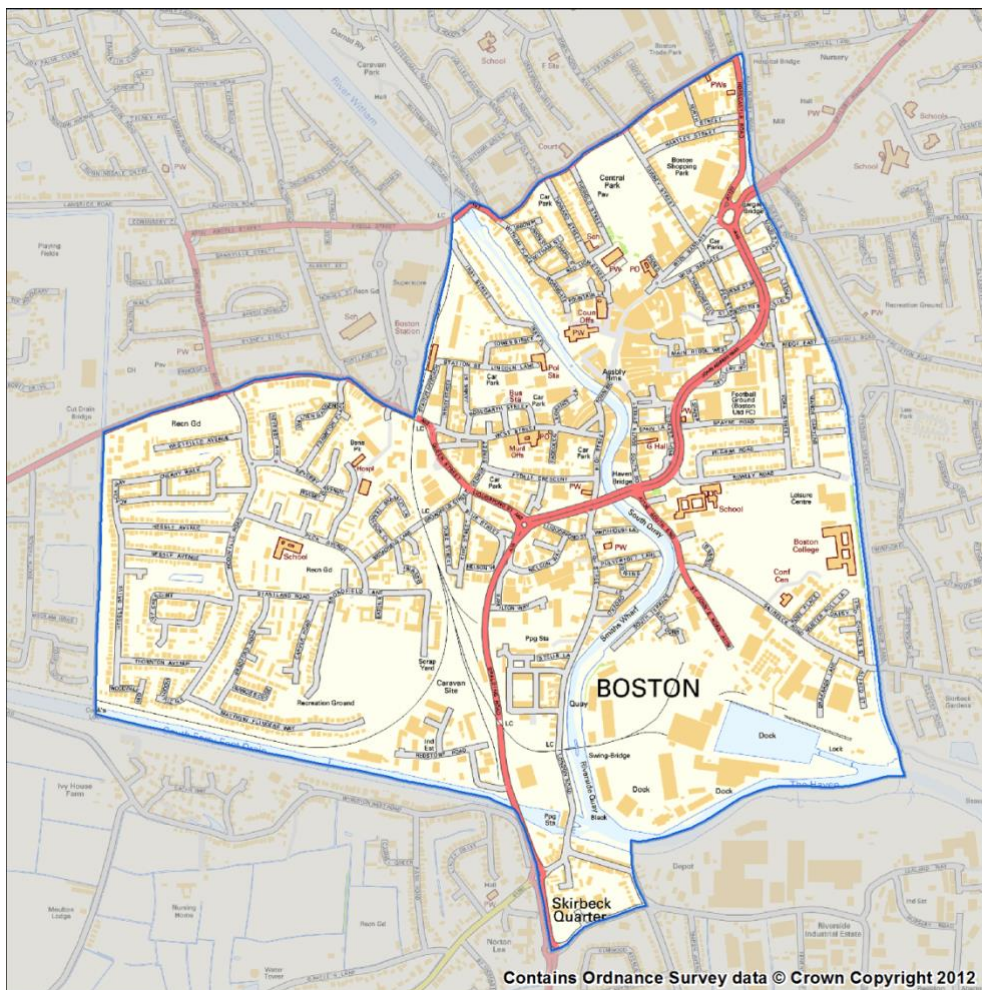




*Residents Leading Change*

## Big Local Plan Review April 2021 – March 2023



[www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk](http://www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk)

 [facebook.com/bostonbiglocal](https://facebook.com/bostonbiglocal)

 [@bostonbiglocal](https://twitter.com/bostonbiglocal)

# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Our vision and intended legacy</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Our achievements and learning</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Our legacy</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>4. Looking forward</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## Introduction

Boston Big Local is one of 150 areas that have been awarded £1,199,500 to make a lasting and positive difference to their local community.

Boston Big Local funding is a ten year programme aiming to make a big difference to the local area and long-lasting change to the lives of those people living and working in the area.

The project is being steered by a resident Partnership and overseen by Age UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire, which is acting as the Local Trusted Organisation (LTO) for the project. Age UK is the country's largest charity dedicated to helping everyone make the most of later life. The Age UK network comprises around 170 local Age UKs reaching most of England. Age UK has offices within the Boston Big Local area.

The whole of Big Local will finish in March 2026. Boston Big Local is working to a ten year delivery programme, on course to be completed at the current rate of expenditure in March 2024. The final plan will cover the one year between April 2023 and end of March 2024. This will be followed by a closing out period of a few months. This plan review is for the fourth plan, covering the two year period from April 2021 until March 2023. Progress is reviewed each year, activities are checked each quarter by the partnership and there is continuous community engagement to ensure that the priorities reflect the needs of the area and that Boston Big Local is led and managed well and in line with the Big Local ethos and our guiding values and principles.

We have continued our community engagement in a range of ways, including through our quarterly newsletters and social media, events, quarterly review of activity reports and partner feedback. We have also reviewed the most recent census data. These sources have informed our plan review, confirming to the Partnership that the initial vision, our priorities and the funded activities still hold true and continue to reflect the needs of the Boston Big Local area. Our focus on community connection and capacity among residents and local groups has proved all the more relevant during the post Covid-19 pandemic recovery.

This plan review was conducted by scrutinising information from partners over the last two years, feedback from residents, data from the latest census and reflections by the partnership over the course of a number of our monthly meetings over the winter of 2022 and 2023. It adds new and updated insights and where there is continuing relevance, retains elements arising from previous reviews, especially around developing and securing our legacy.

# 1. Our vision and intended legacy

Boston Big Local is a third wave Big Local area and continues to build community involvement through our planning, delivery and review cycle.

Our vision arose through the Getting Started phase of Big Local in Boston, including surveys, the profile and community events. The steering group then reviewed all material and from this process, drew out emerging themes which informed the wording of our vision.

