thematic collaboration, brokerage for smaller groups, commissioning where groups cannot bid directly, and a more ongoing dialogue with applicants.	The programme should include structured partnership development, light-touch commissioning routes and support for consortia and other collaborative models.
Confidence, safety and welcome	Safety was treated as a precondition for culture, town centre use and footfall. Lighting, activation of spaces, passive surveillance, tackling intimidation and making the town feel more welcoming all featured strongly.	Investment should combine environmental improvements with animation, visible presence, community cohesion work and stronger evening and town centre programming.
Inclusion and access	Stakeholders highlighted transport exclusion, SEND transition gaps, older	Projects should build in access support from the outset - not

	people needing digital support, disabled access to heritage, and barriers faced by smaller employers and less formal organisations.	as an add-on - including transport, inclusion design, outreach and wraparound support.
Retention of people and talent	There was concern about younger people leaving, older cohorts being stuck in low-pay sectors, and weak routes between employers, apprenticeships and enterprise support.	The work and skills strand should focus on retention, progression and local opportunity pipelines, not just generic training provision.
Stronger Boston narrative	In culture and tourism discussions, participants repeatedly called for a refreshed brand, stronger PR, a unified offer and a more deliberate use of Boston's heritage assets.	Boston 2030 needs a place narrative linked to visitor infrastructure, audience development and investable heritage/cultural projects.
Using assets more intelligently	Empty property, green spaces, town centre living, the Cultural Quarter and community venues were all seen as underused assets that could host more activity.	Priority projects should connect programming with physical assets so that investment leaves a visible and durable footprint.

3. What this means by theme

Skills, enterprise and remote working

The discussion did not call for broad, classroom-style skills delivery. It pointed towards practical access-to-opportunity interventions: transport to learning and work, work-readiness, mentoring, apprenticeship brokerage, leadership and management support for small firms, enterprise support for younger people, and space for co-working or incubation in empty property. There was a notable emphasis on soft skills, resilience and pathways for people who are not yet ready for direct labour market entry.

Heritage, culture and tourism

The strongest message was that Boston already has ingredients for a stronger cultural and tourism proposition, but they are fragmented. Participants identified the Cultural Quarter as an existing anchor geography and suggested projects around Blackfriars, Morris Towers, Custom House Quay, improved accessibility, audience development, brand and PR refresh, Open Doors-style programming, and a clearer tourism strategy supported by visitor infrastructure and collaboration mechanisms.

Community well-being, safety and green spaces

This workshop linked safety, inclusion and cohesion very directly. Participants raised SEND provision for young adults, older people needing supported access to technology and services, poor active travel infrastructure, outdoor gyms and green space activation, community dialogue across different groups, and programming that uses food, music and sport as practical ways to build trust. The emphasis was on visible, shared activity that reduces intimidation and increases belonging.

4. Elevated project ideas for development

Project opportunity	Description	Why it matters
1. Boston Access to Opportunity Programme	A joined-up package tackling the practical barriers that stop residents accessing work, training and enterprise. This could combine transport enablement, work-readiness support, mentoring, apprenticeship	High fit with the repeated emphasis on transport exclusion, employer-apprentice disconnect, soft skills, enterprise support and progression barriers.

