

Profile

COMMUNITY PROFILE



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Local Trust Big Local



What is Big Local?

Background

Big Local is an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to use at least £1million to make a lasting positive difference to their communities.

Central Boston has been selected as one of these areas and we are in the early stages of applying for the first instalment from the £1 million to help the residents from within the Boston Big Local area as defined on the map.

Local Trust is the national organisation running Big Local. Big Local funding comes from a £200m plus investment from the Big Lottery Fund. Local Trust's mission is to enable people to make their communities better places to live. They do this by helping them develop and use their skills and confidence to identify what matters most to them, and to take action to change things for the better, now and in the future. They provide a mix of funding and support to enable long-term sustainable change, maximise impact and make the best use of resources.

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Our Big Local Partnership

A Big Local partnership has been formed to guide the overall direction of Big Local in Boston and has been hard at work for several months. A diverse range of residents and local organisations has already been actively involved, but we would like more people to get involved and tell us how we should spend the £1 million!

Who are the key people?

You are! As residents from within the Boston Big Local area as defined by the map.

Unlike lots of big initiatives, this is about putting residents in charge. Everybody in our area can input on the plans and decisions. We get access to lots of support, including a Big Local rep, but this is basically your shout.

You have at least £1m and at least 10 years to make it happen.

Exploring our Big Local Vision

This is about thinking through how our area might change for the better.

What do people like now?

What should change?

What can we do to build on what is already good about our area?

What are the existing talents, skills and abilities of people locally?



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Creating the Big Local plan

Through the community consultation, we now have a clear vision based on local needs and aspirations and emerging themes of action.

Our plan needs to build on what is already good about our area, provide community-wide benefit, and respond to local needs.

Delivering our Big Local plan

Delivering our agreed plan will involve a range of activities, such as creating a small grants programme for our area, using 'social investment' approaches, and paying for specialist services like training.

What it's not about

- "It's **NOT** about the government or a national organisation telling you what to do.
- "It's **NOT** about individual groups fixing their favourite problem without talking to a wide range of different people who live and work in their community.
- "It's **NOT** about short-term thinking we've got 10 years or more to plan and deliver the best options for our area.

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What can you do?

- "Fill in a questionnaire
- "Leave comments on our Facebook page
- "Tweet us
- " Join our meetings
- "Volunteer to help
- "Share your skills and talents
- " Tell your friends and neighbours about Big Local
- "Invite us to your group meetings
- "Support our forthcoming activities

Contacts

Email: info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk

Twitter: @bostonbiglocal

Facebook: fb.com/bostonbiglocal

www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk

Big Local Rep: Bill Badham

bill@practicalparticipation.co.uk



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Introduction:

The Boston Big Local area was chosen by the Big Lottery based on the recognition that it was an area of significant need. The Boston Big Local profile has been written as a collaborative document by members of the Boston Big Local Steering group in consultation with many local groups, residents, organisations and statutory bodies.

Where ever possible we have attempted to use data from recognised authoritative reports and have verified data from other sources.

The aim of the group in writing this profile is to provide a base line for the Big Local Plan and give all readers an honest and unbiased view of Boston and the Big Local area, whilst representing the very varied views of the residents. Over the last 6 years there have been various initiatives to address local concerns. In 2009 a civic mediation programme delivered by The Centre for Good Relations, was instigated by the Borough Council; this involved facilitated workshops involving Civic Leaders, migrant workers, service providers, the voluntary sector and the Boston public. In October 2011 in the latter stages of the Good Relations programme Boston Borough Council set up a Task and Finish Group to address issues raised by this programme. The work of the Task and Finish Group resulted in the Social Impact of In January 2012 the Alchemy Project was launched to Population Report. foster a better understanding of the town 's culturally diverse community via a bespoke programme of creative activities including creative writing, film making, drama, dance and music.

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The Borough Council also instigated a Residents Sounding Board - to gauge opinion and enable communities to take their concerns directly to the service provider. Following on from the Alchemy Project a group of residents and Centre for Good Relations trained mediators set up the Boston Community Forum, bringing the diverse groups of Boston into a mediated environment to continue the difficult conversations around migration. Following the publication of the Task and Finish report the Community Forum were asked to become the critical friend to the Borough and took on the role of the residents ' sounding board. Lincolnshire Police set up a Tension Monitoring Group in inviting community leaders and organisations to take part and flag up local tensions as they arose.

Simultaneously to all the aforementioned the Borough Council in partnership with Lincolnshire CVS, the Health and Wellbeing Fund, Lincolnshire Police and Lincolnshire County Council formed 5 Placecheck groups in and around the town centre. The aim of the project was to engage and empower resident lead community groups to allow greater control and ownership over the decisions which shaped their lives and local environments. Each group was funded with running costs and awarded £10,000 each to spend on "U Decide" projects (participatory budgeting) which had been highlighted in each groups action plan. Many of the current members of the Boston Big Local steering group are members of Placecheck groups, and we have used feedback from the these groups along side our Big Local surveys and consultation events to inform this profile.

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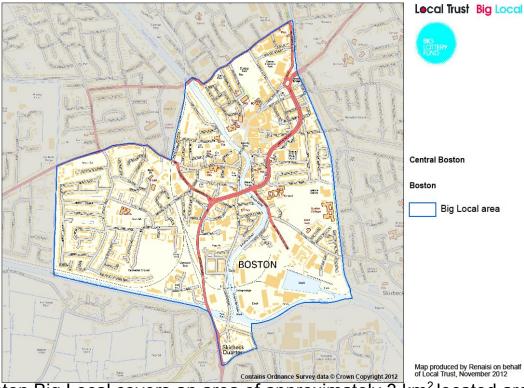


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Boston Big Local Area:



Boston Big Local covers an area of approximately 3 km² located around the town centre of Boston. This area contains the retail core, administrative offices for the Borough Council, Police Station, railway and bus station, a large central park, markets, port, football grounds and sports facilities, historic buildings, schools, colleges and training establishments, cinema, theatre, clubs, pubs, restaurants and fast food outlets. For a full list of streets names within the Big Local area please see annex A.

NB: the boundaries link to ONS (Office of National Statistics) lower super output areas and while any line is somewhat arbitrary, this profile supports these as the accepted boundary for our Big Local area.



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History:

Although Boston is not directly mentioned in the Doomsday Book of 1086 various nearby settlements are, in particular the settlement of Skirbeck, located at the head of the River Haven which now lies under the present market place. Skirbeck had two churches one of which is thought to have been dedicated to St Botolph, it is widely believed therefore that the name Boston is a contraction of St Botolph 's Town. The first recorded usage of the name Boston is in the *Registrum Antiquissimum* of Lincoln Cathedral in 1090.

The original settlement and development of Boston as a trading centre was facilitated by the position of a Devensian terminal moraine ridge at a point where navigable tidal waters lay alongside land routes. By the 13th Century Boston was a leading provincial port for the Hanseatic League as the second largest port in England being the leading wool exporter at a time when wool was England 's major export.