The Partnership was formed in 2015 and meets monthly to steer BBL and to review activities and projects to ensure that they uphold our original vision.

**Our vision and intended legacy** 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.

**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.
- A place where Boston's market and 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.

## 2. Our achievements and learning 2021 and 2023

### 2.1 What we have done against the existing plan (plan review qu1)

There has been good progress across all themes and priorities. We keep track and report action and change on our website <http://bostonbiglocal.co.uk/category/whatschanged/> and the [newsletters](#) and through social media, [Facebook](#) and Twitter.

We have actioned most of the projects included in the plan. Of these 27 activity lines as set out in the table below, 21 we have coded green as good and successful projects with the intended outcomes for local residents.

- The Beach event was bigger and better still this year; the chances of it become a legacy project with continuing support from the council, are increasing. The 2023 Beach event has been committed from the underspend in this current Plan.
- Success of Boston UK Monopoly and the Trump cards has been huge. Benefits include income raised by charities and greater footfall to their shops as well as raising the profile of the town and giving a positive feel good factor. Underspends were achieved within the Boston Monopoly project due to financial support from the Empowering Healthy Communities funding via Boston Borough Council.
- Every community within the BBL are scheduled to receive refurbished or new play equipment. The final play area – St John’s Road – is within the tendering cycle at the local authority however is likely to be completed in 2023-24. Such has been the commitment that after the arson attack on the Pirate Ship, it is being rebuilt with no request for Boston Big Local funding.
- Arts for Dementia, the Samaritans, the Friendly Bench and Citizens Advice, are examples of Boston Big Local’s support to organisation reaching out to those who may be lonely, isolated, in difficulty or distressed.
- Further funding to Boston Community Transport is an example of swift action to help a vital group pinched by spiralling costs thus ensuring its continuation.
- Boston in Bloom continues to win gold with the backing of Boston Big Local.
- The Book Festival may become an annual event thanks to Boston Big Local.
- Immediate support to the Boston Belle may prove decisive in its survival.

Four projects we coded orange, projects that partially met the intended outcomes.

- 1.1.2 The Woodcarvers have done some excellent work but of minimal benefit to those living in the BBL area.
- 1.3.1 BOSFIT has developed its leisure offer but it has not maximised the benefit to residents within the Boston Big Local area. At the end of the first year of this current Plan, while our investment saw the introduction of a popular class, it was clear that demand for the service had reduced significantly now that people were returning to face-to-face classes in general.
- 3.1.3 Community engagement activity happened through other events such as the Beach event over the summer or the AGM and consultation in October and the quarterly newsletters and social media. In addition Fran Taylor has consulted children and parents about play facilities and developments. We have however not required any deeper dive into resident views in reviewing or in building the new plan given the extensive consultation in early 2021.
- 3.2.1 The intended exhibitions with Neil Watson Photography never materialised in part due to Covid, but a book was produced in which Boston Big Local was honoured.

Two projects we coded red by the partnership. The partnership has been tracking these and keeping in touch with the lead organisation.



- 2.1.1 The council led environmental awareness campaign has never truly got started and only a little funding has been spent on equipment given to local litter-pickers.
- 2.2.2 The feasibility of the ambitious Five Lamps project is becoming questionable as no specialist company can undertake the necessary removal, restoration and re-siting work.

Through consultation and partnership discussion, the group is minded to continue to fund for one final year those coded green below in the table below that were not once off funding projects which are denoted by \*.

### Boston Big Local funded activities 2021 – 2023; traffic light coded

<u>Theme 1: Improving health and wellbeing</u>		
Priority 1	Provide opportunities to improve resident wellbeing through accessible arts and craft	1. Arts Project (The Story in Stitch)
		2. Arts Project (Boston Wood Carvers)
Priority 2	Provide opportunities to improve residents' health and wellbeing through arts and crafts for those with dementia and their carers	1. Arts for Dementia (Lincolnshire Housing Project)
Priority 3	Provide opportunities to improve residents' health and wellbeing through online fitness activities for all residents	1. BOSFIT (Boston Borough Council)
Priority 4	Provide opportunities to improve residents' health and wellbeing through education and interactive events for all residents	1. Increasing Mental Wellbeing Sessions and Ongoing Support (Samaritans)
Priority 5	Provide support to groups and residents relating to health and wellbeing needs	1. Support towards increasing fuel and maintenance costs for volunteers Boston Community Transport) *
		1. Contribution towards Restore Pantry Manager role ( Restore Church) *
<u>Theme 2: Creating a more attractive environment</u>		
Priority 1	Educate and inform about environmental responsibility	1. Raise personal responsibility & citizenship awareness (Boston Borough Council)
Priority 2	Brighten Up the Town Centre	1. Enhance horticultural displays in the Town Centre and along the Haven Bridge corridor (Boston in Bloom)
		2. Removal of Five Lamps, renovation works and re-siting in Central Park and works associated with making good the removal site. (Boston in Bloom)
		3. Environmental volunteering & introduction of Naturehoods in the BBL area (LCVS)
Priority 3	Improve local amenities and open spaces	1. Improve and increase play opportunities in the BBL area (Boston Borough Council) *
Priority 4	Provide support to groups and residents relating to Creating A More Attractive Environment	1. Installation of base for Friendly Bench on Broadfield Lane (LCVS) *