	and employer brokerage, and progression support for older workers and young people.	
2. Cultural Quarter and Heritage Connectivity Programme	A place-based package focused on the Cultural Quarter and linked heritage assets. Potential elements include frontage and public realm improvements, accessibility works, interpretation, audience development, shared marketing and events, and better physical links between key sites.	This responds to calls to accelerate the Cultural Quarter, improve disabled access, unify heritage assets and create a more coherent visitor experience.
3. Boston Brand, Tourism and Visitor Infrastructure Project	A revenue-led project to refresh Boston's narrative and convert heritage potential into a clearer visitor offer. This could cover brand development, PR, market positioning, digital presence, signage, visitor collaboration forums and an annual programme such as Open Doors.	Participants were explicit that Boston needs a stronger story, tourism strategy and visitor economy coordination function.
4. Safer and More Active Town Centre Programme	A combined environmental and animation programme focused on lighting, events, activation of underused spaces, stronger evening economy confidence and projects that increase passive surveillance and footfall.	This reflects the repeated view that safety is a prerequisite for town centre use, culture and pride in place.
5. Community Connection and Cohesion Programme	A programme using shared activity - food, music, sport and dialogue - to bring different groups of residents together, reduce misunderstanding and support a more welcoming local culture.	This directly answers concerns about anti-migrant sentiment, intimidation, isolation and the need for common spaces and shared experiences.
6. Inclusive Neighbourhood Support Hubs	Hub-based or co-located support models for groups falling between mainstream services, especially SEND young adults, older people needing digital help, and residents needing supported access to community services.	This builds on discussion around co-location, supported access to services and the gap that opens when some groups leave formal education.
7. Empty Property to Enterprise / Co-work Pilot	A pilot repurposing empty town centre property for enterprise incubation, co-working, mentoring and creative or micro-business support with a particular focus on young people.	This gives tangible expression to the empty-property opportunity raised in the skills workshop while supporting town centre animation.
8. Green Spaces for Health and Activity Programme	A programme linking outdoor gyms, accessible physical activity, green space activation and wellbeing events.	This emerged as a practical and visible way to broaden participation in physical activity and improve wellbeing.

5. Delivery implications for the programme

- The programme should use an expression-of-interest stage or similar front door to manage demand and help shape stronger proposals.
- Boston should actively encourage collaboration around themes, rather than leaving organisations to compete in isolation.
- There should be routes for smaller or less formally constituted groups to benefit, including partnership bids, brokerage or commissioning models.
- Existing organisations with trusted delivery records should be able to scale proven provision where it meets current priorities.
- The board should ensure that project development remains grounded in community engagement and not solely in institutional perspectives.
- The strongest schemes are likely to be blended interventions: physical improvements plus programming, outreach and access support.

6. Recommended next steps

1. Agree a small number of programme lines based on the project opportunities above, rather than running a fully open thematic call for ideas, building on existing policy, strategy & practice enabling commissioning activity to begin sooner than current pipeline development trajectory.
2. In support of the above, outline scopes for 4-6 flagship interventions that can each show town-wide impact and clear strategic fit.
3. Build a support and brokerage process around the call for projects, including collaboration workshops and accountable-body options for smaller groups.
4. Use safety, access and inclusion as design requirements across all themes, not only within community safety projects.
5. Commission or prepare a concise Boston brand / tourism proposition so cultural and visitor projects sit within a common narrative.
6. Create an initial pipeline that distinguishes between quick wins, scalable existing provision, and larger transformational projects needing detailed development.

Overall conclusion: the workshops suggest that Boston should invest in a coherent place programme that makes the town feel safer, more connected and more ambitious, while also creating practical pathways into opportunity for residents who are currently excluded from it.

Safety and Security and Town Centre Workshop Summary

1. Introduction and Purpose

As part of the development of Boston's Plan for Neighbourhoods, a series of thematic workshops have been held to shape investment priorities, identify evidence-led interventions, and test emerging ideas with local partners.

This paper summarises the outputs from the first two sessions — Crime & Disorder and Town Centre Improvement — and presents an integrated overview of findings, organised under the six Plan for Neighbourhoods intervention headings. The purpose of the paper is to:

- Consolidate emerging priorities across workshop themes.
- Highlight areas of convergence and interdependency.
- Identify opportunities for further development and partnership alignment ahead of final plan preparation.

The workshops form part of an iterative engagement process designed to ensure that Boston's PfN programme reflects the lived experience of residents, businesses, and delivery partners. While each session addressed specific challenges, common threads emerged around safety, town centre vibrancy, economic resilience, and community capacity.

