Minutes of the Boston Neighbourhood Board Meeting
held on Monday 22 June at 2pm
Via Teams

Board Members:	Claire Foster – Cultural Compact (Interim Chair), Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Cllr Mike Gilbert - BBC, Alison Fairman - BEM - Community Representative, Andy Lawrence - Port of Boston, Jacqui Bunce - NHS, David Fannin - LVET, Inspector Ian Cotton - Lincolnshire Police, Neil Kempster - Chestnut Homes, Lynette Leith – Boston College, Toby Ellyatt Dawson – Away Resorts, Tracy Stringfellow – Heritage Lincolnshire and Richard Tice, MP
Support Team:	Maria Cotton, Jon Burgess, George Gustard, Luisa Stanney, Amber Lawson and Michelle Gant

1. Welcome

Claire Foster, opened the meeting and welcomed all members. The Chair noted that this would be her final meeting as interim Chair and formally welcomed new members to the Board. Board members gave personal introductions.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Michael Morris and Abdul Hamid Qureshi.

3. Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

4(a). Minutes of the Meeting Held on 27 April 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. The approval was proposed by Jacqui Bunce and seconded by Andy Lawrence.

4(b). Action Plan

The Board reviewed progress against the Action Plan. It was noted that updates on Community Safety Officers would continue to be provided to the Board, while the Terms of Reference would be reviewed at the next meeting under the new Chair. The Sport England presentation had been deferred to a future meeting, and the Boston Business Association update would be scheduled for August. Members agreed that all outstanding actions would remain under review.

5. Pride in Place Programme

Project Selection

The Board received a detailed update on the Pride in Place Programme outcomes from the subgroup meetings. It was reported that 64 expressions of interest had been reviewed across four meetings, and a structured approach had been developed to prioritise projects.

The subgroup recommended that the Board approve a set of "quick win" projects to deliver early visible impact for residents, alongside a longer-term process for developing remaining proposals through themed cluster groups. Members acknowledged the significant effort from community organisations in submitting proposals and supported the need to demonstrate early delivery while ensuring alignment with the Boston 2030 vision.

Discussion emphasised the importance of collaboration, with members agreeing that clustering projects by theme would maximise impact, reduce duplication, and support partnership working. It was confirmed that cluster groups, led by Board members, would be established to further develop proposals, ensure community involvement, and refine project delivery.

Members considered the financial implications and noted that the quick win projects would utilise the available Year 1 funding allocation, with a small potential overspend on revenue. It was also noted that capital funding remained partially unallocated and that additional capacity funding was available. The Board accepted this approach, recognising the importance of demonstrating early spend while retaining flexibility for future investment decisions.

The Board approved in principle the quick win projects, subject to due diligence and further refinement, and endorsed the establishment of thematic cluster groups to progress remaining proposals. It was agreed that cluster leads would meet outside of the Board to confirm roles, responsibilities and timelines.

Actions:

- Schedule initial meeting for cluster leads (LS)
- 'Quick win' projects agreed – need to be contacted and progressed to grant funding agreement (LS/AL)

Boston Tour of Britain Men's Cycling Event

The Board considered a proposal to support the Boston stage of the Tour of Britain Men's Cycling Event. Members welcomed the opportunity to promote Boston on a national platform and recognised the potential to increase civic pride, tourism, and community engagement.
Discussion focused on ensuring maximum impact through partnership working, including engagement with schools, community groups and local organisations. Members stressed the importance of showcasing Boston's heritage and ensuring strong visual presentation along the route.

Following consideration of the options presented, the Board agreed to support the event and approved funding at the "gold" level, up to £50,000, subject to final costs and value-for-money considerations. It was agreed that the delivery team would proceed with planning and provide updates to future meetings.

Actions:

- Tour of Britain agreed at 'Gold' level – proposals, plans and eventually impact needs reporting back to board (MC)
- Look at connecting with local organisations and other partners on animating the route and the town (MC)

6. Boston Town Deal – Projects Update

The Board received and noted an update on the Boston Town Deal programme. Members were informed that four of the seven approved projects had been completed.

The Boston Leisure project remained on track for completion by March 2027, and the Healing High Street project continued to progress in partnership with the Heritage Trust.

Members welcomed the positive progress across the programme and discussed the importance of capturing lessons learned from completed projects. Although formal evaluation would be undertaken by central government, the Board agreed that local evaluation and reflection should also take place to inform future investment decisions within the Pride in Place Programme.

Actions:

- Evaluate Town Board projects – lessons learned (JB)
- Report on how Completed Town Deal projects have been branded (JB)

7. Communications Update

The Board noted the communications update, including recent activity to promote the Pride in Place Programme and the transition in Board leadership. Members discussed the importance of maintaining consistent branding and messaging, particularly in relation to quick win projects and visible delivery.

It was highlighted that engagement activity with young people involved over 900 participants, with findings being used to inform programme priorities. Members supported the development of a communications toolkit and agreed that funded projects should be clearly branded to increase visibility and public awareness. It was also noted that feedback would be provided to applicants who submitted expressions of interest.

8. Capacity Funding – Verbal Update

The Board received a verbal update on capacity funding. Members noted that approximately £180,000 of capacity funding remained unallocated, with a further £150,000 expected allocation. It was agreed that this funding could support programme delivery, including addressing revenue pressures and enabling further development of projects. The update was noted.

9. Any Other Business

The Board agreed that the Boston Business Association should be invited to formally join the Board, with representation from its Chair or Vice Chair. Arrangements would be made for introductory discussions ahead of the next meeting.

Members formally acknowledged and thanked Claire Foster for her leadership as interim Chair and David Fannin for his contribution as Vice Chair. Emma Tatlow was confirmed as the incoming Chair, with arrangements for appointing a new Vice Chair to be considered in due course.

Action:

- Boston Business Association to be contacted and invited to attend and potentially join the board as a member (MC)

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 30 July 2026 at 2.00 pm - Mayflower, Boston College.