<b><u>Theme 3: Building greater community spirit</u></b>		
Priority 1	Provide new and support existing activities drawing people from different backgrounds together	1. Provide a programme of large-scale Community Events) Boston Borough Council)
		2. Provide a programme of small-scale Community Events (range of local groups)
	Promote activities of Boston Big Local to local community organisations	3. Community Consultation Activities (Partnership and partners) *
Priority 2	Support exhibitions of local history, drawing people from different backgrounds together.	1. Completion of Heritage Exhibitions (Neil Watson Photography) *
Priority 3	Provide small grants through a community chest and events funding programme to support new and existing activities that draw people together from different backgrounds within the Boston Big Local area.	1. Run a small grants programme three times a year (Boston Big Local)
	Carry forward of Community Grants from 2019-21 plan	2. Carry forward ring-fenced Community Grant for Blackfriars Arts Centre (BBL) *
Priority 4	Organising and resourcing BBL events	1. Provide local events to encourage community participation and increase connectivity of residents (Boston Big Local)
Priority 5	Provide support to local groups to help build community spirit	1. Provide a flexible and rapid response to emerging residents' priorities to build community spirit arising from the Covid-19 pandemic (Boston Big Local)
<b><u>Theme 4: Encouraging enterprise</u></b>		
Priority 1	Directly support residents in financial difficulty	1. Operate and promote "Fit 4 Your Future" programme (Citizens Advice)
Priority 2	Make more of Boston's history to promote the town	1. Promoting Boston's heritage through the Trumps cards (Boston Big Local) *
		2. Raising the profile of Boston (Boston Big Local – Monopoly) *
Priority 3	Provide support to local groups to help encourage enterprise	1. Provide a flexible and rapid response to emerging residents' priorities to encourage enterprise arising from the Covid-19 pandemic (Christmas in Boston)*
		2. Installation of hybrid-meeting facilities (LCVS) *
		3. Boosting the local Economy

## The money invested to date within this current plan, April 2021 – end March 2023

<b>THEMES</b>	<b>PLAN BUDGET</b>	<b>EXPECTED SPEND</b>
Theme 1: Improving Health and Wellbeing	£41,700	£37,763
Theme 2: Creating a More Attractive Environment	£127, 156	£78,349
Theme 3: Building Community Spirit	£115,080	£90,500
Theme 4: Encouraging Enterprise	£51,275	£60,310
Theme 5: Miscellaneous Costs	£39,140	£39,140
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£374,351</b>	<b>£306,062</b>

As of 10 December 2022, total spend across the two years of the plan was £246,103. With two quarters still to be invoiced, it is anticipated there will be some underspend. If however, the Five Lamps project no longer is deemed feasible for technical reasons, this will release £20,000 toward the next plan. There are also indications from one partner that the tender process for the Play Equipment at St John's Road may also take this project into the 2023/24 Plan. Current projections are for a final one year plan budget of between £170,000 and £190,000.

### 2.2 The difference we have made (plan review qu2)

At the December 2022 partnership meeting, Boston Big Local considered the wider impact of the activity we have funded over the last two years. The difference we have made is deeper than the specific outcomes as set out in 1.2.1.

- We have helped rebuild community connection after Covid.
- We offer a model of flexible and responsive support. This has been very popular with local groups, all relevant allocated funding being used up in the first year of this plan.
- We have continued to contribute to celebrating the diversity of the town, helping communities come together through for example the Beach event and the Book Festival. The town is a more welcoming place.

### 2.3 Our proudest achievements (plan review qu3)

- Our proudest achievements are that we have kept on bring energy, vision, support and funding to groups struggling through and out of the worst of Covid.
- We are proud that Monopoly and Trumps have contributed to a celebration of our heritage and culture and a pride in Boston as a place to live, work and visit.
- The rebuilding of the Pirate Playground would not have been taken by Boston Borough Council had it not been for the significant, prolonged support residents have given to the refurbishment of all play facilities in the Boston Big Local area, based on the thorough consultation undertaken by Fran Taylor as part of our last plan.
- We recognise that the flip side of our collective community activity is focused funding to support individuals and groups needing additional help, be that emotional and social, financial and practical.
- It is important to us that our newsletters reach every household in the area every quarter. And now these are distributed by the Rotary, funding to them is recycled into further support to other groups such as women's aid and the Ukrainian Family Support.
- The Restore Pantry is an important twin of the foodbank, serving the needs of a diverse community through a well-priced, open and accessible shop.
- We are pleased that our success with the Trumps card has been picked up on by Grantham, Sleaford and East Lindsey.



## **2.4 The learning we have gained** (plan review qu4)

- We have reminded of the need to keep focused, constantly reflecting on the intended and anticipated benefit we are looking to bring to residents.
- We have been good at challenging and redressing any potential mission creep, resisting tendencies that might pull us away from our vision and priorities.
- We have increased our ability through Covid to identify and work with partners who in turn bring wider benefit to the community, for example supporting the Boston Volunteer Centre Charity with its audio visual suite for online conferencing.
- Our understanding of our abilities as facilitator, enabler and motivator has been strengthened during these last two years especially through the pandemic.
- We recognise we have helped groups get a start or get ahead and this in turn has led to a ripple effect. The Boston Marathon was an early example; the Book Festival more recent. Support to the Blackfriars theatre has enabled them to much improve accessibility, placing these in the top five most accessible theatres in the country.
- The theme of access is one we are proud of over the years, whether with the theatre or the playground, whether through the Friendly Bench, Credit Union or Samaritans.
- We remain active stakeholders in our community which helps us keep alert, fired up and on the ball with regard to opportunity and need in our own local area.
- We know the stakeholders, the partners, the local organisations the movers and shakers. We are aspirational but also grounded. Where a partner is slacking or not pulling their weight, we are onto them – supportive, encouraging but firm.