Market Fairs which often ran from June to September also attracted merchants from Europe with many merchants making their homes in the town. In the heart of the Boston Big Local area located around the Market Place is the Central Conservation area, whilst many of the buildings appear to be Georgian and Victorian in age the street form is largely medieval with sinuous streets and narrow lanes and passages that contrast with the informal space of the Market Place. Behind some frontages of shops and businesses are the remnants of medieval buildings such as the Guildhall, the



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remains of the Dominican Friary, and the timber framed Shodfriars Hall. Within the central conservation area are three Grade I listed buildings - St Botolph 's Church, Fydell House and the Guildhall and adjoining gate and seventy two Grade II listed buildings or objects, with a further thirty nine sensitive buildings. Most of the listed buildings are in Church Close, Church Street, Wormgate, Market Place and South Street. Many other listed buildings can also be found outside this central area.

Notable people with links to Boston include: Wisselus Smalenburg, Sir Joseph Banks, Sir John Franklin, Matthew Flinders, Pishey Thompson, George Bass, Catherine Mumford Booth, Anne Bradstreet, Herbert Ingram, Jean Inglow, John Cotton, John Foxe, John Taverner, John Leverett and the Pilgrim Fathers.

Boston Overview:

The Borough of Boston covers an area of 225 sq kilometres, located to the west of The Wash. The town of Boston is situated in the heart of a prime agricultural area, serving a wider population of over 100,000 as a social, retail and employment centre.

Boston has a rich history as a medieval port, market town, religious and trading centre. The parish church of St. Botolph 's known locally as "The Stump" is second only in importance to Lincoln Cathedral in its historic and architectural significance in the county.



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According to the Governments Index of Multiple Deprivation (2010) Boston Borough is ranked as the 65th most deprived council area in England.

Census 2011 figures indicate that Boston now has the highest percentage of non British EU passport holders outside of London at 12.1% reflecting major population changes and their social impacts in recent years.

The unprecedented growth and change in population within Boston has had numerous consequences, bringing an increase in the demand for public services, education, health, policing and council services, all of which have been slow to respond to the needs of the residents. Boston has become a target area for anti-European political parties who have capitalised on the fears of the indigenous population.

The Rural Services Network, indicates that Boston has the lowest average wages in Lincolnshire reflecting the main employment industries of food production, processing and packaging. Low wages, zero hour contracts and increasing prices have resulted in fewer people being able to purchase their own homes, thus the private rented sector has grown to account for 17% of the Borough 's housing stock, the private rented sector has exploited this demand pushing rents higher in comparison with neighbouring areas. The density of occupation of existing rented accommodation has increased, whilst within the private rented sector a proportion of landlords have allowed their housing stock to fall below the minimum standards required.



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Population:

In 2001 the Census figures showed Boston as having a population of 55,750 with 98.5% indicating they were White British. Ten years later, the 2011 Census showed that our official population had risen to 64,600, an increase of 15.9%. This increase is more than 50% higher than the county rate of growth and twice that of the national rate.

Over the last 13 years Boston has experienced an unprecedented population increase due to the arrival of migrant workers from European Countries, seeking employment mainly in agriculture and food processing. Within the Boston Big Local area the 2011 Census showed a population of 12,056. Compared to 2001 Census figures, when the population of the Boston Big Local area was 9,551 this indicates that the population has increase by 20.7%.

The 2011 Census show that within the Boston Big Local area: 65.3% of the population describe themselves as White/English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British. 29.6 % as White/other white. Information received from Boston College indicates that 76 languages other than English are spoken in Boston with Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian being the most prevalent.

Please see page 14 for table of Ethnicity of Boston Big Local Population.



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Population cont:

The Census 2011 data shows that the population of the Boston Big Local area is 12,056. Recent reports however from Boston Borough Council and GP Surgeries indicated that this population could be between 12% to 22% higher, giving the BBL area population anywhere between 13,507 and 14,708.

Table showing the Ethnicity of Boston Big Local Population Data source: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/

7884
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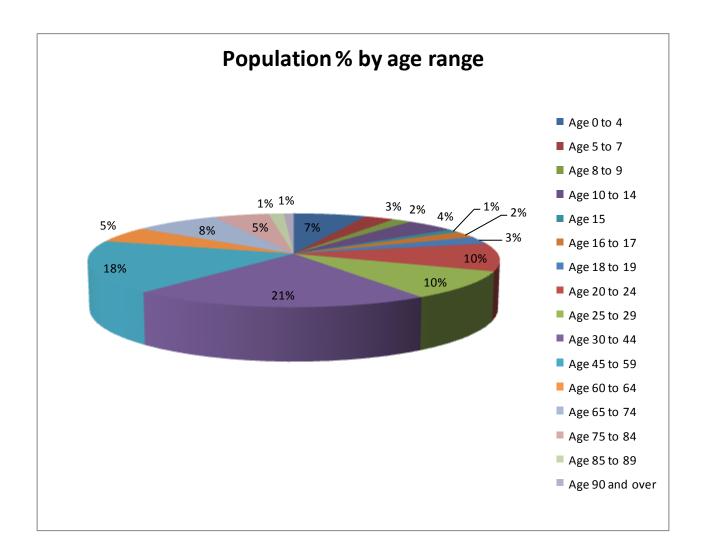
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Population cont.

Statistical analysis of the Boston Big Local population indicate that: 1,994 residents are aged between 0 - 16 years representing 16.54% of the total population. 8,256 are aged between 17 – 64 years old 68.48% and 1,806 are aged 65 years and over a total of 14.98%.





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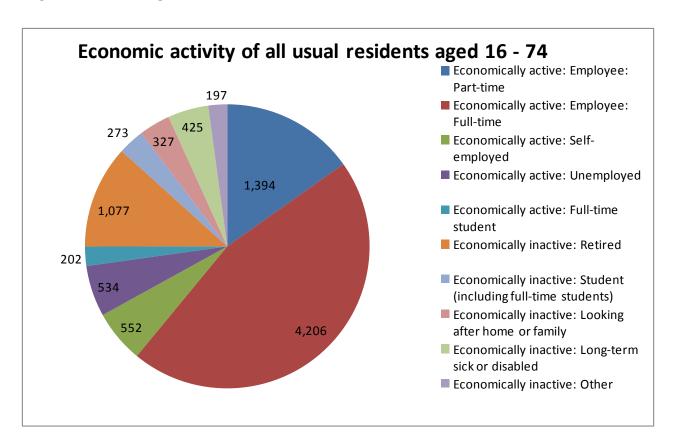
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Employment:

Economic activity: relates to whether or not a person who was aged 16 - 74 was working or looking for work in the week before the census. Rather than a simple indicator of whether or not someone was currently in employment it provides a measure of whether or not a person was an active participant in the labour market.

Pie chart showing the economic activity of all usual residents in the Boston Big Local area aged 16-74. Based on 2011 census data.





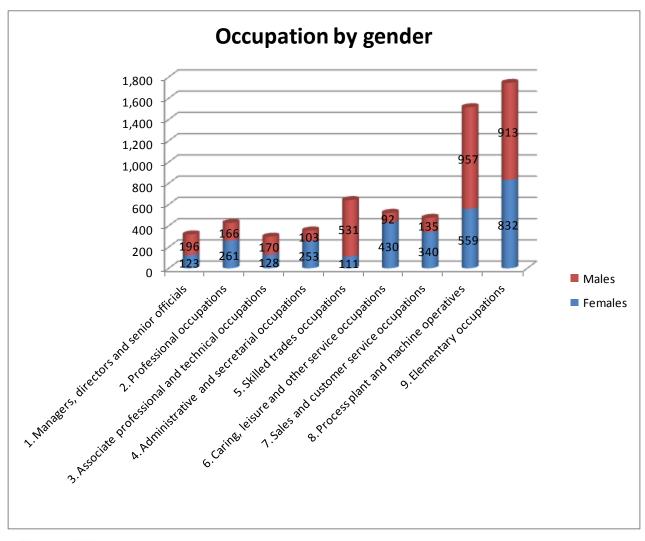
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Employment cont.

