



BOSTON

Skirbeck Quarter

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2012

facebook.com/bostonbiglocal
@bostonbiglocal

CONTENTS

Foreword by the Chair	3
Introduction	4
1. Our vision and intended legacy	5
2. Our achievements and learning – 2021 - 2023	6
2.1 What we have done against the existing plan	6
2.2. The difference we have made	9
2.3. Our proudest achievements	9
2.4. The learning we have gained	10
3. Boston Big Local Legacy	11
3.1 Progress towards our legacy	11
3.2 Actions needed to consolidate our legacy	11
4. Looking forward	13
4.1 Current needs and opportunity in the area.....	13
4.1.1 Summary of Central Boston area profile data, updated 2022.....	13
4.1.2 Summary of BBL area Local Insights data, November 2022.....	15
4.1.3 Community engagement	16
4.1.4 Our lasting legacy	17
4.2 Support to deliver the plan and achieve our legacy.....	22
5. Outcomes and action plans	23
4.1 Our overarching outcomes.....	23
4.2 Our Boston Big Local outcomes.....	23
4.3 Funding.....	23
4.4 Activity Plans.....	23
Theme 1 - Improving health and wellbeing	24
Theme 2 - Creating a more attractive environment.....	26
Theme 3 - Building community spirit	27
Theme 4 - Encouraging enterprise.....	29
Section 5 - Governance and Communications.....	30
6. Partners and influencing the statutory sector.....	31
7. Communications	32
8. Telling the story: review and evaluation	34
9. Our approach and governance structure.....	35
10. Risks and challenges	40
11. Finances and detailed budget profile	42
11.1 Finances and detailed budget profile	43
12. Appendices	44
1. Process & Timeline	45
2. Project Co-ordinator Job Specification	46
3. Partnership Agreement and Declaration of Interests.....	48
4. 2021-2023 Community Chest Grant Recipients.....	51

Foreword by the Chair

It hardly seems possible that it is ten years since I attended the first meeting of the Central Boston Big Local Steering Group. Even the fact that this is the fifth introduction I have been asked to write for, what is the last Boston Big Local plan (we dropped the 'Central', as CBBL made us think it suggested a Children's BBC channel).

Eight years ago, when I started to write the introduction for the first two-year plan, I jokingly mixed my metaphors by saying that we had experienced "Stormy Seas on our Rocky Road" in navigating our way through the 'getting started' phase. Various events (including a pandemic) ensured that I could continue to reference my metaphor mixing, to a greater or lesser extent, in the introductions of every subsequent plan.

This year I feel confident in stating that, having weathered all the storms of the preceding eight years, the S.S.BBL has evolved into a seaworthy amphibious vehicle capable of tackling any Stormy Seas we may yet encounter on our (hopefully) not so Rocky Road. Having itself adapted to the unprecedented trials posed by COVID our BBL Partnership Group has found alternative means of providing support to local charitable and voluntary organisations. The downside of this boosting local resilience has been a major increase in expenditure over the previous two years, roughly equivalent to spending an additional year's planned budget over that period, resulting in a significant reduction in the expected funds available for this – our final plan.

With this shrinkage of potential funds in mind the Partnership has had to think hard when considering our options for the future. Essentially, we were faced with two major options:

1. Continue as previously, with a full two-year plan but funding reduced to reflect the funds remaining.
2. Keep funding levels at, or near, their current rates, for organisations deemed most appropriate, but reduce the period of financial support.

After much sole-searching the members have decided that, rather than 'water down' support – and subsequent services provided by local organisations, it is preferable to keep funding levels as close to their current allocations as possible whilst giving those organisations a chance to seek alternative funding.

Over the last eight years my tenure as Chairman of the Boston Big Local Partnership Group has been a great privilege and honour. Seeing the way that this disparate group of, mostly, previously un-associated individuals have worked together for the benefit of our town has been both humbling and inspiring. The way that, in addition to the public-inspired projects approved by the panel, individual members of the Partnership have felt able to float personal ideas for consideration and discussion has enabled personal growth for everyone involved. I will always look back on my involvement with BBL (including the upcoming period of this final plan) as one of the most important periods in my life. Thank you all for the wonderful opportunity.

Richard Tory
Chair
Boston Big Local Partnership Group
January 2023

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 September 2024. This final plan focuses mainly on the one year of activity delivery between April 2023 and end of March 2024, followed by a closing out period of a few months.

The plan is based on the review of our fourth plan, covering the two year period from April 2021 until March 2023 and further consultation with partners and residents. 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, 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 was developed over six months by reviewing 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. The plan adds new and updated insights and where there is continuing relevance, retains elements arising from previous plans, 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 is 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) *
<u>Theme 3: Building greater community spirit</u>		
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)
<u>Theme 4: Encouraging enterprise</u>		
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

THEMES	PLAN BUDGET	EXPECTED SPEND
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
TOTAL	£374,351	£306,062

As of 9 February 2023, total spend across the two years of the plan was £295,871. With the final quarter still to be invoiced, it is anticipated there will be some underspend. The Five Lamps project is now deemed not feasible for technical reasons and the Play Equipment at St John's Road has been moved into the final Plan due to the tender timescales. Current projections are for a final one year plan budget of £195,000. This of course depends on the exact spend in the current plan and the amount returned to Local Trust. Our plan takes account of the potential need to reduce some budget areas based on exact financial figures once the current plan is closed.

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-m-2022/>).

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

Through reviewing the last plan and building this new one, 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. Our profile is a public document available on our website, 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.

The Boston Big Local partnership updated its understanding of the underlying trends and priorities in the area in 2020 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 km² 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 85th (2016 65th) 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

FINAL BBL Plan 2023-24 KR

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>Population</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>Education & skills</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>Vulnerable groups</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>Economy</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>Housing</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>Access & transport</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>Crime & safety</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>Communities & environment</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>Health & wellbeing</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>Appendix A</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
- 1st 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.

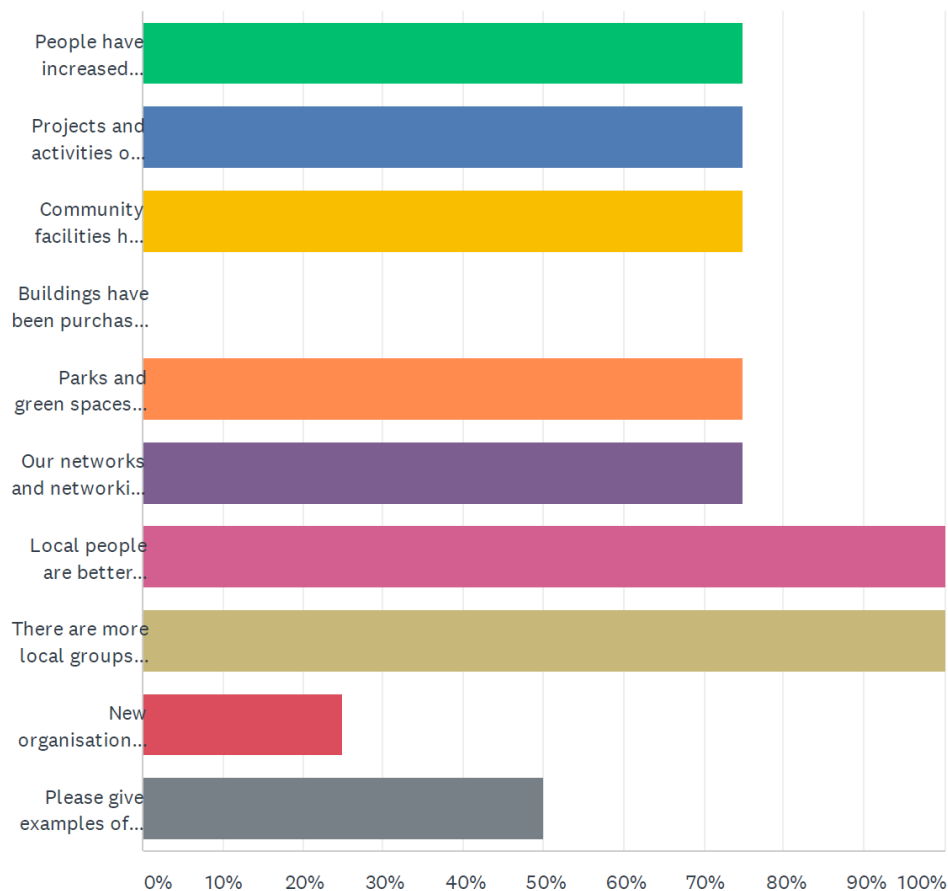
November 2020 partnership and partner update on legacy