## 3. Boston Big Local legacy

### 3.1 Progress toward our legacy (plan review qu5)

Our intended legacy is embedded in our vision “for a happy vibrant area where people feel a sense of belonging.” Boston Big Local has contributed substantially toward this over the last two years, building on the already established legacy of people, partnerships, participative practice, projects and places improved. (See October 2017 partner event and report on establishing an early legacy) and the costed vision and legacy review on our last plan. There is a palpable sense of continuing progress through feedback at events such as the Boston Marathon UK and the summer beach event, response to the Trump Cards and Boston (UK) Monopoly and at the resident and partners’ event in October. At the October event both key speakers, Michelle Sacks, Deputy Chief Executive of Boston Borough Council and Michele Jolly, CEO at Age Concern UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire, spoke of how impressed they were with Boston Big Local and what it had achieved, inspiring resident led change, strengthening the resilience and capacity of many local groups and organisations and contributing to the regeneration of the town. (<https://bostonbiglocal.co.uk/a-g-g-2022/>).

### 3.2 Actions needed to consolidate our legacy (plan review qu6)

Through our partnership review of the plan, our consultation with partners and residents, we are confident that our legacy is best further embedded by pursuing our existing vision and current priorities which best meet community aspirations and needs.

Over the coming year, the partnership feels consolidating our legacy requires continuing to do well what we do best, holding the course, continuing to build skills and capacity, demonstrating and sharing the difference people are making to their own lives and the local areas and that through our interaction with the community we deepen our understanding, share and celebrate these positive changes.

#### Achieving our Big Local outcomes

1. We will ensure that our community engagement remains a continuous process, not just an event every two years, a conversation that informs residents of what is happening and hears from residents about the benefits to them and what should be changed. Included in our process of supporting residents to speak out and take action are:

- Monthly Boston Big Local resident partnership meetings which are open to the public
- Continuing community conversation online and through face to face meetings
- Dialogue with partner agencies and groups about emerging and changing needs
- The quantity and type of Community Chest Applications which help us to assess the needs and requirements of the Boston Big Local residents and witness to their involvement in taking action and affecting change.

2. We will ensure that our quarterly review of activity funded by Boston Big Local, monitors, acknowledges and celebrates the confidence and skills of residents. Groups such as Memory Lane, the support group for people with dementia and their carers, provides rich commentary on the impact of the group meetings for those taking part. The [Legacy event](#) held in November 2017 was full of reflections about changes in people’s lives, in their confidence and skills already being witnessed.

3. We will continue to invest in local volunteering, building skills and capacity now and for the future. Many of the activities Boston Big Local has funded are supported and often driven by resident volunteers. The list includes the Boston Marathon UK, many of the community chest recipients, Boston in Bloom, the Hanse League and environmental improvements and

awareness raising. The partnership with LCVS, fostering and enabling community environmental projects, has been the latest and boldest such project which will continue into the final plan.

“Boston Big Local funding has kick started projects and helped them to get established and these projects are attracting interest. People are seeing things happening locally and it is making them feel more positive about what is being done to improve their community. Residents, local businesses and volunteers are more likely and more willing to get involved in a project that is already up and running with a proven track record. There is evidence of this happening in Boston and the group identified this as legacy already in action.” (Boston Big Local and partners [Legacy event](#), November 2017)

4. We will continue to gather and to share residents’ own experiences and reflections on what has changed locally and contributed to making the Boston Big Local area is an even better place to live. These accounts continue to be collected through the [surveys](#), which we have run for a number of years, questionnaires and a scrap book of all press cuttings showing the positive work Boston Big Local is doing and the quarterly hard copy newsletters distributed to all residents’ homes. Sharing progress is also done by placing all SLAs and work reports on the website and then we tweet the link and place it on Facebook. Boston Big Local has a growing following. From the work reports, stories of what’s changed are created and posted and some of these then go into our newsletter.

## 4. Looking forward

### 4.1 Current needs and opportunity in the area (plan review qu7)

Our review of data and qualitative community feedback confirms our overview that the key vision and legacy ambition are well founded. They are based on similar core needs and priorities today as a decade ago, albeit in an evolving landscape which indicates increasingly acute need, rising prices and over stretched and under-resourced public services. Our Themes and priorities seek therefore to both improve opportunity for individuals and families and contribute to improving wider community spirit and the local environment.

[Theme 1: Improving health and wellbeing](#)

[Theme 2: Creating a more attractive environment](#)

[Theme 3: Building greater community spirit](#)

[Theme 4: Encouraging enterprise](#)

Our first profile was completed in early November 2014 and submitted to Local Trust. We have updated it regularly since. It gives us a rigorous and detailed look at the Boston Big Local area and surrounding parts of the town. It draws on nationally available data and local knowledge, including from Placecheck see [www.boston.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3889](http://www.boston.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3889). Our profile is a public document available on our website, [www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk](http://www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk). We see it as giving a sure foundation to build the plan, based on a sound understanding of local need. The profile is updated periodically over the ten years to ensure our vision, themes and activities remain based on accurate assessment of local issues.

Boston Big Local partnership updated our understanding of underlying trends and priorities in the area in 2020 and 2022 through use of Local Insights data, summarised below.

#### 4.1.1 Summary of Central Boston area profile data, updated 2022

The full profile is on our website, praised by Local Trust for its thorough overview and how our vision and values are grounded in what the stats and stories have been telling us.

The BBL area covers approximately 3 km<sup>2</sup> around the town centre. It contains the retail core, administrative offices for the Council, Police Station, railway and bus station, a large central park, markets, port, sports facilities, historic buildings, schools, colleges and training establishments, cinema, theatre, clubs, pubs, restaurants and fast food outlets.

Boston has a rich history 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. The first recorded usage of the name Boston is in the *Registrum Antiquissimum* of Lincoln Cathedral in 1090.

According to Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019) Boston Borough is ranked 85<sup>th</sup> (2016 65<sup>th</sup>) most deprived area out of 326 Authorities with 18% of children living in poverty (14% in the BBL area). 2011 figures indicate that Boston 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.