The graph below shows that the highest proportion of employment of residents within the Boston Big Local area are within low skilled (often low paid) elementary occupations and process plant and machine operatives. Of the 6,300 people employed 3,261 (51.76%) are within these two categories.

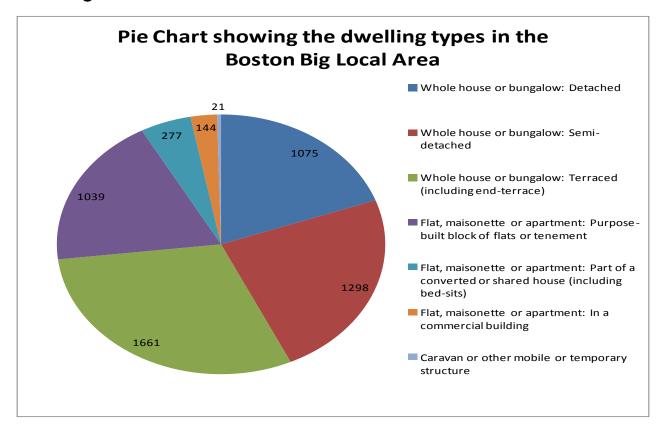




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Housing:



Housing within the Boston Big Local area is mixed from detached houses and bungalows to semidetached houses, terraced houses, flats, maisonettes, apartments and caravans or mobile homes. The age of the homes also varies considerably from new builds to homes which are over 100 years old. Of the 5220 homes in the area 25% are owned outright, 22% owned with a mortgage or loan, 1% are part rented, part owned, 6% are rented from the local authority, 13% are rented from social housing providers, 30% are privately rented from a landlord or letting agency,

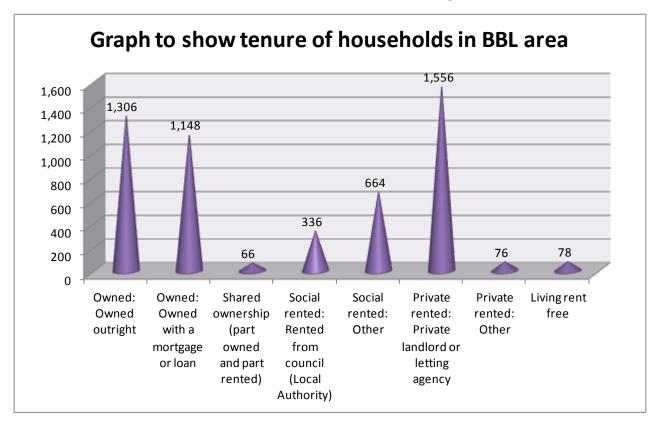


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Housing cont:

1% are rented from another source and 1% are living rent free.



The National Housing Federation's October 2014 report "Broken Market, Broken Dreams" reveals the gap between the level of earnings and the cost of housing in Boston

On 2013 figures from the ONS Annual Survey of Earnings and Land Registry data, the report notes that Boston 's average house price at £132,695 was the lowest in Lincolnshire and with average earnings at £19,141, an average house costs 6.9 times the average salary for one person. To afford an 80% mortgage in Boston the buyer would need an



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Housing cont:

average household salary of £30,322.

In the private rented sector the Federation highlights that mean rents (£560 per month) have risen by 8.3% between 2011 and 2013, this rise is the 5th highest in the region and many parents fear that their children will be unable to afford to buy a house in the area when they grow up.

The study also shows that in May 2014, 29.3% of people claiming housing benefit in Boston are in employment and the borough has only 255 "long – term vacant" homes.

Within the private rented sector Boston Borough Council has highlighted the relationship between the construction date of properties and the rates of Category 1 hazards. Please see this relationship in the table below for Boston 's town ward which covers the Big Local area.

Construction date	% Private Rented Accommodation	% Cat 1 Hazard
Pre 1919	26.4	47.4
1919 - 1944	9.7	46.4
1945 - 1964	17.5	25.2
1965 - 1980	27.4	22.5
1981 - 1990	4.3	2.7
Post 1990	14.7	3.3



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Housing cont:

As has already been stated in the profile the population of Boston has increased by 15.9% between the period 2001-2011.

A report to the council in August 2013 stated: "Over the borough as a whole the private rented sector property numbers have doubled in the ten year period to 2011. With overall net new housing delivery at c 2,800 for the same period, it is therefore evident that many new properties in Boston have ended up as build to let and a number of previously owner occupied properties have moved into the private rented sector. Average household numbers in England have reduced from 3.1 in 2001 to 2.4 in 2011, this would therefore indicate higher than average levels of multiple occupation in Boston. Electoral registration forms have not been received from over 3,400 (c.12%) of properties in Boston in the past year; this adds to the argument (transient numbers aside) that the population of Boston could be significantly higher than the last census and mid 2012 population projection shows! " (from Boston Borough Council Selective and/or Additional Licensing in Boston Borough — An evidence base).

The issues that have arisen around multiply occupied housing are: low level anti-social behaviour associated with high intensity living, poor property management, below standard living conditions, additional noise, refuse often presented poorly, and additional vehicles creating parking problems.



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Housing cont:

"Whilst the Council is aware of and indeed works with many excellent landlords and letting agents, information demonstrates that parts of the sector are poorly controlled with many tenants themselves facing anti social practices from some landlords and agents" (from Selective and/or Additional Licensing in Boston Borough – An evidence base).

To combat the activities of rogue landlords Boston Borough Council have set up a confidential hotline for tenants: Rogue Landlords hotline: 01205 314333.

The benefits system and the impact of changes on Boston.

Boston is consistently among the four areas in the country with the lowest average family income, has the lowest average wage of the 77 predominately rural district councils and is the 4th worse for area for the proportion of workers earning under £7 per hour (30.4%). This means that benefits form a disproportionately large part of the local economy and any changes that reduce amounts paid or delay payment again can have a disproportionate effect. For example Boston has the largest proportion of the population (34%) in receipt of in-work tax credits.



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The benefits system and the impact of changes on Boston cont.

The impact on the community of changes to the benefit system can be illustrated by the changes to Council Tax Support (CTS). Up until 2012 a household could receive 100% discount on the council tax they would otherwise be liable to pay. The Government reduced by 12.5% the support it gives to local authorities to provide this relief, which meant local authorities had to either reduce the relief given or meet the shortfall from their reserves. The Government also protected pensioners from any reduction and limited any reduction to a maximum of 25%.

Claimants and benefits in Boston before the changes to Council Tax support

Group	Number	% (Number)	Amount benefit paid
Working Age	3194	50.05%	£2,442,344
Pensioners	3187	49.95%	£2,447,234

Total benefit paid £4,889,578



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The benefits system and the impact of changes on Boston cont.

As pensioners were ring fenced and formed approximately half of those in receipt of benefit, this resulted in the impact on the working age recipients being doubled. By 2014 the cuts have resulted over £800,000 being taken out of the local economy. At the end of 2013/14 there was £172,000 outstanding in arrears relating to council tax support cases.