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

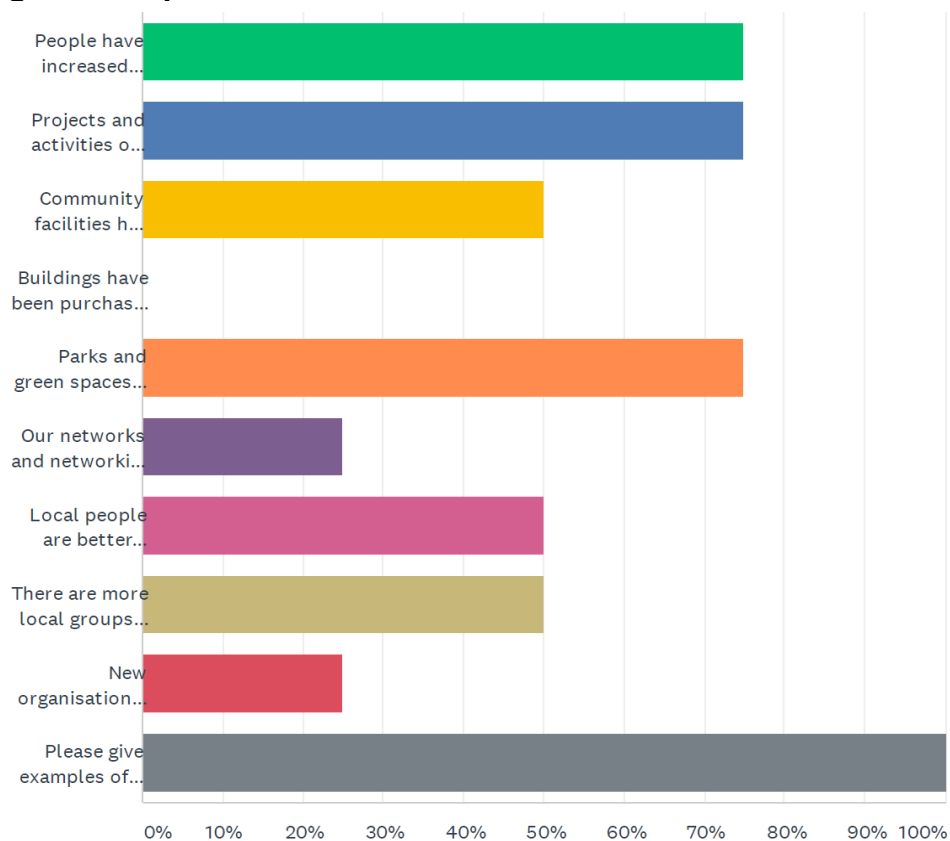
The first chart is the response from partnership members and the second from partner groups and organisations. Responses demonstrate as in 2017 that Boston Big Local legacy is already evident in greater skills, confidence and connections among people, sustainable projects and activities and an improved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

5. Outcomes and action plans

5.1 Our overarching outcomes

Our four outcomes in line with the Big Local programme are:

1. The community agrees needs and priorities in the area and takes action on them.
2. People gain confidence and skills for now and the future.
3. The community makes a real difference to the needs it has given priority to.
4. People feel this area is an even better place to live.

5.2 Our Boston Big Local outcome themes

The Partnership recognised that local people's perceptions will change over the maximum 10 years and kept the planning process flexible to respond to community needs and aspirations. Our Boston Big Local Outcome themes arose from surveys and discussion with Boston Big Local residents, workers and non-residents, reflecting on personal experience and knowledge, the background profile and previous reports and consultations.

After review, the Partnership decided to develop a final 18-month plan to ensure that support to key partners is not reduced over a longer period of time. The four outcome themes listed below remain the core focus.

Our four Big Local themes are:

1. Improving health and wellbeing.
2. Creating a more attractive environment.
3. Building community spirit.
4. Encouraging enterprise.

Each of the four outcome themes consists of things Boston Big Local should support and fund and things the Partnership should inform and influence others to take on. This second group of actions will be prioritised by the Partnership once the plan is approved based on agreed criteria including the issues relevance to the residents of the Boston Big Local area, the time, people and cost of influencing activity, the impact and chances of success.

5.3 Funding

The overall funding portfolio of this plan is about £196,000 for the period April 2023 to September 2024. The Partnership sees Year 1 of this Plan as broadly in line with previous years with Service Level Agreements (SLA) to be issued to delivery partners for specific pieces of work. Year 2 (April 2024 to September 2024), the Partnership's focus will be on programme closure and celebration of BBL activity.

5.4 Activity Plans

The Activities link with the four outcome themes and include VAT. Each has a detailed action plan which will be incorporated into the Service Level Agreement once approved. As lead delivery partners are identified, they will become the contracted partner to the LTO and accountable to the Partnership. They will be responsible for highlighting and feeding information about trends, new concerns and successes. This will help the Partnership to review and evaluate what is happening and ensure the Partnership can remain responsive.

Theme 1: Improving health and wellbeing (8% of funding allocation)

Key words: health, wellbeing, dementia, arts, poverty.

Overall indicative budget: £16,500 over the lifetime of this plan.

Boston Big Local will help in the coordination of existing activity and bring further benefit through funding additional activity arising from identified need. The group felt that it was important that activities or services provided do not replace statutory services. We will fund a lead delivery partner to coordinate the activities under each priority. The focus in this plan is to maintain support for projects that are delivering valued services in the community.

Outcomes for all priorities under this theme

Reflecting back on the consultation, the Partnership Group decided on these **overall intended** outcomes. We will know we have made a difference when:

- Residents from Boston Big Local area are more aware of their health needs.
- Residents of all ages from the Boston Big Local area take up more opportunities to help improve their health and wellbeing.
- Residents tell us they feel their health and wellbeing has improved.