The findings summarised here will inform both the four-year delivery plan and the ten-year vision for Boston's regeneration under the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

2. Cross-Cutting Themes (by PfN Intervention)

Physical Infrastructure

Both workshops highlighted the central role of the built environment in shaping perceptions of safety, pride, and economic vitality. Poor lighting, vacant upper floors, and inconsistent public realm quality contribute to a sense of neglect and unsafety.

- Town Centre design: A coherent design framework covering Market Place, Pescod Square, South Street, and the riverfront is needed. Improvements should enhance legibility, accessibility, and the aesthetic character of historic streets.
- Vacant and under-used space: Re-use of upper floors for housing or workspace remains a shared ambition.
- Traffic management: Improved flow, better signage, and more attractive walking routes emerged strongly.
- Public realm and maintenance: Upgrades to lighting, surfacing, and bin storage, alongside better cleanliness and maintenance schedules, are priorities.

Key message: Physical investment must go hand-in-hand with operational improvements.

Social Infrastructure

Community ownership, pride, and connectivity were recurring themes. Participants linked a lack of civic identity with perceptions of decline.

- Community pride campaigns (e.g. Boston Brilliant) should be expanded, using positive local messaging.
- Volunteering and visible roles — Town Rangers or Ambassadors — can increase presence and ownership.
- Youth engagement: Young people are both a key asset and a missing voice. Investment in spaces and evening transport is needed.
- Events and programming: Regular activity brings people together and reclaims shared spaces.

Key message: Strengthening social infrastructure depends on communication, trusted intermediaries, and participation.

Work & Productivity

The health of the local economy is tied to town centre vibrancy and public confidence.

- Retail resilience: Boston's retail footprint exceeds local demand. Independents face high costs and low footfall.
- Anchor presence: The loss of M&S weakened footfall; a future anchor offer could support independents.
- Business incentives: Targeted rate relief, investment, and workspace grants were discussed.
- Skills and employment: Low wages and limited access to training constrain growth.

Key message: Focus on diversification, independent business support, and skills alignment.

Arts, Culture & Heritage

Heritage and culture are Boston's distinctive strengths and under-used assets.

- Cultural Quarter concept: Anchored by St Botolph's, the Guildhall, and Blackfriars.
- Activation and events: Locally-led events can animate public spaces and build participation.
- Heritage-led regeneration: Design should respect historic fabric while improving usability.
- Creative placemaking: Art, murals, and street furniture can signal positive change.

Key message: Cultural investment can deliver both civic pride and economic value.

Health & Wellbeing

Workshops recognised the link between wellbeing and community participation.

- Mental health support, particularly for young people, needs coordination with community spaces.
- Physical activity: Facilities like Boxfit and Tonic Health have strong demand but limited access.
- Social isolation: Older residents' fear of young people contributes to disengagement.
- Preventative wellbeing: Hydration, nutrition, and safe walking routes support resilience.

Key message: Focus on inclusion, affordability, and prevention rather than clinical services.

Safety & Security

Perception of safety is a defining issue for Boston.

- Police visibility: Low visibility undermines confidence.
- Town Rangers: Widely supported for visible reassurance and engagement.
- CCTV and lighting: Coverage gaps persist; investment needed.
- Digital safety: Public Wi-Fi can enable antisocial behaviour; better management required.
- Partnership working: Balance enforcement with prevention.

Key message: Sustainable safety depends on reassurance, design, and partnership.

3. Workshop Summaries

3.1 Crime & Disorder Workshop

Explored community safety, ASB, and enforcement. Key themes included Wi-Fi management, cohesion, environmental design, and visible reassurance. Priorities: manage public Wi-Fi, develop communications strategy, reintroduce visible reassurance (Town Rangers), expand CCTV, improve design, embed education, and strengthen coordination.

Key takeaway: Safety depends on visibility, confidence, and collaboration as much as enforcement.

3.2 Town Centre Improvement Workshop

Focused on physical, economic, and social renewal. Themes: infrastructure, retail, youth engagement, culture, wellbeing, and safety. Priorities: design framework, business incentives, youth engagement pilot, civic ambassadors, heritage events, anchor retail intervention.