2014 figures

Group	Number	% (Number)	Amount benefit paid
Working	3140	49.63%	£1,711,699
Age			
Pensioners	3187	50.37%	£2,376,740

Total benefit paid £4,088,438

The introduction of "Bedroom Tax" (a reduction in housing benefit for spare bedrooms in social housing) last year has affected 360 households in the borough area. Of those, 80 households had requested to downsize, 53 have moved and 30 further households were being supported to move to properties appropriate to their housing needs.



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The benefits system and the impact of changes on Boston cont.

At a recent meeting of Boston Borough Council 's Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee evidence was taken from the CAB (Citizen Advice Bureau) and Boston Mayflower Housing Association as to the impact on the community of changes in the benefits system. The CAB had experienced a 22% increase in people seeking advice on housing and benefit related issues compared to the same period for 2012/13. The CAB confirmed that changes to benefits following the Welfare Reform Programme had adversely affected low income families. They also highlighted that delays in processing Personal Independence Payments, with many facing delays of over a year, had caused financial and emotional distress to a considerable number of people and affected the economy of the local area.



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Transport:

Both the bus station and train station are within the Boston Big Local area. Brylaine provides the Boston Town Service consisting of three circular routes every 30 minutes around the town centre;

Brylain, Carnell, Kymes, and Stagecoach provide other services to Pilgrim Hospital, Skegness, Horncastle, Spilsby, Spalding, Fishtoft, and Kirton.

However many of the services do no operate on Sundays and Bank Holidays and do not start early enough in the morning or finish late enough at night to make bus travel to work and back a viable option.

The nearest international airport to Boston is Humberside being 57 miles with East Midlands Airport being 69.4 miles distance.

Train transport service is provided by East Midlands trains to Skegness and Nottingham services. All other destinations thereon require a change.

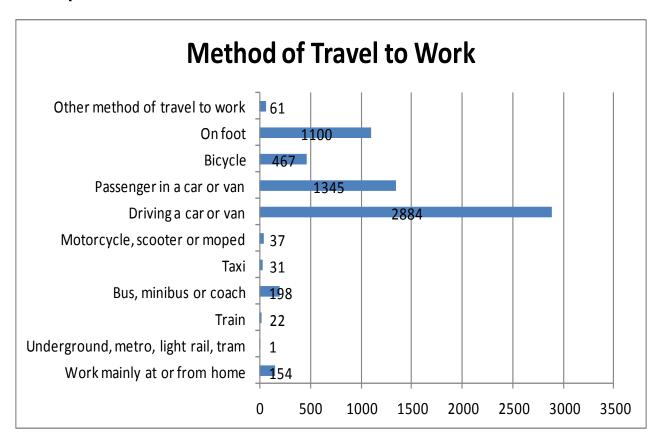
The easiest method of travel in and around Boston is therefore by private transport, cycle or on foot. In total there are 4,481 cars or vans owned by the residents of the Big Local area, with 2,394 households owning 1 car or van, 752 households with 2 cars or vans, 126 with 3 cars or vans and 46 with 4 or more cars or vans.



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Transport cont:



Road traffic collisions in Boston have decreased slightly in the last 4 years and make up in the region of 10% of all collisions in Lincolnshire as a whole. The table below shows the collision rates, casualties and the seriousness of the incidents by year for the Borough of Boston.

Year	Collisions	Casualties	Fatal	Serious	Slight
2009	213	306	6	33	267
2010	248	337	2	30	305
2011	244	343	2	30	311
2012	247	345	4	33	308
2013	239	337	3	42	292



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Transport cont:

Issues that concern residents, businesses and visitors alike are the state of the roads in and around Boston, pot holes, mud from farm vehicles on roads, roads in need of resurfacing, road works, traffic congestion and parking costs.

For many years the people of Boston have asked for a by-pass, to help ease traffic congestion, in the 2007 local elections the Boston Bypass Independents contested all 32 seats of Boston Borough Council and won 25 seats to become the first party to take overall control of the council since the borough formed in 1972. Although the party campaigned on a wide range of issues the principal issue was for the vigorous promotion of a bypass for the town. Despite their campaign a bypass was not forthcoming and at the elections in 2011 the overall majority was lost to the Conservative Party.

Parking issues revolve around the cost of parking, and illegal parking.

Many residents have expressed the view that they would now rather shop out of town than pay the parking charges.



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Deprivation

Deprivation covers a broad range of issues and refers to unmet needs caused by a lack of resources of all kinds including: income, employment, health, education, crime, housing, and living environment.

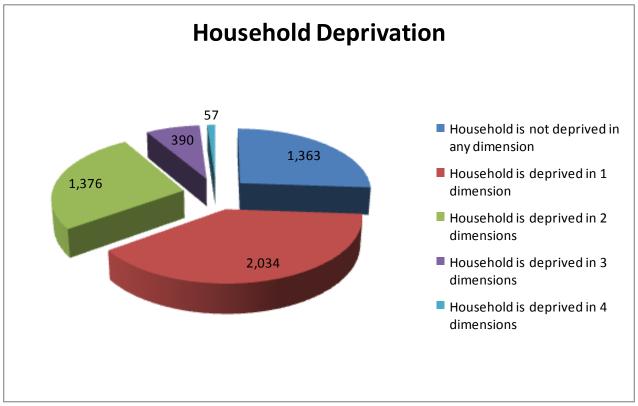
In 2010 Boston Borough was ranked as the 65th most deprived council area in England out of 326 local authorities, with 17.7% (2,100) children living in poverty. Within the Boston Big Local area of the 5,220 households, 1,363 households were not considered as deprived whilst 3,857 households were considered to be deprived in at least one or more categories of deprivation. The classification of household deprivation indicators are based on four selected household characteristics - with a household being deprived if they meet one or more of the following four conditions:

- 1. Employment any member of the household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- 2. Education no person in the household has a least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a fulltime student.
- 3. Health and disability any person in the household has general health described as bad or very bad or has a long term health problem.
- Housing accommodation is either overcrowded or is a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.



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Whilst overall life expectancy for both men and women is similar to the national average, in the most deprived areas of Boston the life expectancy of both men and women is lower than the national average, being 8.8 years lower for men and 3.6 years lower for women.

A recent report from the CAB indicates that recent reforms of benefits system have left many people out of pocket - delays in sickness and disability benefits were causing hardship. 30% of all vouchers for the local food bank issued by CAB are due to benefit delays and stoppages.



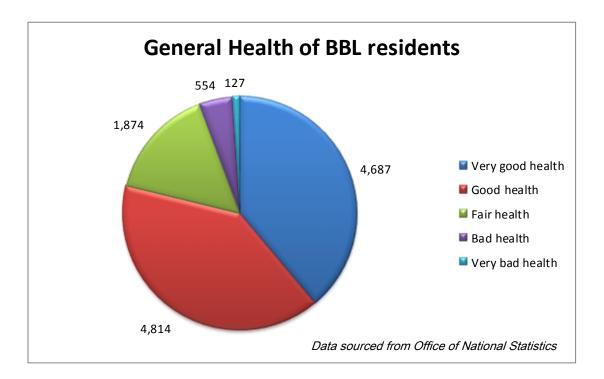
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Health

The health of people in Boston is varied in comparison with the England averages. Within the Boston Big local area the residents have described their health as below:



Compared to national averages for the whole of Boston: by Year 6, 22% of all school children are classified as obese. In 2012, 26.8% of adults were classified as obese, with diabetes being significantly worse than national averages. Estimated levels of physical activity are worse than the average for England. Rates of alcohol-related harm and rates of self-harm stays in hospital were worse than the England averages.