Priorities

To achieve these outcomes, the Partnership decided to give priority to:

- Provide opportunities to improve residents' wellbeing for:
 - Children and families
 - Young people
 - Residents from across the community
 - Older residents

1) Provide opportunities to improve resident wellbeing through accessible arts and crafts

Activities (suggested)	Arts project: The story in Stitch - to support the Embroiders Guild in its activities in connecting with BBL residents
Costs & Timescale	£2.5k (year 1)
Lead delivery partner	Boston Stitchers
Other delivery partners	None

2) Provide opportunities to improve residents' health and wellbeing through arts and crafts for those with dementia and their carers

Activities	To support Arts for Dementia – Bi-weekly art sessions for individuals diagnosed with dementia and their carers
Costs & Timescale	£4k (year 1)
Lead delivery partner	Lincolnshire Housing Partnership
Other delivery partners	None

3) Provide opportunities to improve residents' health and wellbeing through educational and interactive events for all residents

Activities	Provide Mental Wellbeing Sessions
Costs & Timescale	£5k (year 1)
Lead delivery partner	Boston Samaritans
Other delivery partners	None

4) Provide support to residents to access affordable food and support

Activities	Provide support to the development of the Food Pantry
Costs & Timescale	£5k (Year 1)
Lead delivery partner	Restore Pantry
Other delivery partners	None

Informing and influencing others

In addition to the above priorities, those consulted considered two issues that Boston Big Local should inform and influence others about as most important and relevant to Boston Big Local residents from among a list proposed:

- Promote healthy living: provide good information and take preventative action.
- Provide and improve information to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents.

Theme 2: Creating a more attractive environment (23% of funding allocation)

Key words: Green spaces, amenities, improving the look of the Boston Big Local area.

Overall indicative budget: £45,000 over the lifetime of this plan.

Boston Big Local will help in the coordination of existing activity and bring further benefit through funding additional activity arising from identified need. The group felt that it was important that activities or services provided do not replace statutory services. We will fund a lead delivery partner to coordinate the activities under each priority.

Outcomes for all priorities under this theme

Reflecting back on the consultation, the Partnership Group decided on these **overall intended** outcomes. We will know we have made a difference when:

- There is better Partnership working and shared goals to create a more attractive environment in the Boston Big Local area.
- Residents from within the Boston Big Local area take action to create a more attractive environment.
- Residents from the Boston Big Local areas tell us that the neighbourhood where they live is more attractive.

Priorities

To achieve these outcomes, the Partnership Group decided on three priorities:

- Educate and inform residents about their responsibility toward the local environment.
- Brighten up the Boston Big Local area.
- Improve local amenities and open spaces in Boston Big Local area.

1) Educate and inform residents about their responsibility toward the local environment

Activities	Environmental volunteering and continuation of Naturehoods in the BBL area
Costs & Timescale	£15,000 (Year 1)
Lead delivery partner	LCVS
Other delivery partners	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

2) Brighten up the town centre

Activities	Enhancing horticultural displays in the Town Centre and along the Haven Bridge corridor
Costs & Timescale	£5k (Year 1)
Lead delivery partner	Boston in Bloom Partner Group
Other delivery partners	Boston Borough Council/ Volunteer Groups

3) Improve local amenities and open spaces in Boston Big Local area

Activities	Improving and increasing play opportunities in the BBL area - St John's Road
Costs & Timescale	£25k (year 1)
Lead delivery partner	Boston Borough Council
Other delivery partners	None

Informing and influencing others

In addition to the above priorities, those consulted considered two issues that Boston Big Local should inform and influence others about as most important and relevant to Boston Big Local residents from among a list proposed:

- Continue to support improving the look of the town.
- Create a safe environment for children to encourage play and fitness.

Theme 3: Building community spirit (27% of funding allocation)

Key words: Civic pride, image, heritage, community activity and facilities

Overall indicative budget: £54,718 over the lifetime of this plan.

Boston Big Local will help in the coordination of existing activity and bring further benefit through funding additional activity arising from identified need. The group felt that it was important that activities or services provided do not replace statutory services. We will fund a lead delivery partner to coordinate the activities under each priority. While it is anticipated that delivery by partners will be in the first year of this Plan, the Partnership will focus on legacy and celebration in the final six months of the Plan.

Outcomes for all priorities under this theme

Reflecting back on the consultation, the Partnership Group decided on these **overall intended** outcomes. We will know we have made a difference when:

- Residents from the Boston Big Local area tell us they feel there is greater community spirit and public pride.
- Residents tell us they feel there is more appreciation of the diversity of culture and backgrounds within the Boston Big Local area.
- Residents and local organisations tell us there is greater participation in community life.

Priorities

To achieve these outcomes, the Partnership Group decided on three priorities:

- Provide new and support existing activities that draw people together from different backgrounds within the Boston Big Local area.
- Provide small grants through a community chest programme to support local initiatives linked to all four Boston Big Local themes.
- Continue to engage in consultation with residents and local groups to encourage and support greater knowledge of Boston Big Local.

1) Provide a programme of Community Events

Activities	Beach Event
Costs & Timescale	£11,718 (Year 1)
Lead delivery partner	Boston Borough Council
Other delivery partners	Various

2) 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.

Activities	Run a small grants programme three times a year
Costs & Timescale	£28K (£28k each year)
Lead delivery partner	Boston Big Local Partnership Group and Local Trusted Organisation
Other delivery partners	Various

3) Organising and resourcing BBL events

Activities	Celebrating Boston Big Local
Costs & Timescale	£10k (Year 2)
Lead delivery partner	Boston Big Local Partnership Group and Local Trusted Organisation
Other delivery partners	Various

4) Recording the BBL Legacy

Activities	Providing a physical record of the Boston Big Local journey
Costs & Timescale	£5k (year 2)
Lead delivery partner	Boston Big Local Partnership Group and Local Trusted Organisation
Other delivery partners	TBD

Informing and influencing others

In addition to the above priorities, those consulted considered one big issue that Boston Big Local should inform and influence others about as most important and relevant to Boston Big Local residents from among a list proposed:

- Make all of Boston appeal to all its communities.

Theme 4: Encouraging enterprise (27% of funding allocation)

Key words: Local enterprise, economy, tourism.

Overall indicative budget: £52,500 over the lifetime of this plan.

Boston Big Local will help in the coordination of existing activity to bring further benefit through funding additional activity arising from identified need. The group felt that it was important that activities or services provided do not replace statutory services. We will fund a lead delivery partner to coordinate the activities under each priority. The Cost of Living crisis which followed the pandemic continues to have a profound impact on residents and it was identified that increased funding to increase access to financial support and guidance, particularly with increasing unemployment, would be beneficial to BBL residents. Following the success of Boston Monopoly, the Partnership will work with Winning Moves on a reprint, thus providing a further Legacy item for BBL.

Outcomes for priorities under this theme

Reflecting back on the consultation, the Partnership Group decided on these **overall intended** outcomes. We will know we have made a difference when:

- Boston Big Local residents tell us they have benefited from financial advice and support.
- Residents tell us there is a greater pride about the area.

Priorities

To achieve these outcomes, the Partnership Group decided on two priorities:

- Support residents in financial difficulty.
- Make more of Boston's history to promote the town.

1) Support residents in financial difficulty.

Activities	Operate and promote "Fit 4 Your Future" programme.
Costs & Timescale	£10K (Year 1)
Lead delivery partner	Citizens Advice Mid Lincs, Boston (Vicki Langley)
Other delivery partners	None

2) Make more of Boston's history to promote the town.

Activities	Raising the profile of Boston – Legacy piece Boston Monopoly
Costs & Timescale	£42,500 (£42,500 year 1)
Lead delivery partner	Boston Big Local Partnership Group and Local Trusted Organisation
Other delivery partners	None

Informing and influencing others

In addition to the above priorities, the Partnership wishes to see the rights to the Monopoly game passed onto a suitable organisation to allow future reproduction of the game.