Key takeaway: Regeneration relies on visible improvement, diversification, and community-led activation.

4. Areas for Further Development

Further work is required to refine proposals, test feasibility, and coordinate delivery across PfN themes. This includes design frameworks, youth provision, business incentives, cultural programming, and integrated safety delivery models.

5. Conclusion and Next Steps

The workshops provide a strong foundation for shaping Boston's Plan for Neighbourhoods. Regeneration depends on confidence, partnership, and sustained investment in both people and place.

Immediate actions include integrating workshop outputs into a draft PfN Investment Framework, developing quick-win projects, aligning funding programmes, and establishing monitoring baselines for safety, pride, and participation.



BOSTON TOWN BOARD MEETING
Date 30 March 2026

Agenda Item No:	5c		
Report Title:	Pride in Place Sub-Group		
Author:	Ivan Annibal	Presenter:	Ivan Annibal
		Item For:	
		Information	
		Discussion	
		Decision	x
1.	Report Executive Summary and Main Issues		
	<p><i>What are the key bullet points contained in the detail of the report?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the outcomes of the Pride in Place Sub-Group meeting (including refinements to principles, stakeholder engagement, accessibility, and processes) and agree the refined approach to developing the Investment Plan. • To approve the updated comprehensive list of key organisations to involve in commissioning and open-call discussions (with cross-cutting organisations placed first). • To approve the new simplified Project Ideas Form (plain English, accessible, and attached at Appendix) for the open call and commissioning process. • To agree the use of the Grant Maker AI system for initial eligibility, risk assessment, and scoring (with full human oversight and data-protection safeguards). • To endorse principles and practical measures for encouraging collaboration, supporting less-experienced applicants, maintaining reserve funding, delivering early wins, and ensuring programme flexibility. • To confirm the Sub-Group’s role in filtering and recommending projects to the full Board (with a further Sub-Group meeting scheduled for mid-May) and to identify any immediate “quick wins” 		
2.	Detail		
	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The next stage of the allocation of funding for the Pride in Place Programme involves running both a commissioning process and an open call for ideas in parallel. A Board Sub-Group was formed to plan this process. The Sub-Group met and reviewed/refined key principles and criteria, expanded the stakeholder list, agreed an accessible application form, and endorsed the use of AI tools with strong human oversight. This report sets out the background, the Sub-Group’s recommendations, and the updated approach.</p>		

Programme	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total Cost
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Some Key Principles

Some Key Principles Through the Pride in Place Workshops and the recent Sub-Group meeting a number of key principles have been confirmed and refined:

1. There are a very wide range of organisations active in relation to each of the Pride in Place strategic themes; we must ensure careful alignment and avoid working in isolation.
2. A significant number of organisations (including smaller VCSE, community, and less-experienced groups) would like to submit proposals but would benefit from capacity support so they are not disadvantaged.
3. Other ideas and actions are likely to arise over the next 12 months; it is prudent to hold back some resources at this stage to maintain flexibility and respond to emerging opportunities.
4. Resources should be allocated sustainably, favouring connected ideas with potential for leverage from third parties rather than purely self-contained projects.
5. Dependencies between project ideas should be considered carefully in resource allocation, with preference given to projects that address multiple themes.
6. There is a clear appetite for visible progress; therefore some early “quick wins” should be advanced promptly to demonstrate momentum and build confidence.
7. The Boston Community Masterplan has a key role to play in supporting bid development and implementation.

Additional points agreed by the Sub-Group:

- All communications, forms, and guidance must use clear, jargon-free language (e.g., avoid terms such as “leverage” or “master plan”) to ensure community members can fully engage.
- Organisations should be encouraged to collaborate rather than compete; constructive feedback and support will be offered to strengthen proposals.
- Board members may act as project sponsors (providing oversight without direct delivery involvement) to ensure accountability and continuity between governance and delivery.

Proposed Approach

Stakeholder Engagement

A comprehensive list of organisations has been reviewed and expanded by the Sub-Group. All organisations will be approached with the funding grid and invited to suggest projects and activities that align with their plans and could be enhanced through partnership with Pride in Place.