ONS Mid-Year Estimates in 2020 showed a population of 11,168. Compared to 2001 Census figures, when the population of the Boston Big Local area was 9,551 this indicates that the population has increased by 17%. The most recent Census, carried out in 2021, indicates the diversity within the BBL area. It shows 5,818 residents in the Big Local area (54.8%) were born in the UK, with 4,807 born outside the UK. 44.5% of the population in the

Big Local area has a non-UK passport (East Midlands average 8.8%). 2.5% of the population in the Big Local area do not speak English (England average 0.3%).

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. 2,143 residents are aged between 0 - 15 years representing 19.2% of the total population. 7,389 are considered to be working age (66.2%) and 1,636 are aged 65 years (14.6%).

In September 2022, there were 2,229 Universal Credit claimants in the BBL area (30.2%) compared to the East Midlands average of 13.3%. The three largest sectors of employment recorded in the BBL area are low skill occupations within Manufacturing, Retail and Healthcare.

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 5041 homes in the area 37.8% are owned outright or with a mortgage/loan, 35.7% are privately rented from a landlord or letting agency and 24.5% are socially rented.

The average house price for a semi-detached property in Boston is £148,865 with average earnings at £21,510 (National = £28,248, East Midlands = £28,212). So a house typically costs 6.9 times the average salary for one person compared to 2.77 times in 2000. Therefore to afford an 80% mortgage in Boston the buyer would need a household salary of £39,088. Mean rents (£579 per month) have risen by 8.8% between 2011 and 2016; this rise is the 5th highest in the region.

Travel around Boston is by private transport, cycle or on foot. 1,910 households own one car or van, 580 households two cars or vans, 95 three cars or vans and 35 have four or more cars or vans.

Of the 5,041 households in the area, 2,653 households were considered to be deprived in at least one or more categories of deprivation. 9.2% of the Big Local population were considered to be in overcrowded housing. By Year 6, 28.1% of school children in Boston are classified as obese. 73.2% of adults are overweight or obese with the prevalence of diabetes remaining significantly higher than the national average. Estimated levels of physical activity are worse than the average for England. Rates of alcohol-related harm were also significantly worse than the England average.










Educational attainment in Boston is below national average, with 3,019 residents in Boston Big Local area having no qualifications (34.9%), compared to the national average of 18.0%.

Reported crime in the Boston Big Local area is above the East Midlands average, with 2,814 crimes reported between September 2021 and August 2022. There were 892 reports of Violent Crime in this period - 79.9 per 1,000 population, East Midlands average 37.3.

Employment within Boston Borough has been impacted due to the Covid pandemic and the recovery thereafter. Whilst the area had maintained a steady unemployment rate of approx. 4.4% pre pandemic, this rose steeply to 9.0% in October 2020. By February 2022, this rate had reduced to 7.5%, the East Midlands average was 3.2%. Those in work, also continue to experience uneven effects in wage levels. Nationally the average hourly wage is £15.33, against the East Midlands average of £12.26, with Boston averaging only £9.13. Therefore, on a weekly basis, full-time earnings in Boston are in excess of £100 per week less than the National Average.

## 4.1.2 Summary of BBL area Local Insights data, November 2022

**Introduction** Page 3 for an introduction to this report

 <p><b>Population</b></p>	<p>There are 11,168 people living in Central Boston</p> <p>See pages 4-9 for more information on population by age and gender, ethnicity, country of birth, language, migration, household composition and religion</p>	 <p><b>Education &amp; skills</b></p>	<p>33% of people have no qualifications in Central Boston compared with 25% across East Midlands</p> <p>See pages 46-48 for more information on qualifications, pupil attainment and early years educational progress</p>
 <p><b>Vulnerable groups</b></p>	<p>23% of children aged 0-19 are in relative low-income families in Central Boston compared with 16% across East Midlands</p> <p>See pages 10-23 for more information on children in poverty, people out of work, people in deprived areas, disability, pensioners and other vulnerable groups</p>	 <p><b>Economy</b></p>	<p>45% people aged 16-74 are in full-time employment in Central Boston compared with 39% across East Midlands</p> <p>See pages 49-55 for more information on people's jobs, job opportunities, income and local businesses</p>
 <p><b>Housing</b></p>	<p>4% of households lack central heating in Central Boston compared with 2% across East Midlands</p> <p>See pages 24-33 for more information on dwelling types, housing tenure, affordability, overcrowding, age of dwelling and communal establishments</p>	 <p><b>Access &amp; transport</b></p>	<p>37% of households have no car in Central Boston compared with 22% across East Midlands</p> <p>See pages 56-58 for more information on transport, distances services and digital services</p>
 <p><b>Crime &amp; safety</b></p>	<p>The overall crime rate is higher than the average across East Midlands</p> <p>See pages 34-35 for more information on recorded crime and crime rates</p>	 <p><b>Communities &amp; environment</b></p>	<p>The % of people 'satisfied with their neighbourhood' (74.0%) is lower than the average across East Midlands (79.6%)</p> <p>See pages 59-66 for more information on neighbourhood satisfaction, the types of neighbourhoods locally, local participation and the environment, air pollution</p>
 <p><b>Health &amp; wellbeing</b></p>	<p>19% of people have a limiting long-term illness in Central Boston compared with 19% across East Midlands</p> <p>See pages 36-45 for more information on limited long-term illness, life expectancy and mortality, general health and healthy lifestyles</p>	<p><b>Appendix A</b></p>	<p>Page 67 for information on the geographies used in this report, publication dates for new indicators and acknowledgements.</p>