Section 5: Governance and communications (14% of funding allocation)

Section 5 of the budget includes plan co-ordination and communications, as well as general governance costs. In total for the lifetime of this plan, section 5 of the budget amounts to £29,073. The partnership recognises the value of having a newsletter delivered to every household in the BBL areas and have included provision for this in this Plan. It is recognised that the majority of activity will be concluded in the first 12 months of the Plan however activity to ensure the programme is effectively closed down will continue to the end of September 2024.

5.1.1 Co-ordinate the running of the plan delivery

Activities	To facilitate and co-ordinate the plan delivery in consultation with the resident partnership, including minute taking
Costs & Timescale	£12,213 (c38/hrs /month @£17.70/hr) (£8,142 yr 1; £4,071 yr 2)
Lead delivery partner	Katy Roberts
Other delivery partners	LTO/BBL coms lead; resident partnership

5.1.2 Implement the communications and marketing strategy for Boston Big Local

Outcomes for priority 5.1.2

- The people of Boston and the residents of the Boston Big Local area will have a fuller understanding of the themes, priorities, and activities and the positive impact that they have made.
- Boston Big Local has all year round news reporting and celebration of success.

Activities	To promote good news stories using the full range of communication channels available to celebrate success and encourage local participation and engagement with the project.
Costs & Timescale	£9,360 (£6,240 yr 1, £3,120 yr 2)
Lead delivery partner	Mark Baker
Other delivery partners	LTO/BBL Plan Coordinator

5.1.4 Expenses, partnership and publication costs

Partnership Group Costs - Expenses (Insurance, Phone, Mileage)	£1000
Partnership Group Costs - Miscellaneous	£500
Printing and publication costs	£6,000

6. Partners and influencing the statutory sector

Partnerships have continued to be developed and maintained throughout the last Plan. The consultation period was launched at the Annual Meeting held in October 2022. The Boston Big Local Resident Partnership Group continues to recognise the need to maintain ongoing links and relationships throughout the delivery phase and during the life of the project. These links will support communication to ensure local groups are aware of progress and for these groups to feedback into the Partnership. The partners that have been identified include: Boston Borough Council, Lincolnshire County Council, VCS, LCVS, Butterfly Hospice, Centenary Methodist Church, Boston Stitchers, Boston Samaritans, Restore Church, Lincolnshire Housing Partnership, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Carers First, NACRO, Lincolnshire YMCA, Boston Volunteer Centre Charity, Boston Heritage Partnership and Boston in Bloom.

Members of the Resident Partnership Group and the Plan Co-ordinator have been invited to sit on Boards/Groups to represent Boston Big Local. These include:

- The Boston Town Deal Board
- Public Realm Committee
- Boston Hanse Group
- Boston Townscape Heritage Initiative
- Community Leaders regular briefings
- Community Champions Steering Group

Residents and Plan Co-ordinator are also actively involved in a number of Neighbourhood Action Groups and Multi-Agency Partnerships, such as the local Employment Multi-Agency Group run by Boston JobCentre.

The Boston Big Local Resident Partnership Group will have regular contact with groups and organisations so that they can be kept informed of progress and approached if we need assistance with any of the priorities or activities identified. This will be achieved through our communications strategy as outlined in section 6.

The Project Coordinator will work with the Resident Partnership Group to build and sustain links with these groups (cost included in budget).

While consulting on the activities to be funded with local people, a distinction was drawn between what Boston Big Local is best placed to support and to fund and what it should inform and influence others to undertake. It is this second strand that will provide the focus for Boston Big Local's influencing work.

7. Communications

Our communications approach is based on the need to identify those people, organisations and communications vehicles and pathways that can help us reach our goals. We aim to:

- Tell and inform residents and organisations about Boston Big Local.
- Listen and respond to what residents are telling us.
- Share success and build community ownership and capacity.

Our key local stakeholders with regards to a communications strategy are:

- Residents.
- Businesses and those working in the area.
- Voluntary and community groups.
- Schools and Colleges.
- Boston Borough Council.
- Police and Neighbourhood wardens.
- Health professionals.
- Local Trust.
- Local press and media.

Our regular communications vehicles available are:

- Local printed news and radio.
- Electronic communication - website, Facebook, Twitter, email.
- Events and local meetings.

We have currently:

- Website.
- Facebook with about 1219 followers.
- Twitter with about 1099 followers.
- Regular updates in printed media and via mailing list

What?	When/how often?	Who?
Sharing stories of success and lessons learnt.	Collating stories from delivery partners. Mailing list to be compiled and updated to ensure all interested parties are kept informed. Newsletter 4 times a year.	Big Local Plan Coordinator & Community Chest Facilitator Age UK Linc and South Lincs Communications Lead
Building community interest through large events, including a celebration event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Letting people know what's been agreed in the Plan. – Encouraging people to take part and get involved in Big Local. – Encouraging people to volunteer in other ways across Boston. 	10 stories of action and change from the BBL themes, priorities and activities therein. Carry out feedback and survey reports to help measure impact of BBL activities	Communications Lead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maintaining and adding to our website. 	Website structure and design to be managed by Publications Officer.	Communications Lead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Publications Officer/Coordinator 	News stories, newsletters, case studies etc. will be uploaded by partner organisation as part of the	Communications Lead

<p>– Regular content</p> <p>Links to the site from partners and other organisations</p>	<p>communications activity.</p> <p>Day to day uploads.</p>	<p>Communications Lead</p>
<p>Social Media activity.</p>	<p>Facebook and Twitter will be updated at regular times.</p> <p>Occurring relevant third party News stories will be uploaded.</p> <p>No personal communications to be uploaded on BBL social media sites.</p>	<p>Communications Lead</p>
<p>Wider Resident Group - emailing updates out to the wider resident interest groups to ensure that they stay up to date.</p>	<p>Training to be implemented for resident group to ensure they are able to upload and send direct emails to the website and social media and maintain and coordinate their own communications strategy.</p>	<p>Communications Lead</p> <p>Partner Group /Other</p>
<p>Closure of project</p>	<p>Collating stories of impact from delivery partners.</p> <p>Collate all news items/newsletters in permanent record for display and archive.</p> <p>Close off all social media and online presence for archive purpose</p>	<p>Communication Lead</p> <p>Partner Group</p>

8. Telling the story: review and evaluation

We will make sure that those we work with agree as part of funding and Partnership working to tell the story of what has happened and what has changed. We will make sure the story tells us three things: how much was done, how well it went and what difference it made. This will combine stats and stories. We will use this information as part of our Communications strategy to be able to keep the local area informed of the work that has been happening.

We will ensure that we seek out the information below which will be incorporated into any funding agreement. The finance section indicates the process of reporting before payment.

Project			
Lead Delivery Partner			
Theme		Priority	
Activity		Budget code	
Project outcomes (from SLA)			
Reporting period dates		No. of people benefiting from the project during the reporting period	
Introduction <i>Tell us basic information about the project and its outcomes and aims for reporting period.</i>			
Activities undertaken during reporting period <i>Tell us what you have done and how well things have gone. Include any issues carried over from previous report, activities carried out and any base line monitoring. Please attach photographs, quotes, good news stories etc.</i>			
Outcomes the project has contributed to <i>Tell us what difference you have made in relation to the SLA outcomes and more widely in the Boston Big Local area.</i>			
Timescales <i>Is project on track? If not what are you planning to do to address the issues?</i>			
Plans for next reporting period <i>What are you going to do next? Are there any activities we should know about?</i>			

9. Our approach and governance structure

The name of the Big Local initiative in Central Boston is Boston Big Local. It is led by the Boston Big Local Partnership and managed by Age UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire, the Local Trusted Organisation.