Cross-Cutting Organisations (placed first to reduce duplication) • Lincolnshire Community Foundation • Boston College • Boston Borough Council (BBC) • Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) • Integrated Care Board (ICB) • Mayoral Combined Authority • Community Masterplan

team • LCVP

Theme-Specific Organisations

Town Centre Revitalisation (incorporating housing interventions) • Business Forum • Police • Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) • Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) • Boston in Bloom and other user groups • Letting agents, landlords, and housing associations • Transport providers • Local authorities (BBC / LCC)

Heritage and Culture Activation • Heritage Lincolnshire • Cultural Compact / Consortium • Transported Arts • Blackfriars • St Botolph's • Fydell House / Idle House • Boston Borough Council (Guildhall and culture strategy lead) • Private sector developers • Boston College • Freemasons and Rotary

Safety and Security • Business Forum • Police • Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) • Boston Borough Council (BBC) • Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)

Community Capacity Building (incorporating Education and Skills and Health and Well-Being) • LCVP • ICB • Active Lincolnshire • VCSE Organisations • Faith Organisations • Migrant Workers and National Groups • Sports Clubs

Youth Engagement (incorporating Education and Skills and Health and Well-Being for young people) • Tonic Health • Boston College • Schools

Green Spaces and Connectivity • Boston in Bloom • Boston Borough Council (BCC) • Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) • Environment Agency • Natural England

Open Call

1. An open call for early project ideas (rather than formal bids at this stage) will be issued. The call will launch once the Board has approved the approach and form. A social media campaign is ready to support it.
2. The new simplified **Boston Pride in Place Project Ideas Form** (attached at Appendix) has been agreed. It is written in plain English, encourages short answers, and is suitable for organisations of all levels of experience.
3. **Support for Applicants** Workshops, drop-in sessions, and direct one-to-one help will be provided so that smaller or less-resourced groups are not disadvantaged. A tiered approach (full / reduced / light-touch forms) will be considered where appropriate.
4. **Integration of AI Tools** The Grant Maker AI system will support assessment in three steps: (1) eligibility check, (2) risk assessment, and (3) scoring against agreed criteria (sustainability, collaboration, impact, alignment with Boston 2030 and Town of Culture). The AI provides supporting analysis only; all final decisions remain with the Sub-Group and Board. The system can also aggregate data to show collective programme-level impact.
5. Data protection and consent arrangements will be confirmed with the council's team before any personal or financial data is processed.
6. **Encouraging Collaboration and Ambition** Applicants will be actively encouraged to work together. The Sub-Group will provide constructive feedback to strengthen proposals and promote additionality.
7. **Idea Development Criteria and Next Steps** Project ideas will be assessed against the agreed principles using a priority matrix. The Sub-Group will filter and recommend proposals to the full Board. Board members may act as sponsors for selected projects.
8. **Timetable** The original timetable agreed at the last Board meeting will be reviewed by the Sub-Group (including the exact launch date of the open call). A second Sub-Group meeting (in view of the scale of activity which is emerging this may require two further meetings) is planned for mid-May to review initial responses and prepare recommendations.

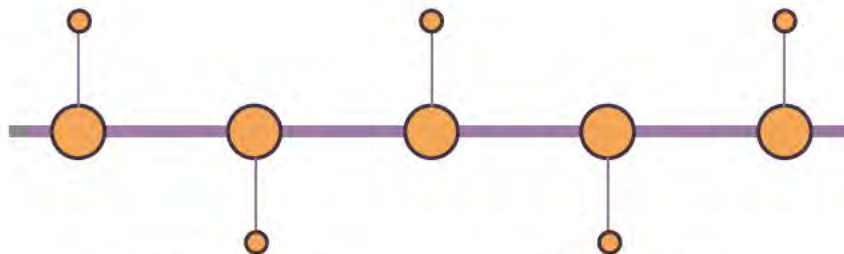
The following timetable was agreed at the last Board meeting and it is proposed that the Sub-Group should review this and make any recommendations, including the timing of the open call