### 4.1.3 Community engagement (this as a rolling tally across the years)

#### Summary of consultation activities:

##### Information distributed about Boston Big Local

- 1500 Boston Big Local background information leaflets
- Oct 2014 – 5500 locally produced leaflets from Boston Big Local to all homes and businesses within the area
- Feb 2015 – 5500 locally produced leaflets from Boston Big Local to all homes and businesses within the area consulting on the draft plan
- 2015-2016 – 2 x 3000 locally produced information leaflets from Boston Big Local handed out at events and distributed to local community hubs and by email
- 2016-2018 – 5000 quarterly Boston Big Local Newsletters distributed to local community hubs and by email, including in February inviting comments and or attendance at public consultation events concerning draft plan for 2017-2019
- 2019 - 5000 quarterly Boston Big Local Newsletters to all homes and businesses as well as by email inviting comments and or attendance at public consultation events concerning draft plan for 2019-2021
- May 2019 – Boston Big Local leaflet produced highlighting the Community Chest and Events funding as well as general BBL information. Stock provided to the Worker contracted for wider consultation as well as the Plan Co-ordinator
- 2020 - 5000 quarterly Boston Big Local Newsletters to all homes and businesses as well as by email, inviting comments and or attendance at public consultation events. Newsletter is now being distributed by the Boston Rotary Club, further ensuring BBL money is benefiting local groups
- 2021 - 5000 quarterly Boston Big Local Newsletters to all homes and businesses as well as by email, inviting comments and or attendance at public consultation events.
- 2022 - 5000 quarterly Boston Big Local Newsletters to all homes and businesses as well as by email, inviting comments and or attendance at public consultation events.

##### Events

- Showcase Sept 2013 with 100 people
- Christmas 2013 Haven High with 60-70 people
- Consultation in Oct 2014 with 70 people
- Presentations to WI, Horticultural Society, Boston in Bloom Committee with 155 people
- 4 Plan preview events in Feb 2015 with 30 people
- Beach event Aug 2015 with over 4,000 people
- 1<sup>st</sup> BBL Birthday event in May 2016 with 40 people
- Beach event Aug 2016 with over 3,500 people
- Consultation with Lead Delivery Partners in Oct 2016 with 29 people.
- 2 Plan preview events in Feb 2017 with 30 people
- May 2017 – annual celebration and AGM
- November 2017 Legacy event with residents and partners
- May 2018 annual celebration and AGM
- October 2018 bi-annual partners and residents planning event
- January 2019 resident plan consultation event
- July 2019 presentation of BBL funding at LCVS Networking Event
- August 2019 Beach event with over 3500 people
- November 2019 Christmas Market and Lights Switch On
- May 2020 Virtual Coffee Morning – 22 groups represented
- June 2020 Virtual Coffee Morning (responding to COVID) – 24 groups represented

- October 2020 Virtual Coffee Morning – 22 groups represented, 2021-23 plan consultation event
- December 2020-21 Individual Plan Consultations
- November 2021 – Christmas Market and Lights Switch On – pre-Monopoly launch.
- December 2021 – Boston Monopoly launch event
- March 2022 – Celebrate Boston event
- March 2022 – Make a Difference to Your Community Event
- August 2022 Beach event with over 4000 people
- October 2022 AGM and partner and resident consultation event

#### Surveys and questionnaires

- 130 initial questionnaires
- October 2014, 109 participants
- 2015 summer events 60 respondents
- Summer 2017 annual survey 322 people
- Summer 2018 annual survey 262 people
- 2020-2021 dedicated consultation with residents and community groups

#### Social media

- 1099 Twitter followers - 1043 Twitter followers.
- 1074 Facebook Likes, 1,219 Facebook followers – 2021 528 Facebook contacts, 587 Facebook followers.
- Dedicated website.

**Through our consultation, the three top things residents would like Boston Big Local to focus on in Central Boston remain: public events, town centre and public areas.**

### 4.1.4 Our lasting legacy

Our legacy statement is in line with our vision that has guided Boston Big Local throughout: Our vision is for a happy vibrant area where people feel a sense of belonging.

#### October 2017 legacy stocktake

We undertook initial in depth work about our legacy and sustainability in the autumn of 2017 in the build up to our second plan. Embedding notions of sustainability have likewise been central to our work with partners.

The purpose of the event attended by residents and partners in 2017 was to:

- Help partnerships and residents think about legacy and sustainability as part of that;
- Help the partnership and residents consider whether there is a need for continued income to contribute to this legacy;
- Help explore the viability of any investment that may have potential to generate a continuing return;
- Give a few clues as to what sort of organisational requirements might be needed to manage investment, secure and distribute income.

The event highlighted that aspects of Boston Big Local legacy were already taking shape and some already in place. It was recognised that many elements of what Boston Big Local had helped achieve looked like lasting beyond Year 10 or when the money runs out.

#### People and personal knowledge and skills

- Partnership members
- Resident awareness

- Resident pride in turn being a point of leverage in attracting new money
- Visitor perceptions also being a point of leverage in attracting further funding from other sources.
- Volunteers recruited and motivated

**Places, buildings and the environment:** 8-10 public realm improvements generating a positive attitude, increased civic pride and a multiplier effect in usage and further funding.

- The mosaic in the B&M square created by the Memory Lane group supporting people with dementia which in turn has unleashed wider improvements to the whole square
- Landscaping Pilgrims' Patch
- Improvements to the Market area which in addition has led to more pedestrian footfall and very positive feedback from residents and visitors, seeing volunteers at work.
- Haven Bridge meadow
- Boston in Bloom leading to the East Midlands Awards ceremony being held this year in Boston with acclaim from the organisers as the best ever venue.

**Partnerships and participation** - ways of doing things

- Joining the dots among people and groups with some pump priming
- Stronger identity in working together for change
- Positive reinforcement riding on success
- Hanse an example of a growing group which would not have got off the ground without Boston Big Local which is now established and helping bring history back to life. It opens up wider connections for the town through Boston's link with the Hanseatic League and this in turn offers links and connections for some Eastern European residents connecting past and present. The Youth Hanse group is especially strong on this. ESOL classes and Boston Unfurled are other projects arising through Hanse to wider community benefit.