The Partnership is an unincorporated body, running Boston Big Local on behalf of residents within the defined area of the map. Boston Big Local comprises three parts:

1. Boston Big Local Forum of all residents in the area of benefit.
2. The Boston Big Local Partnership.
3. Any Boston Big Local sub-groups agreed by the Partnership.

1. Boston Big Local Forum

The Forum will meet at least annually as an open public meeting, organised by the Boston Big Local Partnership and conducted by the Chair. Boston Big Local Forum is open to all who live in the Boston Big Local area. The purpose of the annual meeting is to report on progress made towards the delivery of the plan and to be accountable for the open and equitable running of Boston Big Local. The forum is also an opportunity to:

- Review and determine the membership of the Partnership.
- Make recommendations for future priorities to include in the plan.

2. The Partnership

The Partnership is the overarching body that leads, manages, builds and reviews Boston Big Local.

Leads Boston Big Local

- Provides leadership by affirming the vision, values, principles and ambition.
- Champions Boston Big Local, its approach, themes and priorities.
- Agrees and reviews the content of the Partnership plan.
- Influences local policy through strong and clear advocacy.

Manages Boston Big Local

- Agrees the framework and structure for running Boston Big Local.
- Approves arrangements for the management and administration of the Partnership with the appointed Local Trusted Organisation.
- Makes sure funds are used only to deliver the Boston Big Local vision and plan.
- Sets up working-groups to achieve specific outcomes. At least one member of the Partnership must be represented on any such group. All working-groups are accountable and will report to the Partnership.

Builds Boston Big Local

- Acts to remove barriers to residents taking part.
- Acts as the first point of contact for any residents, groups or organisations that would like to get involved or have any questions or comments about Boston Big Local.
- Links with and maximises the benefits to the local community of related Big Local opportunities.
- Ensures Boston Big Local widens and deepens the community conversation across ages and interest groups and responds to the range of views and needs expressed.

Reviews Boston Big Local

- Monitors overall progress towards outcomes of the Boston Big Local vision and plan.
- Reviews and reports on progress to the community, local organisations and to Local Trust via stories, newsletters, events and social media.
- Develops, consolidates and reviews the Partnership approach to take forward the Boston Big Local Plan, including on governance, financial procedures and operational management with the Local Trusted Organisation.

3. Powers

1. The power to raise funds.
2. The power to amend the Partnership Agreement, subject to an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) or AGM with 21 days' notice detailing the amendment.

4. Membership of the Partnership

1. Membership of the Partnership is restricted to residents of the Boston Big Local area, those who work in the area and their nominated advisors.
2. Resident members over the age of 10 have voting rights; advisory members have no voting rights. Resident members take part as individuals and not as representatives of groups or organisations to which they may belong.
3. Resident membership is reviewed at each Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose. Voting is by a show of hands among residents, unless for reasons determined by the Chair, a ballot paper is drawn up. Election of resident members requires a two thirds majority of residents present who are eligible to vote (those over 10).
4. During the year a resident may join the Partnership as a voting member after discussion with and approval by the chair and another Resident Partnership Group member, ratified by the Resident Partnership Group.
5. There is a minimum of 8 and maximum of 20 Resident Partnership Group members. Resident members must always represent at least 51% of the number of people on the Resident Partnership Group.
6. There is a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12 resident (voting) members elected by residents at the AGM.
7. There is a maximum of 8 advisory (non-voting) members. 4 of these are co-opted by the Partnership to bring in additional expertise to support the vision and strategic direction of Boston Big Local.
8. The other 4 non-voting members are offices of the Partnership:
 - a. Local Trusted Organisation nominee.
 - b. Secretary / admin to the Partnership (if required).
 - c. Plan co-ordinator.
 - d. Big Local Rep.
9. The Partnership is quorate when 8 people are present of whom 5 are resident voting members. The business of the Partnership may be progressed when not quorate but matters to be voted on must be deferred to a quorate meeting or through a vote taken by email at the discretion of the Chair.
10. Revocation of membership may occur after three consecutive absences from Partnership meetings or through breach of the terms and conditions of membership. A reminder will be given after the second absence.

5. Responsibilities of Partnership Members

Voting members will be responsible to:

1. Ensure propriety, accountability and the strategic direction of Boston Big Local.
2. Provide information and advice about day-to-day quality of life in the area.
3. Actively encourage people in the area to play their part in supporting Boston Big Local and its activities.
4. Ensure concerns are addressed and that planned activity has local support.
5. Ensure effective communication between the Partnership and members of the community.
6. Contribute to collective decision making based on clear evidence.
7. Take an active part in Partnership meetings, sub-groups, the AGM and key Boston Big Local community events during the year.
8. Act in accordance with the general principals of conduct included in this Agreement.

Advisory members will be responsible to:

1. Provide relevant advice, knowledge and expertise to the Partnership.
2. Provide additional impact and contribution to the Partnership from their parent organisation or other bodies.
3. Act as advocate for the Partnership within their organisation and seeking to change practice and policy to the benefit of the Partnership.
4. In addition, the Local Trusted Organisation (Age UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire) will act as the accountable body and ensure timely and accurate reporting to Local Trust on financial and delivery on outcomes.

6. Partnership post holders

1. At the first meeting of the new Partnership after the AGM, residents will vote to elect resident members to posts as it determines necessary, including:
 - a. Chair.
 - b. Vice Chair.
 - c. Finance.
2. At the first meeting of the new Partnership after the AGM, residents will vote to appoint up to four non-voting members to the Partnership.

Nominations for resident posts will be taken in advance or at the meeting with the consent of the nominee. Where more than one nomination is received, voting members will vote by written ballot and the Plan Coordinator will count the votes and announce the result.

The Chair is a resident of the Boston Big Local area and undertakes to:

1. Lead, guide and support the Partnership in its role within Boston Big Local.
2. Chair Partnership meetings in sympathy with the values and code of conduct stated within this document.
3. Chair Partnership meetings in order to progress the formation, delivery and review of Partnership plans and agreed business.
4. Ensure that all members are encouraged and enabled to make contributions.
5. Have a casting vote in meetings in the event of a vote being tied.

7. Decision Making

Decisions will be made by consensus where possible. Where reluctant assent is given in order to reach a consensus, dissenting opinions may be officially noted for future reference.

Where the Chair deems consensus to be unachievable within a reasonable timeframe, a vote will be cast by eligible members and will be binding provided that:

1. The meeting is quorate.
2. The decision is agreed by a majority of voting members present (a minimum of 5).
3. Any decision relating to commitments to or by partner organisations is only taken with their consent.
4. The proposed actions fall within the statutory and regulatory framework governing the operations of the partner organisations.

The Chair will have the casting vote if needed.

If a decision is required between meetings then an email will be sent by the Chair to see if a decision can be reached. If this is not possible or appropriate then an ad-hoc meeting will be called.

8. Frequency of meetings

1. The Partnership will meet at least 10 times a year, with additional meetings convened with the agreement of the Chair.
2. The agenda and minutes of meetings will be placed on the Boston Big Local website.
3. These meetings are open to all residents of Boston Big Local as observers.