Timetable

Confirmation Board
Board to agree
strategy and timeline
26 Feb

Sub-Group to set approach arising
from Workshops 20 March

Sub-Group meets w/c
18 May (possibly 2
meetings) reporting to
Board 28 May



Workshops 3-5 March:
Skills, Culture and
Community building on
pre-Christmas
Workshops on Safety
and Security and Town
Centre

Board 30 March to agree
process followed by open
call on 31 March, 16 April
application form
workshop, call will close
8 May



3. Risks

No	Strategic Driver	Topic	Detail
1	Alignment & Partnership	Wide range of organisations and careful alignment	There are a very wide range of organisations active in relation to each of the Pride in Place strategic themes. Failure to ensure careful alignment and coordination with them could lead to duplication of effort, conflicting activities, missed leverage opportunities, or fragmented delivery across themes.
2	Capacity & Inclusivity	Capacity support for less bid-ready organisations	A significant number of organisations would like to submit proposals but would benefit from capacity support to avoid being disadvantaged compared to more bid-ready organisations. Without adequate support (e.g., for developing ideas into viable projects), this risks excluding valuable community-led or smaller VCSE/migrant/faith-based contributions, reducing overall inclusivity and the diversity of ideas received through the open call and commissioning process.
3	Timing, Momentum & Emerging Opportunities	Holding back resources for emerging ideas and quick wins	There is likely to be other ideas and actions arising over the next 12 months, plus a clear appetite for quick progress and early wins to demonstrate momentum. Allocating all resources too early risks missing opportunities to support new/emerging ideas or to fund immediate "quick wins," potentially undermining community confidence, programme momentum, and the ability to respond agilely to

	<input type="checkbox"/>			dependencies between projects.	
4.					

5.	Appendices
	Draft Ideas Form

Appendix

Boston Pride in Place Project Ideas Form

This form is for early project ideas.
You don't need to be an expert or have all the answers.
Short answers are fine.

Part 1: About Your Project

Project Name

(What would you like to call your project?)

Organisation or Group Name

(Who is leading the project? If you are an informal group, just tell us.)

Where will this project happen?

(e.g. town centre, neighbourhood, park, building, school, street)

When could the project start?

(Approximate date is fine)

When could the project finish?

(Approximate date is fine)

How much do you think the project will cost in total? (£)

(A best guess is OK)

How much Pride in Place funding are you asking for? (£)

(You don't have to know this exactly yet)

Part 2: Why This Project Matters

2.1 What is your idea?

Please tell us, in your own words:

- What you want to do
- Who it is for
- Why it is important for Boston

(Imagine explaining it to a friend or neighbour.)

2.2 How does your project help Boston?

Tell us which of these your project supports, and how.

What the project helps with	How does your project help?
Improving the town centre (including housing	
Heritage and culture (history,	
Making people feel safer	
Helping communities (
Supporting young people	
Green spaces and better connections	
More than one of the above	

2.3 What problem does this project solve?

Please explain:

- What isn't working well right now
- Who is affected
- What would happen if nothing changed

(Simple explanations are best.)

2.4 What will your project achieve?

Tell us what will be different because of your project.

Try to be as clear as you can.

Examples:

- 30 local people trained
 - A building brought back into use
 - More young people involved in activities
 - A space improved and used more often
-

Part 3: Other Ideas You Considered

3.1 What other options did you think about?

You don't need lots of detail here.

Idea	What was it? Why did you choose (or not choose) it?	
Option 1		
Option 2		
Your chosen idea		

Part 4: Money (Simple)

4.1 What will the money be spent on?

Please list the main things you would need to pay for.

What is it for? Year 1 (£) Year 2 (£) Total (£)

What is it for?	Year 1 (£)	Year 2 (£)	Total (£)

(Don't worry if this changes later.)

4.2 Other Funding

If you have other funding, please tell us.