**Projects and activities** based on resident priorities

- The Marathon is essentially now self-sustaining and is growing in ambition with the number of runners, the range of races such as the half marathon and the 5k fun run to accommodate a wider range of interest and ability and free entrance fees for some who are raising money for small local charities to increase local resident involvement.
- Memory Lane (arts for people with dementia) Wednesday group is dependent on Boston Big Local funding, but the Thursday group took off because of the funding but is now established in its own right and will continue whatever happens to the other group.
- Aqua fit was kick started with help from Boston Big Local and is now not only self-sustaining but the income raised feeds into the running of the indoor Triathlon.
- A range of popular and usually free events such as the Cycling Roadshow, the Beach event, the 1940s event and the Bike Night. The Bike Night is now self-sustaining and ongoing. The Beach event is so popular that its legacy is something Boston Borough Council is equally concerned to consider and find ways to support.

**Some reflections from the event**

We learnt that legacy is not as first suggested what is left behind in year 11 or when the money runs out. Partners are talking about *established* legacy now in year 3-4.

- The Boston Marathon is established as a going concern. Therefore, how can BBL bottle some of that magic and encourage other groups to consider such pump priming of for example a cycle event with a business plan for self-financing. This same model could develop into a dragons den type initiative in encouraging bids for support from budding community enterprises, like affordable child care.

- The environmental improvements, including tackling litter, gum and dog fouling, have led to demonstrable shift in attitude. This resident awareness and pride is proving right now the catalyst by which the Council is embedding such activity as core for example through gaining business sponsorship.
- While Memory Lane dementia support group that meet on Wednesday is Boston Big Local funding dependent, the spin off that arose on the back of it, the Thursday group, is core activity and will go on after any loss of BBL funding.
- Legacy is evidently about people, partnerships and participation as well as places and projects. The Hanse League got off the ground thanks to BBL. It is now an established vibrant force for community connection, bringing histories from near and far alive.

We learnt that, on the back of the above, there is an important communications opportunity right now and not just in year 9, to communicate the above to residents – look what’s been happening and look at the effects already beyond the immediate thing funded.

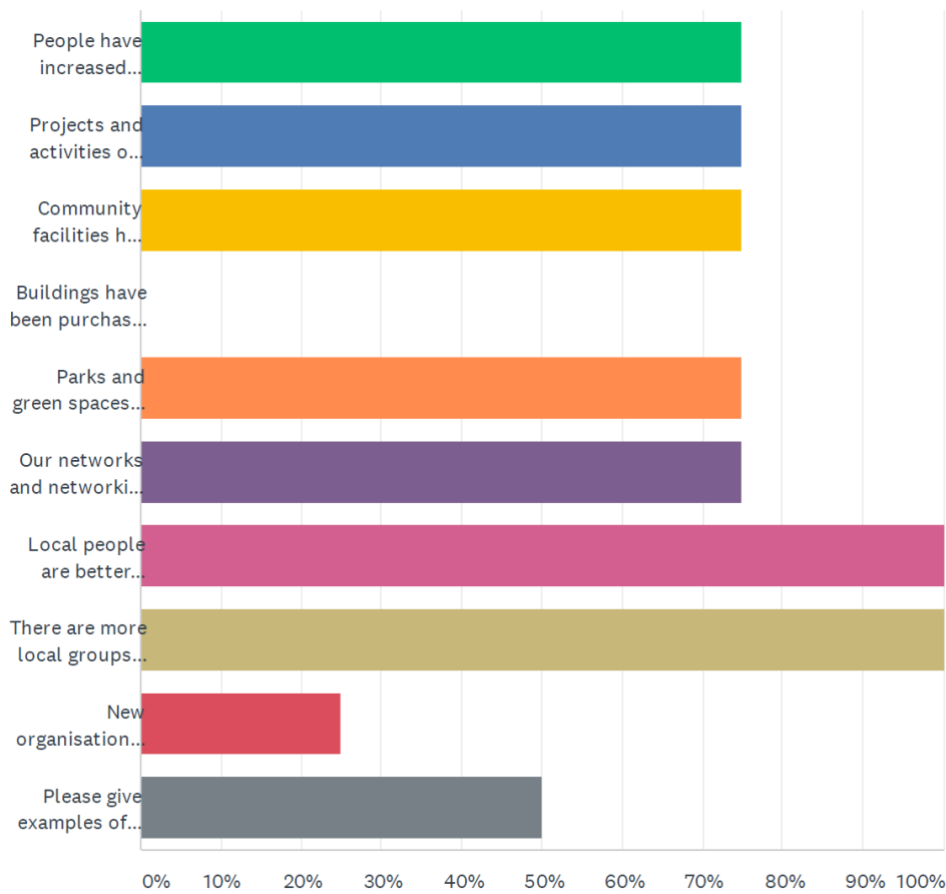
### **November 2020 partnership and partner update on legacy**

In reviewing the 2019-21 plan and in developing this one, we asked partnership members and partner agencies for updated impressions on how Boston Big Local was putting in place a lasting legacy. This was more in the form of a focus group, where it is the reflections of a few well connected people that is being sought rather than a significant statistical sample. We used an adapted version of the criteria set out by Local Trust for the Survey Monkey questionnaire:

- People have increased skills and confidence
- Projects and activities are continuing
- Buildings have been purchased
- Parks and green spaces have been improved
- Local people are better connected
- There are more local groups and services
- New organisations have been established