9. Purpose and Aims

The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a single coordinating framework that:

1. Agrees the long term strategic direction for Boston Big Local.
2. Articulates and promotes the needs and aspirations of the local community through a shared vision, themes and priorities for action.
3. Prepares, implements and monitors the Boston Big Local plan.

The aim of the Partnership is to achieve the four outcomes set for the Big Local programme:

1. Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
2. People will have increased skills and confidence so they can continue to identify and respond to local needs in the future.
3. The community will work together to make a difference to the needs and issues it prioritises.
4. People will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

In fulfilling these aims the Partnership will:

- Bring together residents and different parts of the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in a spirit of collaboration and mutual support to help make Boston Big Local an even better place to live.
- Promote the engagement of communities and citizens in all its work in a thoughtful, continuous and inclusive way.

10. Values and Guiding Principles

Our values

- We will work in a fair, inclusive, honest and transparent way.
- We will foster a friendly and welcoming atmosphere in all that we do.
- We will support anyone fitting the membership criteria to become actively involved.
- We will review how we are working so that barriers are reduced.
- We accept there will be different views within the Partnership. When differences or conflict arise these will be dealt with fairly and openly, focusing on the issues or opinions, not on the individual.
- We will communicate in an accessible way with our community, through a range of approaches, including events, newspapers, radio and social media.
- We will support, engage and work with other groups in the area that have similar or overlapping objectives.
- We uphold the idea of 'sticky money' as we want the Boston Big Local investment to have the greatest impact locally. Therefore we will aim to source providers, services and goods from within the Boston Big Local area. Where this is not possible we will extend our search outwards. The principle of 'sticky money' will be balanced against obtaining value for money and the desire to engage with businesses and organisations that have similar values to the group.

Our Guiding Principles

- Open, honest, even handed, inclusive and fair.
- Active in the community, sharing our vision, listening and hearing to 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.
- To be the best we can, self-challenging, adaptable, impartial, transparent and accountable in all our dealings with the community.

11. Conduct

1. All meetings shall be conducted with regard to accepted good practice and particularly the principles of openness, fairness and parity of esteem. Members will be expected to sign their Partnership Agreement as in the Appendix.
2. The ruling of the Chair will be final.
3. A Partnership member who does not comply with this Agreement or who does not attend three consecutive Partnership meetings without notice may have their membership reviewed by the Partnership and terminated if decided upon by a two thirds majority of resident voting members.
4. The Partnership has a Compliments, Concerns and Complaints Policy for responding to issues raised by those outside the partnership. Concerns and Complaints will be responded to quickly and in a manner seeking to reduce tension and conflict and achieve speedy resolution. Where this is not possible, the Complaint will be taken on and dealt with by Age UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire as the Local Trusted Organisation.

12. Declarations of Interest

1. A member must declare an interest if he or she has a direct or indirect personal or financial interest in the matter under discussion.
2. An interest must be declared at the beginning of the relevant meeting or as soon as the member is aware they have an interest. Interest must be declared clearly so that all members are aware of the interest and how it arises.
3. Members should take no part in an item where they or any close associate might otherwise gain an unfair advantage. In such cases it will be for the member to withdraw from the room.

13. Circulation of Information

1. A programme of dates for meetings will be drawn up annually, so far as possible and published on the Boston Big Local website.
2. Agendas for Partnership meetings will be drawn up and circulated at least 5 working days in advance of each meeting, although failure to meet this requirement will not invalidate the meeting. Agendas and papers will be sent by e-mail, unless requested otherwise.
3. Copies of agendas and reports will be published on the Boston Big Local website, except for any item agreed by the Partnership to be non-public as long as this is in compliance with relevant public information legislation.
4. Notice of meetings will be published on the Boston Big Local website. Notice will also be circulated electronically to any neighbourhood, community groups and resident who request them.

14. Admission to the Public and Press

1. All meetings of the Partnership are open to the public and press unless the Partnership determines that discussion of a particular topic justifies a closed session. Special meetings and development days will generally be by invitation.
2. Each Partnership meeting will contain a question and answers item at the conclusion of business. Members of the public or press may ask questions relevant to the business transacted and the Chair will determine the nature of the response. The Chair will use his/her discretion in determining the time allocated to this item and to individual questions.
3. It is at the discretion of the Chair to ask any member of the public to withdraw from the meeting where inappropriate conduct or the nature of matters under discussion requires it for the effective progression of the meeting.

This Partnership Agreement is a public document and is available on our website. It will be reviewed by the Partnership annually in time for the AGM.

The Partnership Agreement and Declaration of Interest forms are in the Appendices.

10. Risks and challenges

Dealing with Risk: The Partnership is aware there will be many challenges and risks that arise as we travel along our Journey. We are already and currently reflecting upon some of these now, and before they may occur to ensure that they are:

- a) Aware of the many risks and challenges and have contingency plans in place before they arise.
- b) Equipped to be able to implement processes that will manage all risks and challenges positively and effectively.
- c) Resolute and committed to overcoming new challenges positively and effectively.

The Partnership has reflected upon the following risks and challenges. These are in no way definitive or provide all the answers. These are meant to show reflection of the Partnership and we will continue to develop this and reflect upon our plan, activities, and processes throughout.

Area	Risk and challenges	Remedial Action to reduce Risk
Partnership Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict of interest. • New experiences. • Knowledge base. • Positive communications. • Losing energy or focus. • New people who don't share the vision. • Potential liabilities/somebody suing us. • Lack of members. • Lack of confidence using online conferencing facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Meetings are crucial. Policy in place and reviewed. • Sharing Success /using lessons learned. • Some training may be required. • Linking into wider Programmes /Building the Local Economy. • Regular meetings. • All signed up to the partnership agreement. • Ensuring Age UK Lincoln and Lincolnshire/LTO insurance is in place/no parallel accounting possible. • Keep recruiting. Don't look inwards. • Co-opt non-voting members. • Provide or source appropriate training on Zoom.
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non or under delivery on activities. • Poor quality/unprofessionalism of service level provider. • Under-use of current unallocated funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tight SLAs. • Regular monitoring and reporting. • Feedback from/to the Partnership group for transparency. • SLAs and reports/clear accountability. • Group to take responsibility to ensure projects regularly monitored. • Not paid until work/reports approved. • Regular review as Covid restrictions change. • Proactively engage partners.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities not meeting proposed outcomes. • Changing issues – see changing local issues below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify issues/problems early through monitoring. • Reports need to focus on what difficulties/how well or if they can meet objectives. • Review project possibly carry forward to next plan if not successful. • Review the project when in difficulties.

Area	Risk and challenges	Remedial Action to reduce Risk
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing down/stop trading. • Bad Press/non professionalism. • Partners just want money. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return of goods if bankrupt. • Use legal advice for larger amounts. • Funding only comes on successful delivery. • SLA – share our vision and values. • Standard lines of communication • Key messages for the partnership. • Funding is paid on delivery of scheme.
Telling the Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping it positive. • Making it stand out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate as part of AGM • Regular partnership visits to view progress. • Advertise successes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitting the correct audience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send key messages for the partnership. • Use LCVS and internet for promotion/communication. • Boston Big Local Newsletter doorstep delivery.
Changing Local Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much can happen in 2 years – contingency plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Plan to stick to priorities • Flexibility – Use ideas already covered. • May need to put new ideas to the Trust/or a case for additional funding.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Issues arising (e.g. Pandemic, Flood etc). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review spend & under spend • Flexibility to prioritise.
Funding Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money already allocated – what do you tell people who come for some funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the Plan/monitoring spend. • Use Community Chest.
Closing to Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not able to fully spend out on this Plan • Major legacy project not able to be completed • Ensuring relationships end well with key partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any remaining underspend identified in year 9 to be allocated to delivery partners for delivery until end of September 2024. • If early indication that legacy project is not able to be completed, Partnership to reallocate funds to existing partners for delivery until end of September 2024. • Ensure ongoing conversation is maintained through the life of this plan.

