Minutes of the Boston Neighbourhood Board Meeting held on Monday 27 April at 2pm at The Len Medlock Centre, Boston & Via Teams

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Board Members: Claire Foster, Chair - Boston College, Cllr Mike Gilbert - BBC, Alison Fairman, BEM - Community Representative, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Andy Lawrence - Port of Boston, Jacqui Bunce - NHS, Michael Morris - Tonic Health, David Fannin - LVET, Abdul Hamid Qureshi - UKIM Mosque, Inspector Ian Cotton - Lincolnshire Police, Neil Kempster - Chestnut Homes and Richard Tice, MP

Support Team: Pranali Parikh, Maria Cotton, Jon Burgess, Michael Dow, Ivan Annibal, George Gustard, Luisa Stanney and Michelle Gant

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1 Welcome

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

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Tracy Stringfellow.

3 Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were declared.

4 (a) Minutes of the Boston Neighbourhood Board Meeting held on 30 March 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record - proposed by DF and seconded by AL.

(b) Action Plan

Progress against the Action Plan was reviewed. Members noted updates on governance review and engagement actions and agreed that outstanding actions would continue to be monitored and reported.

5 CVS Lincolnshire Board Presentation - Community Masterplan

The Board received and noted a presentation on the One Boston - Communities Together programme and the emerging Community Masterplan from Rachel Gmajner and Philippa Howling of CVS Lincolnshire. Members welcomed the scale and depth of engagement undertaken across Boston's neighbourhoods and noted that the programme was underpinned by extensive place-based engagement, using a combination of outreach activity, facilitated conversations, events and targeted engagement with specific groups, including young people and communities less likely to engage through traditional consultation methods. It was reported that engagement activity had taken place across seven neighbourhoods and had involved residents alongside voluntary and community sector organisations, faith groups, education providers and public services.

The presentation highlighted a number of consistent themes emerging from the engagement, including concerns around safety and perceptions of crime, a desire for stronger pride in place and belonging, limited opportunities for young people, and challenges relating to transport, connectivity and access to services. Particular emphasis was placed on feedback from young people, who reported feeling disconnected from Boston and identified safety, opportunity and transport as key factors influencing their future aspirations. Members also noted the identification of emerging community leaders and the intention to establish a Community Leader Forum to support longer-term, community-led delivery.

The Board discussed the relevance of the Community Masterplan to the Pride in Place programme and welcomed its strong alignment with the Board's strategic priorities, particularly in relation to safety, cohesion and opportunities for young people. Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that the work of CVS Lincolnshire complemented and informed Pride in Place investment decisions rather than duplicating existing activity and recognised the value of the trusted relationships and local insight that CVS Lincolnshire brought to the process. The presentation was welcomed as a strong evidence base to support future project development, commissioning decisions and the transition towards more community-led delivery over the life of the programme.

6 Boston Neighbourhood Board Membership Update, including Chair & Vice Chair

The Board discussed the revised Terms of Reference, noting that they reflected the repurposing of the Board for the Pride in Place programme, clarified roles and responsibilities and set out arrangements for sub-groups, decision-making and the ongoing role of Boston Borough Council as Accountable Body. Members supported the revised Terms of Reference, subject to minor presentational refinements. During the discussion, it was agreed that ET and MC would hold a further discussion to ensure that the Terms of Reference adequately reflected principles of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and inclusive practice. It was also agreed that MC would review the existing Code of Conduct for Board members to determine whether it required updating in light of the revised governance arrangements.

Regarding Board membership it was noted that responsibility for appointing the Chair of the Board sat with the Leader of the Council (Cllr Broughton). Members were advised that Cllr Broughton and RT were due to meet to discuss the position of Chair. RT confirmed that Board members were welcome to submit any views or comments on the Chair and Vice Chair roles directly to them by email in advance of that discussion. It was confirmed that a decision on the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair would be made at the May meeting of the Board. Members noted that the Board continued to meet Pride in Place guidance requirements, including the requirement for the Board to remain resident-led and noted that Lynette Leith, Principal of Boston College, would be invited to join the Board.

7 Communications Update

The Communications Update was noted. Members discussed recent engagement activity and the importance of maintaining consistent branding and messaging across Pride in Place communications.

8 Pride in Place Programme Update

The Board received an update on progress with the Pride in Place programme, including the launch of the call for project ideas and the commissioning discussions that had been taking place with potential delivery partners. Members noted that a broad range of ideas were emerging and welcomed the level of interest generated to date. However, discussion focused on the need to ensure that proposals were not only aligned with the programme's priorities but were realistic, deliverable and capable of being phased appropriately across the four-year investment period. Concerns were raised about the risk of over-commitment in the early years of the programme and the importance of retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to emerging opportunities and avoid constraining future investment choices.

Members discussed the balance between revenue and capital proposals, noting that there was currently a heavier emphasis on revenue-based activity and emphasised the importance of shaping and commissioning projects where necessary rather than relying solely on open submissions. The Board stressed that Pride in Place should be outcome-focused, with proposals clearly demonstrating how they would contribute to improved community safety, town centre confidence, opportunities for young people and long-term change, rather than being treated as a general funding programme.

The Board emphasised the importance of robust assessment and governance as the programme moved forward. It was noted that detailed consideration of proposals would take place through the agreed sub-group arrangements, with recommendations brought back to the Board for decision. Members highlighted the need for transparency, consistency and clear rationale in funding decisions, particularly where projects were interdependent or spanned multiple themes. The update was noted and members agreed that the next phase should focus on strengthening proposals, managing risk and ensuring that investment decisions reflected both ambition and deliverability.

9 Community Safety Officers - Update

The Board considered a detailed update on the Community Safety Officer (CSO) service. Officers outlined the activity delivered since the service commenced in August 2025, including high levels of visible patrol, engagement with businesses and residents, partnership working with the police and other enforcement agencies and contributions to tackling anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

Members discussed the qualitative and quantitative impact of the CSOs, including their role in providing reassurance, early intervention, intelligence sharing and support to wider enforcement activity. Reference was made to the breadth of activity delivered and the positive feedback received from partners and town centre stakeholders.

The Board discussed the options presented for continuation of the service and the potential relationship between Community Safety Officer provision and Pride in Place objectives. Members emphasised the importance of considering the CSO model alongside other emerging Pride in Place safety and security proposals to ensure a fair, transparent and holistic approach to investment decisions.

Members recognised the value of maintaining continuity of the service in the short term to avoid loss of momentum and visibility, whilst avoiding pre-empting longer-term funding decisions that should be taken in the context of the overall Pride in Place investment plan.

The Board agreed to approve a further three-month extension of the Community Safety Officer service only, to ensure continuity of provision. It was further agreed that any proposal for longer-term funding or extension of the service would be considered alongside other bids for Pride in Place funding through the agreed assessment process. MD to action.

10 Any Other Business

Members were advised that Luisa Stanney had been appointed as Pride in Place Programme Manager for both Boston and Spalding.

11 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 28 May 2026 at 2.00 pm - Mayflower, Boston College.