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Health cont:

Smoking related deaths at 260 were better than average and sexually transmitted infections are better than average. Rates of statutory homelessness and long term unemployment are better than average. Early deaths from cardiovascular diseases are worse than average as are the rate of people killed and seriously injured on roads.

Local priorities in Boston include:

- Promoting healthier lifestyles
- Improving the health and wellbeing of older people
- Addressing housing and financial capability issues

(Sourced from Health and Wellbeing in Boston - A Strategic Framework 2014 - 2017, Boston Borough Council)

Other priorities which have been recognised in Boston include:

- Reducing inequalities for children
- Road safety
- Reducing violent crime
- Smoking & alcohol health issues
- Reducing obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes
 (Boston Strategic Health Group)



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Education:

Within the Boston Big Local area are various educational establishments, ranging from the Staniland Academy offering nursery, reception to year six education. Boston Pioneers Free School Academy offering a "stage - not age "approach to teaching, Boston Grammar School for boys aged 11-18 with a co-ed sixth form, and Boston College offering courses from ages 16+ from 3D art to working with children. Courses are offered at the various college sites ranging from foundation-entry level courses for students with learning disabilities and/or disabilities at the Ingelow Centre, to the Sam Newson Music Centre for Music and Performing Arts. The Workers Educational Association (WEA) offers part-time adult educational classes and the Boston Lithuanian School both meeting at Fydell House. The University of the 3rd Age hold monthly meetings at the Pilgrim Lounge. Other training establishments within the area include TaylorITEX CIC, offering community learning, and Nacro - a crime reduction charity helping young offenders get back into education, training or employment. Boston has seen a year on year increase in the number of students sitting the 11+ and a slight increase in the percentage number of qualifying students each year.

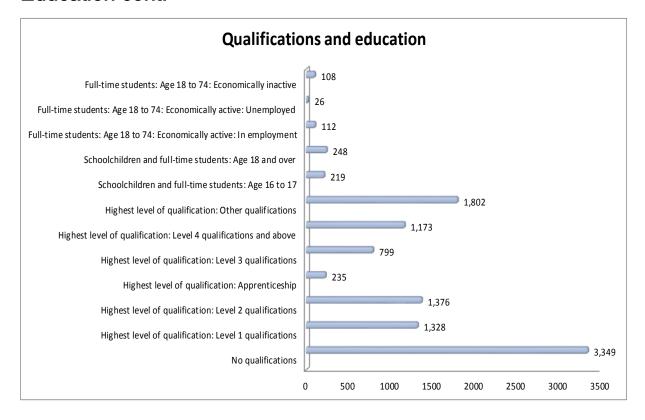
Educational attainment in Boston is below the national average, with 3,349 residents in the Boston Big Local area having no qualifications. Please see graph overleaf for qualifications and education.



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Education cont:



Residents ' issues of concern surrounding education have included the lack of availability and sufficiency of school places, funding provision, fears that non - English speaking pupils would have an adverse effect upon attainment levels and that language barriers would create more pressures within the classroom. Conversations with pupils, teachers and academy principals indicate that there had been a transitional period when things were not easy but schools had worked hard to adapt and tensions have been alleviated. All educational establishments are "proactive in promoting integration and sharing cultural experiences." (Social Impact of Population report).



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Crime:

"Latest figures from the CSEW (Crime Survey for England and Wales) show there were an estimated 7.3 million incidents of crime against households and resident adults (aged 16 and over) in England and Wales for the year ending March 2014. This represents a 14% decrease compared with the previous year 's survey, and is the lowest estimate since the survey began in 1981." ONS Crime Survey England and Wales Ending March 2014. This trend is also reflected in the Boston Big Local area with reported crime reducing year on year: 2011 – 3454, 2012 – 3273, 2013 - 2872 and in 2014 - 1928 reported crimes from Jan to August. Statistical data shows that although there is a slight increase in shoplifting, there has been a significant drop in criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in the Boston Big Local area. Violence and sexual offences have seen a decrease in the last 3 years, although the current figures still remain higher than the national average.

Perception of crime is sometimes at variance with the statistical data, possibly reflecting a more generalised anxiety about crime rather than being based on personal experience.

Within Boston as a whole there is a sense from certain sections of the community that "high crime levels" are directly related to the number of new arrivals in the area, with the new arrivals being blamed for "all the ills in society". These issues were clearly addressed in the Social Impact of Population Change led by Boston Borough Council.



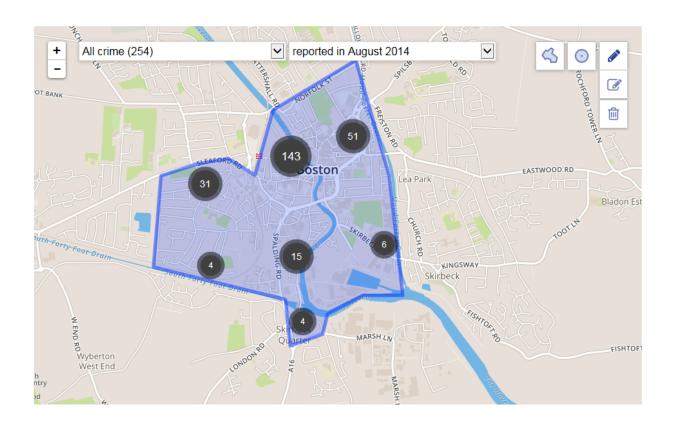
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Crime cont:

The Placecheck reports indicate that residents concerns are mainly based around anti-social behaviour related specifically towards, street drinking, litter, fly-tipping, dog fouling, drug abuse, graffiti and acts of public urination and defecation.



Above map of Boston Big Local area with all crime figures for August 2014 - Source: www.police.uk/lincolnshire/



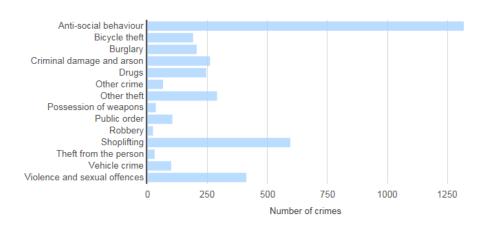
Local Trust Big Local



Crime cont:

From conversations with the both the resident and new arrival communities there appears to be a reluctance to actually report crime as there is a sense that the authorities will do nothing to address peoples 'concerns. Within the new arrival community there is also an historical fear of the police and authorities, which may stem from a large proportion of the new arrivals coming from former Eastern Bloc states. In order to build better communications and relationships the Boston Police have recently recruited five new arrival volunteers to work with them.

Crime Types in this area between May 2013 and August 2014



Above: Graph to show the comparison of crimes within the Boston Big Local area.



Local Trust Big Local

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Placecheck feedback:

The following information has been taken from all of the Placecheck reports in the area. The area of Boston Big Local encompasses all of the High Street area, all of Witham Central and part of the Main Ridge East.