11. Finances and detailed budget profile

The detailed budget below links to the themes, priorities and activities set out above, linking to a fuller quarterly spend profile. Age UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire as the accountable body and Local Trusted Organisation are responsible for ensuring oversight of finances, payment according to the delivery plan and reporting to the partnership and Local Trust on spend, under spend, forecasts and any issues that need addressing.

The partnership has agreed the following process to ensure accountability and transparency of those receiving funding.

- Partner agencies drawn up an activity plan that is reviewed by the Partnership.
- Once agreed, this activity plan is included in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Age UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire and the organisation being contracted.
- The SLA includes reporting dates for the organisation being contracted.
- The organisation being contracted will submit to the Plan Coordinator and the Partnership a work report against outcomes as specified in the SLA.
- Once the Partnership has approved this report against outcomes, Age UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire will issue a Purchase Order to the organisation which will submit an invoice relating to that PO. Where there is need for payment for expenditure before activity (for example capital spend or buying resources), Age UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire will issue a PO accordingly with agreement from the Partnership.
- The Partnership agreed that under spend for any priority, subject to agreement by the Partnership Group, can be used towards other activities within the same theme and priority.

11.1 Finances and detailed budget breakdown

Code	Total Plan budget	Year 1	Year 2 (April to Sept 24)	Activity	Delivery Organisation
1.1.1	£2,500.00	£2,500.00		Arts Project (The Story In Stitch)	Boston Stitchers
1.2.1	£4,000.00	£4,000.00		Arts For Dementia	Lincolnshire Housing Partnership
1.3.1	£5,000.00	£5,000.00		Increasing Mental Wellbeing Sessions and Ongoing Support	Boston Samaritans
1.4.1	£5,000.00	£5,000.00		Support to the development of the Food Pantry	Restore Pantry
2.1.1	£15,000.00	£15,000.00		Encourage environmental volunteering in the BBL area	LCVS
2.2.1	£5,000.00	£5,000.00		Enhance Horticultural Displays in the Town Centre	Boston in Bloom
2.3.1	£25,000.00	£25,000.00		Improve and increase play opportunities in the BBL area	Boston Borough Council
3.1.1	£11,718.00	£11,718.00		Beach Event 2023	Boston Borough Council
3.2.1	£28,000.00	£28,000.00		Run a Small Grants Programme for Community Projects and Events	Boston Big Local
3.3.1	£10,000.00		£10,000.00	Organising and Resourcing BBL Events	Boston Big Local
3.4.1	£5,000.00		£5,000.00	Recording the BBL Legacy	Boston Big Local
4.1.1	£10,000.00	£10,000.00		Directly supporting residents in financial difficulty	Citizens Advice Mid Lincolnshire
4.2.1	£42,500.00	£42,500.00		Raising the profile of Boston - Legacy piece Boston Monopoly	Boston Big Local
5.1.1	£12,213.00	£8,142.00	£4,071.00	Plan Co-ordinator (460 hrs per annum)	Boston Big Local
5.1.2	£9,360.00	£6,240.00	£3,120.00	Communications and Marketing Support	Boston Big Local
5.2.1	£1,000.00	£1,000.00		Partnership Group Costs - Expenses (Insurance, stationery etc)	Boston Big Local
5.2.2	£500.00	£500.00		Partnership Group Costs - Miscellaneous	Boston Big Local
5.3.1	£6,000.00	£4,000.00	£2,000.00	Printing and publication costs	Boston Big Local
Totals	£197,791.00	£173,600.00	£24,191.00		

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Process and Timeline

Appendix 2 - Project Coordinator Job Specification

Appendix 3 - Partnership Agreement and Declaration of Interests

Appendix 4 – 2021-23 Community Chest Grant Recipients

APPENDIX 1: Process & Timeline

DATE	Plan Development Step
Over the 2 yrs	Community consultation
June 2022	Review of 21/23 Plan Spend and review of projected underspend
October 2022	Annual Meeting
November 2022	Partner Review
December 2022	Partnership Review
January 2023	Plan discussion, contact Partners
Feb 2023	Final version of plan and budget
1st March 2023	Submit to Local Trust
1st April 2023	Activate approved plan

APPENDIX 2: Project Coordinator Job Specification

Job Title:	Project Coordinator
Hours:	8 hours per week + 5 hours per month for minute-taking at Partnership meetings + expenses and additional hours by arrangement
Term:	1 Year from Plan Approval Date
Location:	Various
Reporting to:	Contracted by the LTO and accountable to Boston Big Local Partnership.
Purpose:	Coordinate the design, delivery and evaluation of the Boston Big Local plan with the Partnership, external agencies and partners Support the Partnership to enable it to carry out its functions effectively and to review and update the plan
Role & Responsibilities:	<p>Delivery Plan - monitoring and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the design, delivery and evaluation of the Boston Big Local plan. • Ensure that the Partnership Group Core Values and Priorities remain a focus throughout the progress of the project. • Put in place Service Level Agreements for all activities funded through Boston Big Local. • Monitor all activities to ensure that aims and objectives are being met and report progress back to the Partnership. • Coordinate reports to Local Trust when required. • Ensure the LTO and Partnership complies with funding requirements. • Lead on developing areas of the plan where activities need to be identified - to include facilitating working group meetings. • Assist with the evaluation of the project. • Ensure progress on the plan is reported and shared, including via the web. • Ensure that the Profile is updated when required and that community engagement is refreshed and built upon. <p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Partnership to enable it to carry out its functions effectively and to review and update the plan. • Take part in partnership meetings giving updates on the action plan, progress and remedial action required. • Provide minute-taking services at partnership meetings. • Coordinate and facilitate the AGM. <p>Financial monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the LTO, prepare budget reports and ensure that the Partnership Group regularly receive these and take action required. • Maintain a record of all 'gifts in-kind' provided, such as free use of venues for meetings, staff time provided for activities etc. • Ensure that monitoring reports are received from delivery partners before invoices are paid. <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there are regular communications to the local community. • Liaise with partners to ensure relationships are developed and

	<p>maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate the delivery plan and priorities to the local community, being a point of contact for queries and funding requests. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work as an active and integral member of the Partnership Group. • Undertake other duties as agreed by the Partnership Group.
--	--

APPENDIX 3: Boston Big Local Partnership Agreement: Code of conduct, Confidentiality, Declaration of Interest, and Values

The purpose of the code of conduct is to ensure that all members of the Partnership operate the highest standard of integrity at all times.

As a member of the Partnership I agree to abide by our area's Big Local values. Additionally, I agree that:

- Everything the Partnership does will be able to stand the test of scrutiny by the public, charity regulators, community members, stakeholders, funders and the courts.
- Integrity, respect and honesty will be the hallmarks of all conduct when dealing with others within the Partnership and equally when dealing with individuals and institutions outside it.
- The Partnership will strive to maintain an atmosphere of openness throughout the community to promote confidence of the public, stakeholders, Local Trust, the Big Lottery Fund, charity regulators and government.