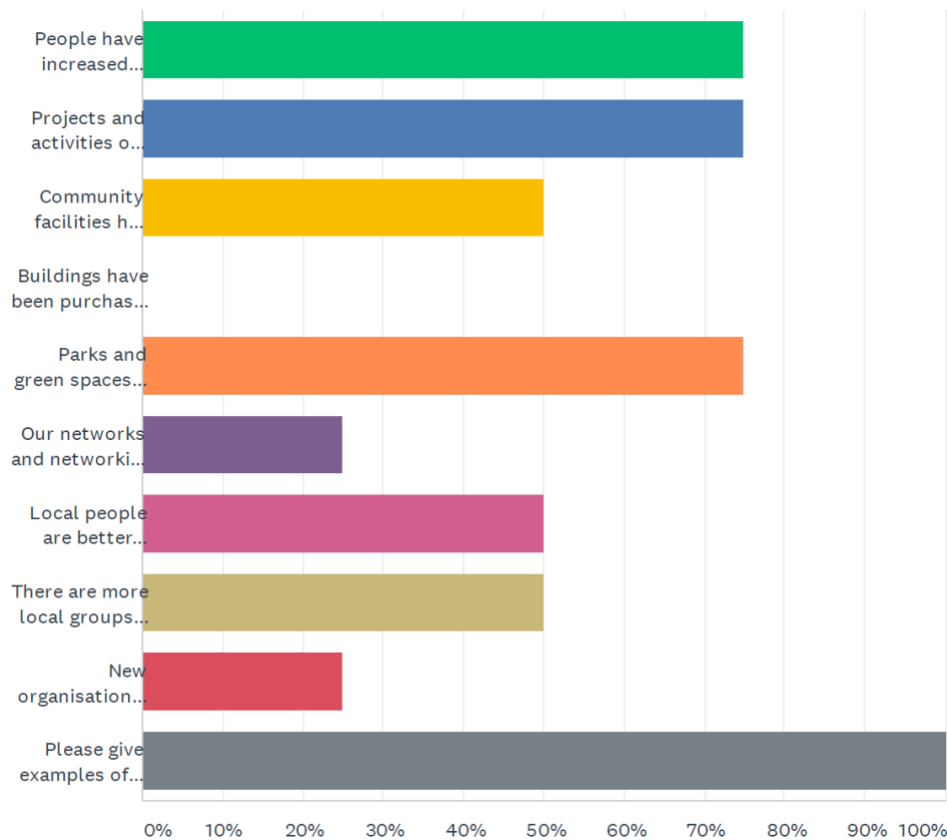
The first chart is the response from partnership members and the second from partner groups and organisations. Responses demonstrate as in 2017 that Boston Big Local legacy is already evident in greater skills, confidence and connections among people, sustainable projects and activities and an improved lived environment.

**Q. Looking at our lasting legacy, which of the list below do you feel are part of Boston Big Local’s likely lasting legacy beyond the end of Big Local funding? Please tick each that applies and give examples.**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
People have increased skills and confidence	75.00% 3
Projects and activities of benefit to residents are ongoing	75.00% 3
Community facilities have been improved for the long term benefit of residents.	75.00% 3
Buildings have been purchase for community use	0.00% 0
Parks and green spaces have been improved for community benefit	75.00% 3
Our networks and networking with local services are improved for the benefit of local residents local services	75.00% 3
Local people are better connected	100.00% 4
There are more local groups supporting residents which are likely to last for some time ahead	100.00% 4
New organisations have been established working to the benefit of local residents	25.00% 1
Please give examples of your selections	50.00% 2
Total Respondents: 4	

**Q. We are approaching the end of our 10-year funding plan. Looking at our lasting legacy, which of the list below do you feel are part of Boston Big Local’s likely lasting legacy beyond the end of Big Local funding? Please tick each that applies and give examples.**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
People have increased skills and confidence	75.00%	3
Projects and activities of benefit to residents are ongoing	75.00%	3
Community facilities have been improved for the long term benefit of residents.	50.00%	2
Buildings have been purchase for community use	0.00%	0
Parks and green spaces have been improved for community benefit	75.00%	3
Our networks and networking with local services are improved for the benefit of local residents local services	25.00%	1
Local people are better connected	50.00%	2
There are more local groups supporting residents which are likely to last for some time ahead	50.00%	2
New organisations have been established working to the benefit of local residents	25.00%	1
Please give examples of your selections	100.00%	4
Total Respondents: 4		



## **4.2 Support to deliver the plan and achieve our legacy** (plan review qu8)

As Boston Big Local partnership, we feel confident that we have the values, knowledge and skills, the alliances and partnerships and the backing of the local community to see the final one year plan through to completion, exit the programme well and secure our enduring legacy as outlined above.

This last and final year requires us to continue to do well what we are best at – being an enabler, connector and facilitator. There is no transfer of assets looming, nor is there any formation of a new body or organisation. The legacy is not in setting up another structure but in the results of the activity undertaken, the empowerment of residents and groups and in the significant and enduring outcomes through activity funded.

With our focus on community capacity building we are keen to explore with the Make it Happen team how its access to specific expertise could be shared with Boston Big Local's key allies, with BBL as the conduit and motivator and connector. Topics include strategic planning, fundraising, organisational policy development and communications.

### **Key implications for the final plan arising from the review processes**

Key implications for the new plan that these review processes have identified include:

#### **Activity and sustainability**

- Hold the vision.
- Keep to the themes and priorities. Stay focused on what's worked best for residents.
- Looks to maximise chances of sustainable activity after the end of Boston Big Local.

#### **Communication and celebration**

- Make sure a range of accessible and specific celebration events are built in to endings.
- Continue with quality communications, including regular newsletters to all households, with increasing attention to overall learning and achievement over the decade.
- Give key partners the best chance possible of forging an ongoing alliance to work together for the best interest of residents in the area.

#### **Endings**

- Ensure summary of investment and activity across the decade is presented in an accessible and transparent manner to residents and to Local Trust, the managing agent.
- Archive key documents and learning, including plans and newsletters.
- Enable each partnership member to look back, reflect on achievement and learning and to consider next steps.

**Boston Big Local partnership  
Plan review 2021 -2023  
Submitted to Local Trust January 2023**