Key: HS - High Street, CR - Carlton Road, MRE - Main Ridge East WE - Witham East, WC - Witham Central

Things you most dislike about your area		Place	echeck	Areas		
	HS	MRE	CR	WE	WC	Priority
						_
Unemptied Bins / Litter / Bottles	1	1	1	1	1	5
Too many cars / Poor Parking	1	1	1	1	1	5
Drunks / Anti-social behaviour	1	1	1	1	1	5
Dog Poo	1	1	1	1		4
Too Fast Traffic		1	11		1	4
Wheelie Bins left in street	1	1	1			3
Unclean / Blocked Pavements	1	1				2
Poor Lighting	1			1		2
Boarded-up / Derelict Buildings	1				1	2
Fly Tipping / Shopping Trolleys	1	1				2
Car damaged grass verges		1		1		2
Street Urination / Defecation			1		1	2
School pick-up / drop-off congestion			1	1		2
Graffiti				1	1	2
Drugs	1					1
Derelict / Waste Land	1					1
Blocked Drains	1					1
Vandalism		1				1
No Community Spirit		1				1
Under-use of Facilities			1			1
Isolation & Fear			1			1
Non-accountability of Landlords			1			1
Homeless / Rough Sleepers					1	1



Local Trust Big Local



Community consultation: looking ahead

Having looked at some of the history and background to the town and the statistical information about the current situation in Boston Big Local, this section indicates what has taken place as part of the community consultation and how this has informed our emerging vision, aims, approach and themes.

Boston Big Local was launched in December 2012. A number of activities took place in the New Year, including a supermarket stall and survey.

In the Spring of 2014, a group of local people felt the range and depth of consultation was not sufficient to ground the plan in a detailed enough appreciation of local residents and other interested groups ideas and thoughts.

A further survey was created and conducted on line and at a local event. Findings were collated and summarised.

Summary of consultation activities:

Information distributed about Boston Big Local

- 1500 Boston Big Local background information leaflets
- 5500 locally produced leaflets from Boston Big Local to all homes and businesses within the area.



Local Trust Big Local

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Community consultation:

Events

- Christmas 2013 Haven High with 60-70 people
- Showcase September 2013 with 100 people
- Consultation in Oct 2014 with 70 people
- Presentations to WI, Horticultural Society, Boston in Bloom
 Committee with 155 people

Surveys and questionnaires

- 130 early initial questionnaires
- Summer events 60
- Oct 16 2014: 109

Social media

- 408 Twitter followers
- 118 Facebook contacts
- Dedicated website

In July the leadership team held an away day to review and reflect on progress. The group drafted a vision statement and considered what the emerging priority areas were from what residents and others had told them.



Local Trust Big Local



Community consultation:

At a steering group meeting in late July these drafts were compared with earlier drafts to form an agreed summary position.

The next step undertaken by the steering group was to take each of the emerging four themes and group all the considerable range of ideas and suggestions for activities to be funded under each of these themes.

It was this work that then fed into the community consultation event at Age UK in Boston town centre on 16 October. The preparation for this event enabled BBL to refine its message. The event itself allowed it to be reviewed /revised by those taking part.

- The team, the posters and other materials spoke strongly and clearly about what Boston Big Local is about and stands for.
- Over 70 people came through the door at Age UK (great venue and welcome) and took part in the consultation. Of this number, about half were resident in the Boston Big Local area, with the others being nonresidents and workers.
- From this, we have confirmation that the vision, approach and 4 themes are robust and stand up.



Local Trust Big Local



Community consultation: looking ahead

- We know much more about which of the long list of activities under each theme are front runners to fund and which are the main ideas on what Boston Big Local should influence and inform others to do.
- We know that residents would wish to allocate about 32% of funding to a more attractive environment and about 32% of funding to greater community spirit, with about 24% for health and wellbeing and 10% for enterprise. When workers and non-residents views are added in, the order of funding priorities remains the same, with a bit more funding going to building enterprise and a bit less funding to greater community spirit.
- There was interest and coverage from the media and lots of activity on social media. Sarah Colbert and Bill Badham were interviewed live on BBC Radio Lincolnshire and this clip has been well received including across the whole Big Local national programme. You can listen in here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p027tvxd about ten minutes in. Or Access the Radio Interview via Google+. There was also coverage in the Boston Target, Boston Standard, and Boston Bulletin.



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Community consultation: looking ahead

- We know that for most of the people who took part they want to keep in touch, some by simply staying in contact, a few by helping do things when needed and a number of residents from the Boston Big Local area wanting to help run things. This is encouraging news indeed.
- Over 100 surveys were completed round and about the town centre, undertaken by a star team of 12 Boston College students. The vast majority of respondents lived within the heart of the Boston area.
- We know from these surveys that people like the town because of its history, parks, friendly atmosphere, shops, opportunities and family ties and roots. We know there is a desire for more shops especially regarding clothes for children and frustration and aggravation caused by traffic, car parking congestion and road works. We know that, while many value and appreciate the diversity of cultures in Boston, there is much more to be done around building an inclusive community that values all residents.



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What do people like about the area?

This question was asked at the events and through the surveys and questionnaires as detailed above. One person summed up their views by saying, "I like everything." Another commented, "I like that there are lots of people from different countries that I can meet."

A summary of findings in people 's own words is given here.

- The Heritage and historic centre of Boston, its buildings such as St Botolph 's (the Stump), Blackfriars, Fydell House and the Mayflower
- Diverse community, multi-racial and multi-cultural society, peaceful and quiet
- Personal connection, family history, friends and the friendliness of local people: "the people are chilled."
- Educational opportunities and good schools
- Locally sourced food
- Jobs and business opportunities
- Public places such as the gardens, parks, the harbour, the river and market
- Facilities such as the shops, including eastern European shops,
 cinema, sports and swimming pool and lots to do



Local Trust Big Local



What do people like about the area? cont:

- Infrastructure of roads, buses and railway, recently improved disability access
- The environment being reasonably clean and tidy and there being space
- Access to nature, wildlife and open spaces and tranquillity in less urbanised parts of the area
- Good climate



Local Trust Big Local



Taking stock

From all the work indicated above drawing together the stats and the stories, Boston Big Local is ready to build its plan.

Our vision, guiding principles and approach

- Our vision is for a happy vibrant area where people feel a sense of belonging.
- We aim to enhance the local area for the benefit of residents and businesses.
- Our objectives are to build closer communications between all people, make the area more attractive, encourage new businesses and help make the facilities better, improve the environment for all and help ensure cleaner and safer streets.



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Taking stock cont:

Our Guiding Principles are to be:

- Open, honest, even-handed inclusive and fair
- Active in the community, sharing our vision, listening to and hearing what the Community wants and needs
- Enabling sustainable environmentally sound projects that are locally run and that benefit as large a section of the community as possible
- Be the best we can, self-challenging, adaptable, impartial,
 transparent and accountable in all our dealings with the community.

Our approach is to utilise what we have got and to maximise it, avoiding wasting money and challenging red tape.

Boston Big Local can help the community work towards achieving this shared vision by:

- Make grants to local groups to take forward projects which are working towards achieving the Boston Big Local shared vision.
- Commission work through existing local agencies to provide ways to help the vision to be achieved.
- Support social investment and social enterprise and encourage local entrepreneurs.



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Our long term shared vision for the Boston Big Local area is:

- A place where people live happy, healthy lives, where people feel included, valued and engaged.
- A place where access to the arts and sporting activities are readily available to all.
- A place which encourages people to participate in and take ownership of their community, creating a strong community spirit and a sense of pride in their surroundings.
- A more cohesive community, bringing together peoples of different nationalities, cultures and faiths, generating mutual respect and understanding, valuing the contributions that each brings to our community.
- A place where older people, people with disabilities and vulnerable people are considered and valued, where barriers of social isolation no longer exist and facilities are accessible and inclusive for all.
- A place that is attractive cared for and where people feel safe. A
 place that is welcoming and interesting to both visitors and residents
 alike.
- A place where financial exclusion is reduced, where the aspirations
 of young people are high and where investing in their potential to
 develop new skills and creating new opportunities is encouraged.