Where from? Amount (£) Is it confirmed?

Pride in Place		Requested
Other funding		Yes / No

Part 5: Buying Things or Services

5.1 How will you make sure money is spent wisely?

For example:

- Getting a few quotes
 - Using trusted local suppliers
 - Using volunteers where possible
-

5.2 Does this funding help a business make money?

- No
- Yes

If yes, please explain briefly.

Part 6: Running the Project

6.1 Who will run the project?

Please tell us:

- Who will organise things day-to-day
- What experience they have
- If you need help, what kind of help would be useful?

6.2 What could go wrong?

Every project has risks. We just want to know you've thought about them.

What could go wrong?	How serious?	How would you deal with it?
	Low / Medium / High	

6.3 What happens after the funding ends?

Please tell us:

- How the project will continue (if it will)
 - Who will look after it
 - How it will be kept going
-

Final note

This is not a test and not a full funding application.

We are looking for good ideas that benefit Boston and its communities.



BOSTON TOWN BOARD MEETING
Date 30 March 2026

Agenda Item No:	7		
Report Title:	Communications report – March		
Author:	Michelle Gant	Presenter:	Michelle Gant
		Item For:	
		Information	x
		Discussion	
		Decision	
1.	Report Executive Summary and Main Issues		
	<p>The report summarises communications highlights since February 2026 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications around the Pride in Place workshops; • Towns Fund content around Boston Stump and the Mayflower building; • Boston Town Board involvement in the Town of Culture submission announcement. 		
2.	Detail		
	A: Communications activities		
	Pride in Place:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was sustained communications – including sponsored Facebook content and advertising on Boston Vibe - about the community workshops which took place on 3rd, 4th, and 5th of March. A ‘special’ Chair’s Update was also issued to subscribers. 		
	Towns Fund		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A press release and social media content were published about the lighting installation at the Stump: Boston Stump Set to Illuminate Town’s Skyline – Welcome to Boston Town Deal Website • Boston Mayflower held its official opening on 19th March and work has taken place with the college on communications around this event; • Content was also created – together with a quote from the Interim Chair – around the Mayflower building being named the Development Project of the Year Over £5 Million Award at the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce's Greater Lincolnshire Construction & Property Awards 2026; • The map showing investment in Boston through the Towns Fund was shared on social media and published on the website to tell the story of the difference the funding has made in the town. 		

BOSTON INVESTMENT PROJECT MAP



Town of Culture:

Boston Borough Council has issued a press release about the Town of Culture bid; this includes a quote from the Interim Chair: [Boston Borough Council launches bid to be UK Town of Culture 2028 - Boston Borough Council](#)

Chair's Updates:

A 'community workshops special' Chair's Update was issued in February following on from the regular update that was published earlier in the month.

Upcoming activities:

- Communications around the next steps on Pride in Place plans;
- Communications around the open call for projects;
- Communications on Shodfriars as the scaffolding comes down and the project nears completion;
- Website content review.

Longer term considerations:

- Establishing Instagram/Tik Tok, potentially working with a cohort of young people;
- Branding review to reflect Pride in Place positioning;
- Communications and engagement strategy for Pride in Place 26 – 27;
- Towns Fund programme 'closing out' communications including annual report, press release; social media content, and project case studies as a recorded legacy of the programme.

B: Measurement and evaluation

Traditional media coverage

- ['A fantastic opportunity' - Boston sets sights on becoming UK's first Town of Culture, with £3m up for grabs](#)
- [Boston launches bid to become Town of Culture - BBC News](#)
- [Boston Stump to 'light up the town's skyline' as work begins on new lighting scheme](#)
- [Boston College's Mayflower Campus Wins Major Regional Award - Latest news from Boston, Lincolnshire](#)
- [Local residents invited to take part in Town Board Community Workshops - Latest news from Boston, Lincolnshire](#)

Social media

Facebook

- 2,107 followers
- 6 follows in this period (18.02.26 – 23.03.26)

18.02.26 – 23.03.26

Views: 19.0k

Viewers: 7.4k


Visits: 406

Content interactions: 142

Link clicks: 25

Examples of Facebook engagement:

1. Map of investment in Boston

 Boston Town Board
Published by Michelle Gant · 9 March at 09:58 · 🌐

Over the last few years, [Boston Town Board](#) has been overseeing significant government funding which is being invested in the town.