Local Trust Big Local



Our long term shared vision cont:

- A place where Boston market and the historic centre is rejuvenated and once again enjoys the prestige of serving as a key hub in the lives of the people of Lincolnshire.
- A place where community facilities are well used, thriving and sustainable, providing a wide range of activities for all ages, faiths and cultures.
- A place where people are more engaged, with wider networks and improved communications between local groups, organisations, agencies and the residents they serve.
- A place that encourages education and training where innovation and new opportunities are embraced and where people feel supported enough to take risks and where we all have a brighter sustainable future leaving a legacy for generations to come.



Local Trust Big Local



Themes and funding allocation

There are four principle themes for helping Boston Big Local area become an even better place to live. The event allowed for refining of ideas around activities to fund and issues for Boston Big Local to take on and inform and influence others about and gave a sense of the amount to be spent. All the data has been collected and analysed. Below is a summary of findings.

From our community consultation we know that the consensus is currently for an even spread of funding over the ten years, drawing roughly equally on the £1m each year. We recognise that a larger initiative may arise later and that the funding pattern may therefore alter. But for the time being as we move toward building the plan, we anticipate an annual spend of about £100,000. We anticipate the plan being a two year plan, running from April 2015 to March 2017.

Theme 1: Improving health and wellbeing (24% of funding allocation proposed by residents and 23% from everyone at the event)

Sports, leisure, arts and health

To develop opportunities and initiatives for residents to become more health aware, including sign posting to existing schemes and facilities.



Local Trust Big Local



The activities that have been given priority cluster around these headings:

Non-formal arts, culture and sport opportunities for young people

Places to go and things to do for older residents

Accessible (free) swimming for children

Arts, crafts and music for the community with accessible opportunities for Eastern European residents

Support for the Butterfly Hospice and its palliative and end of life care.

It seems that:

- Activities rather than facilities are the focus for funding relating to sport.
- Accessible community based facilities as well as activities need to be funded relating to arts and culture.
- There are two clear and defined things to fund specifically, Fydell House and Butterfly Hospice. These could be through a community chest pot, covering all four themes.
- There are three activities relating to economic inclusion which should be moved to theme 4 on enterprise, highlighting activity helping tackle poverty.
- There may be a principle partnership with for example Boston Body Hub, with funding for specific activities and improved information and signposting.



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There are two informing and influencing issues for Boston Big Local that stand out from the table above: promoting healthy living and improved policing.

An additional point was made by one resident:

"Provide guidance and signposting to help the community discover where these facilities already exist."

Theme 2: Creating a more attractive environment (32% of funding allocation proposed by residents and 31% from everyone taking part)

Green spaces, amenity, improving the look of the town

To support voluntary organisations, statuary bodies and local businesses to create a greener, cleaner, safer Big Local area.

The activities that have been given priority cluster around improving the look and feel of the area, both shops and residential neighbourhoods. A lead partner such as Boston in Bloom and strong links with council bodies will be essential to achieve these outcomes. As a resident focused programme, it will be important to ensure emphasis on where people live rather than only where they shop.



Local Trust Big Local



Safe cycle routes, car parking and traffic are the principle priorities for residents and other people for Boston Big Local to inform and influence others about. In addition, residents would also like to see more lollypop people, toilet facilities and improvements to the riverbank.

Theme 3: Building community spirit (32% of funding allocation proposed by residents and 26% from everyone taking part)

Civic pride, image, heritage, community facilities

To help build a greater sense of community spirit and public pride, appreciation of our diversity and participation in community life.

The activities that have been given priority cluster around the heading of community events to draw people from different backgrounds together.

It seems that:

- A local partnership events planning committee that is inclusive of different community groups may need to be formed and supported with an annual allocation of money to plan and put on different activities. It maybe that Showcase offers this opportunity for collaboration.
- Support to getting the Hanse League established and providing some targeted funding for activities may also be an effective approach.



Local Trust Big Local



There is one clear priority that emerges for Boston Big Local to inform and influence others to take forward and that is building links across cultures and communities.

Theme 4: Encouraging enterprise (12% of funding allocation proposed by residents and 20% from everyone taking part)

Local enterprise, economy, tourism

To work in partnership to help Boston become stronger, resilient and forward thinking, with an entrepreneurial spirit and successful enterprise culture.

The activities that have been given priority cluster around these headings:

- Making more of Boston 's history and tourism (this is the highest score for any activity across all themes)
- Accessible grants for local groups
- Encouraging enterprise among local people.

It seems that:

Small grants pots for activity and enterprise are very popular. The first can be responded to through a community chest grants pot for example for between £500 and £1000 grants. The second links to the partnership with UnLtd and enterprise awards could be advertised through the community chest.



Local Trust Big Local



- A fuller enquiry could be made and funded in the initial plan about how to support a community enterprise type hub. The existing Boosting the Local Economy working group could be well placed to take this on.
- Economic inclusion and links to credit unions are matters raised in theme one that may best fit here in theme 4.

The theme of encouraging enterprise has a great deal of potential for informing and influencing others and this may indicate that Boston Big Local should look to sustain and build upon the Boosting the Local Economy working group and activity in order to priorities and take on some of these issues, While free parking and another supermarket and cheap clothes and household goods store are not among the priorities of those residents who took part, there is strong agreement on other priorities for Boston Big Local to inform and influence others about, including lower parking prices, an information centre, help to Blackfriars, utilising the river for access and tourism.

Next steps

Boston Big Local is now set to develop relationships with potential partners helping to realise the vision and deliver on the plan when created and approved. It is ready to build a partnership board based on residents within the Boston Big Local area. It is ready to draft the delivery plan. Boston Big Local hopes to have a draft completed for discussion by the New Year and finalised so that it can be approved and launched in April 2015.



Local Trust Big Local

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Annex A:

Street list and post codes for the Boston Big Local Area:

Street Name	<u>Postcode</u>
Acacia Way	PE21 8A (U,X,Y)
Albert Terrace	PE21 8EN
Albion Terrace	PE21 6QS
Alford Terrace	PE21 8PS
Alfred Street	PE21 6DN
Angel Lane	No registered addresses
Archer Lane	PE21 6NR
Artillary Row	PE21 6TY
Bank Street	No registered addresses
Bath Gardens	PE21 6BY
Bedford Place	PE21 8UD
Blue Street	PE21 8UW
Bond Street	PE21 8XT
Botolph Street	PE21 6TU
Bradford Road	PE21 8BJ
Bramley Lane	PE21 8EZ
Bridge Street	PE21 8QF
Broadfield Lane	PE21 8D(R,W,Q)
Broadfield Street	PE21 8XA
Carver Road	PE21 8BH
Chapel Passage	PE21 8TR
Chapel Street	PE21 6PY
Charles Street	PE21 6DW
Cherry Gardens	No registered addresses
Cherry Walk	PE21 8A(S,T,Z) 8BA
Church Close	PE21 6NA
Church Lane	PE21 6ND
Colley Street	PE21 6NT
Cornhill Lane	PE21 6EZ
Craythorne Lane	PE21 6HA
Custom House Lane	PE21 6HH