Now, we've created a map to show you the impact of this investment and how the funding is making a difference in Boston.

This includes completed projects such as the new [Boston College UK](#) Mayflower building and the refurbished [Blenkin Memorial Hall](#), and the remodelling of [Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex](#), the installation of new lighting at [Boston Stump](#), and improvements to [Shodfriars Hall](#) which are all underway.

Find out more about what's happening in our map here 📍



- Views: 4,737
- Interactions: 15

2. Works at Boston Stump (press release)



Boston Town Board

Published by Michelle Gant · 27 February at 11:15 · 🌐

Have you seen the works taking place at [Boston Stump](#)?

These works, carried out by SJG Electrical and Safety Ltd and supported by government funding through [Boston Town Board](#), will improve the internal and external lighting in this iconic building.

Our Interim Chair Claire Foster said: "The new lighting, together with the fantastic refurbishment of the library a few years ago, will strengthen the Stump even more as a place to visit and spend time and will allow it to light up the town's skyline."

Read more here: <https://bostontownboard.co.uk/.../boston-stump-set-to-.../>

Thanks to SJG Electrical and Safety Ltd for the pictures.



- Views: 2,819
- Interactions: 19
- Link clicks: 4

3. Pride in Place community workshops



Boston Town Board

Published by Michelle Gant · 24 February at 17:15 · 🌐

📍 Boston, we need your views!

Our community workshops are taking place at [Boston College UK](#) Mayflower next week:

- 📅 Tuesday 3rd March: Skills, Enterprise and Remote Working
- 📅 Wednesday 4th March: Heritage, Culture and Tourism
- 📅 Thursday 5th March: Community Wellbeing, Safety and Green Spaces

Can you join us?

Send us a message or email us bostontowndeal@boston.gov.uk to book your place today!



- Views: 2,740 (1,597 from ads)
- Interactions: 16
- Link clicks: 9

LinkedIn

18.2.26 – 21.03.26

- 585 followers, increase of 10
- Impressions: 2,772
- Reactions: 79

Examples of LinkedIn engagement

1. Mayflower building award win



- Impressions: 823
- Engagements: 112
- Reactions: 43

2. Community workshop follow-up



- Impressions: 451
- Engagements: 217
- Reactions: 9

3. Works at Boston Stump (press release)



- Impressions: 183
- Engagements: 61
- Reactions: 1

Website engagement

20.02.26 – 21.03.26

- 6.07K impressions (*how many times a user saw a link to Boston Town Board website in search results*)
- 102 total clicks (*how many times a user clicked through to Boston Town Board website*)

Most engaged pages:

- [Home page](#) 26 clicks / 300 impressions
- [About Boston Town Board](#) 10 clicks / 189 impressions
- [Pride in Place community workshops](#) 10 clicks / 57 impressions

‘Boston Town Board’ was the most searched term driving users to the site followed by ‘Shodfriars Hall Boston’.

Chair’s Updates

- 306 subscribers overall

Chair’s Update Community Workshops special edition

- 304 successful deliveries;
- 227 total opens;
- Most popular click through: [Boston Town Board website](#)

Chair’s Update February 2026:

- 307 successful deliveries;
- 215 total opens;
- Most popular click through: [Significant works on Shodfriars Hall](#)

3. Implications / Risk Register (*must be completed*)

Risk Register No.	Strategic Driver	Topic	Detail

4. Recommendation(s) and Proposed Actions

The report is presented for information

5. Circulation and Communication

Board members

The report highlights key messages and activities for communication in the coming months

6. Appendices

Any additional material to be referenced here and coded to each item e,g, Appendix 1 – Detailed data report.