Local Trust Big Local

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Annex A cont:

Daisy Dale	PE21 6D(R,S)
Dolphin Lane	PE21 6EU
Drakards Lane	PE21 6DB
Duke Street	PE21 8UY
Eaton Road	PE21 8DZ
Edwin Street	PE21 8T(E,F)
Elsham Terrace	PE21 8PY
Emery Lane	PE21 8QA
Field Street	PE21 6TR
Fishermans Court	PE21 8AG
Foster Street	PE21 6TS
Fountains Lane	No registered addresses
Frampton Place	PE21 8E(T,L)
Francis Bernard Close	PE21 8BL
Freiston Terrace (Haven Village)	PE21 8GA
Friars Gate	PE21 8BF
Fydell Cres	PE21 8SS
George Street	PE21 8X(F,Q)
Grants Lane	PE21 6TL
Greyfriars Lane	No registered addresses
Grove Street East	PE21 6TE
Grove Street West	PE21 6TL
Hamilton Way	PE21 8TT
Hartley Street	PE21 9BS
Haven Bank	PE21 8SB
Haven Court	No registered addresses
Heather Close	PE21 8AE
Hessle Ave	PE21 8D(A,D,E)
Hessle Court	PE21 8AJ
Hessle Drive	PE21 8BZ
High Street	PE21 8(SX,SH.TA,SP,TG,TJ,TH)
Holbeach Terrace	PE21 8GD
Horncastle Road	PE21 9B(U,N,D)



Local Trust Big Local

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Annex A cont:

Irby Place	PE21 8SE
Irby Street	PE21 8SA
Ivy Cres	PE21 8BP
James Street	PE21 8RD
John Adams Way	PE21 6TQ (AL)
King Street	PE21 8UR(U,X)
Kingston Terrace (Haven Village)	PE21 8FE
Lawrence Lane	PE21 8QD
Leicester Square	PE21 8RR
Lincoln Lane	PE21 8RU (SJ,QS)
Linley Drive	PE21 7EL
Liquorpond Street	PE21 8UF (J)
Lister Way	No registered addresses
London Road	PE21 8AA (H, 7DD, AG, 7EH,7HB,7HZ,7EZ)
Main Ridge East	PE21 6ST
Main Ridge West	PE21 6QQ (G, SS)
Manor Gardens	PE21 6JG (Q,H,J)
Market Place	PE21 6NH
Marsh Lane	PE21 7QS
Mastin's Lane	PE21 6SX
Matthew Flinders Way	PE21 8BN
Maud Street	PE21 6PT
Melbourne Terrace	PE21 8FJ
Middlecott Close	PE21 7RD
Mitre Lane	PE21 6EB
Morton Terrace	PE21 8GB
Muster Roll Lane	PE21 6DT (U)
National Terrace	PE21 6QT
Nelson Way	PE21 8TS (UA)
Norfolk Court	PE21 8UP
Norfolk Street	PE21 9HQ
North Street	PE21 9BX
Oakham Terrace (Haven Village)	PE21 8PZ
Oxford Street	PE21 8TP(W)



Local Trust Big Local

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Annex A cont:

Paddock Grove	PE21 8QL
Park Gardens	PE21 6RL
Pearl Terrace (Haven Village)	PE21 8FF
Peck Ave	PE21 8DG (T,F,H,Q)
Pen Street	PE21 6TJ (F)
Pilgrim Road	PE21 6JW
Pipe Office Lane	PE21 8RS
Post Office Lane	No registered addresses
Pulvertoft Lane	PE21 8TB
Pump Square	PE21 6QW (RA)
Quaker Lane	PE21 6DX (D, BZ)
Queens Road	PE21 9AA
Queens Street	PE21 8XB
Ransom Place	No registered addresses
Red Lion Street	PE21 6NY (PZ)
Redbourne Terrace	PE21 8PX
Redstone Caravan Park	PE21 8AL
Redstone Industrial Est.	PE21 8EA
Redstone Road	PE21 8EA
Revesby Ave	PE21 8EW (P,R,S)
Revesby Close	PE21 8HA
Rose Place	PE21 6DF
Rosegarth Street	PE21 8QU
Rowley Road	PE21 6JE (D)
Shodfriars Lane	No registered addresses
Sibsey Lane	PE21 6HD
Skirbeck Road	PE21 6DA (Q,G,AN,AP,AR,AW,AS)
Sleaford Road A52	PE21 8EQ (G,H)
South End	PE21 6JX (Y,AB)
South Square	PE21 6JU (HX,HL)
South Terrace	PE21 6BA
Spain Court	PE21 6HS
Spain Lane	PE21 6HP (Y)
Spalding Road	PE21 8XL



Local Trust Big Local

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Annex A cont:

Spayne Place	PE21 6HN
Spayne Road	PE21 6JP (T)
St Botolphs Crescent	PE21 8FA
St Botolphs Mews	PE21 6QR
St Johns Road	PE21 6BE (G)
St Peter's Lane	PE21 6SL
St. Ann's Lane	PE21 8TN
St. George's Road	PE21 8YB
St. James's Street	PE21 6BE
St. Marks Terrace	PE21 6PX
St. Thomas Court	PE21 7RX
Staniland Road	PE21 8BE (G,D)
Station Approach	PE21 8RN (P)
Station Street	PE21 8RL
Stells Lane	PE21 8AB
Strait Bargate	PE21 6LR (J,EE,F,W)
Sutton Terrace (Haven Village)	PE21 8GE
Tannery Close	PE21 8DB
Tawney Street	PE21 6PA (RS,D)
Tennyson Close	PE21 8DJ (L,N)
Thornton Ave	PE21 8BY
Thorold Street	PE21 6PH
Threadneedle Street	PE21 6SP
Tooley Street	PE21 6DP
Tower Gardens	PE21 6DH
Tower Street	PE21 8RX
Trafalgar Place	PE21 8RB
Trinity Street	PE21 8RJ (XX)
Tunnard Street	PE21 6PL
Union Court	PE21 6PS
Union Place	PE21 6PS
Union Street	PE21 6PT
Victoria Place	PE21 8UL



Local Trust Big Local

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Annex A cont:

Walden Gardens	PE21 8XG
West Row	PE21 8RA
West Street	PE21 8QN (RE,H,Z,E)
Westfield Ave	PE21 8AW
White Cross Lane	No registered addresses
Whitehorse Lane	PE21 8SZ
Wide Bargate	PE21 6RY (SR,SH,SN,RT,RY)
Windsor Terrance	PE21 6TB
Witham Place	PE21 6LG (Q)
Witham Street	PE21 6PU
Woodville Gardens East	PE21 8BX
Woodville Gardens West	PE21 8BW
Woodville Road	PE21 8AN (BB,P,R,BT,BU)
Worm Gate	PE21 6NR (S,P)
Wyberton Low Road	PE21 7RF
Wyberton West Road	PE21 7JJ
York Court	No registered addresses
York Street	PE21 6JN (L)



COMMUNITY PROFILE



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Local Trust Big Local

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Boston Big Local would also like to thank:

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The Boston Big Local Steering Group

Boston Borough Council

Lincolnshire County Council

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

Boston Borough Council, Anti-social behaviour unit

Boston Police

Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service

Boston Citizens Advice Bureau

Boston College

Age UK Boston

We would also like to thank our readers in advance for your time and interest.

Any questions or comments should be addressed by email to: info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk

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