In particular Partnership Members undertake to:

- Attend regular meetings – continuity is important to ensure members make a full contribution.
- If unable to attend any meetings, convey our apologies to the Chair/Facilitator as soon as possible in advance of the meeting.
- Arrive in good time for the meetings and be prepared, having read copies of the agenda and relevant papers.
- Resign their position where they miss three consecutive meetings, unless for reasons accepted by the Partnership.
- Take an active interest in all group discussions and contribute when we can in a relevant and constructive way.
- Conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, in particular not interrupting other speakers.
- Listen to and respect the views of other members and keep an open mind when considering ideas and proposals.
- Respect the authority of the Chair to direct the meeting.
- Keep in mind the role of the group and keep to the meeting agenda.
- Understand that the group is required to reach decisions and attempt to reach consensus decisions. Where reluctant assent is given in order to reach a consensus decision, dissenting opinions may be officially noted for future reference.
- Bear in mind that the group serves the interests of the Boston Big Local area as a whole and not just those of individuals or their own special interest group.
- Respect the final decision of the group and be prepared to support it outside the meeting.
- Carry out any agreed action points between meetings.
- Observe strict confidentiality about discussions which take place.
- Make unbiased and fair judgements.
- Maintain the Declaration of Interest; when declared the member must abstain from the discussion unless otherwise asked and must not vote.
- Not act in a way that could bring disrepute to the group.
- Understand that the group is a collective body, which exists only when it meets, but as individuals are prepared to promote Boston Big Local as a vehicle for community engagement and change within the area.
- Not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, sexuality, religious belief, political opinion, age or social background.

Confidentiality

Your involvement in the Big Local Partnership may mean that you have information that has not yet been made public or is confidential.

You should never disclose or use confidential information for the personal advantage of yourself or of anyone known to you, or to the disadvantage or discredit of the Partnership. Members are expected to adhere to the Partnership Confidentiality Agreement at all times and may be asked to adhere to a specific 'embargo'. (An embargo is a request not to share information until a certain point in time.) Wherever possible the timescale and the reasons for such an embargo will be defined at the time the embargo is put in place.

Examples of such instances where a confidentiality embargo may be used are:

- Details of individuals or organisations, who have submitted funding applications.
- Details contained within individual applications prior to a decision being taken.
- Information not in the public domain.
- Draft plans or proposals not yet approved.

A short confidentiality embargo may be imposed after any Partnership meeting to ensure time to allow information to be distributed within the area to specific organisations or individuals. Where an issue is known to be potentially sensitive or likely to be confidential members will be made aware of the details of any embargo in advance.

In the event of a Confidentiality Agreement being breached by an individual, group, or organisation, the Partnership may review membership.

Declarations of Interest

In line with the code of conduct, members of the Partnership will need to declare any conflicts of interest and loyalty.

Where a member has a clear private or personal interest in a matter under consideration, they must declare that interest and, if necessary, withdraw from the meeting. The interest need not be of a purely financial nature but could include membership of a club or organisation connected with the matter under discussion. Interests can be positive or negative especially where a competitive element is introduced. For example, a member may wish to support a particular course of action because it impacts more favourably on an organisation they are a member of, or impacts favourably on their friends/relatives.

The Partnership will decide if a member has to withdraw from the meeting because we recognise that most people in the Partnership will know the people and organisations under discussion.

If in doubt, an individual should avoid being in any position where suspicion could be raised for any appearance of improper conduct - if in doubt, the individual should declare the interest and seek guidance for future meetings.

Where an individual has declared an interest a statement will appear in the minutes of the meeting stating:

- Who declared a financial/non-financial interest.
- The item being considered.
- Whether they withdrew from the meeting while the item was discussed taking no part in the discussion or decision or remained in the room during its consideration, but took no part in the discussion or decision.

Values

These are values which align with Big Local.

1. We are committed to quality and excellence in everything that we do.
2. We will support residents and people locally in improving their own communities. We know that communities which face problems contain the people who will create the solutions.
3. We actively share knowledge and skills, encouraging learning and cooperation. We collaborate with others to build the best possible solutions to the challenges we face together.
4. We are responsible, open and accountable. We will be honest and transparent in all our dealings. We will collect, share and review evidence of our progress and be open to advice and criticism.
5. We believe in social responsibility. We want our work to have a positive impact on people locally, the area and the environment, now and for future generations.
6. We are committed to equality and promote diversity. We seek to overcome all forms of discrimination and prejudice so that everyone can participate in, contribute to and benefit from Big Local on an equal basis, whatever their background, ethnicity or beliefs.
7. We will be innovative and embrace change, approaching problems proactively and creatively.
8. We are enthusiastic, energetic, positive and proud of Big Local, and will bring these qualities to all our activities.

By signing this document I agree to the items above

Name:

Date:

Signature:

Declaration of interest

Please provide details of membership of, or your occupation of a position of general control or management in any of the following:

1) Details of anybody exercising functions of a public nature: e.g. School Governing Body, Boston Borough Council	
2) Details of anybody directed to a charitable purpose: e.g. Rotary Club, Age UK	
3) Details of anybody whose principle purpose includes the influence of public opinions: e.g. Political Parties, Unison, Action Groups	
4) Details of membership and position held in any voluntary body: e.g. Placecheck Groups.	

Name

Address

Employer/if self-employed please give details of Company name and nature of employment.

I declare that the disclosure above is true:

Signature

Date

APPENDIX 4: Boston Big Local Community grants recipients

Organisation	Funding Round	Amount Awarded
Friends of Fydell House	May-21	£1,500.00
Boston In Bloom	May-21	£1,000.00
Singing For Fun	May-21	£1,500.00
Boston Volunteer Centre Charity	May-21	£1,300.00
Framework	May-21	£500.00
Boston and South Holland Talking Newspaper	Sep-21	£750.00
Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex	Sep-21	£1,250.00
Arranging Community Events	Sep-21	£4,500.00
Railway Athletic FC	Sep-21	£1,500.00
Boston Lithuanian Community	Nov-21	£4,500.00
Boston Town Amateur Boxing Club	Jan-22	£1,500.00
Nacro NEST Fishersman's Court	Jan-22	£500.00
Your Day-Your Say	Jan-22	£1,500.00
The Local Community Centre	Jan-22	£304.80
We'll Meet Again Museum	Jan-22	£1,500.00
Headway Lincolnshire	Jan-22	£1,500.00
Boston Netball Club	Jan-22	£2,300.00
Boston History Tours	May-22	£1,000.00
Carers First	May-22	£750.00
BOS Musical Theatre Group	May-22	£1,500.00
Heritage Lincolnshire	May-22	£524.00
Boston Samaritans	May-22	£1,500.00
Boston Community Runners	May-22	£500.00
Centenary Methodist Chapel	May-22	£1,500.00
Blackfriars Arts Centre	Sep-22	£1,500.00
LIVES	Sep-22	£1,500.00
Nacro Education	Sep-22	£1,500.00
Boston and South Holland Talking Newspaper	Sep-22	£500.00
Boston Lithuanian Community	Sep-22	£1,500.00
The Home Nursery Toddler Tots Group	Jan-23	£1,500.00
Pilgrim Hospital Radio	Jan-23	£1,000.00
Your Day Your Say	Jan-23	£1,500.00
Boston History Tours	Jan-23	£500.00
BOS Musical Theatre Group	Jan-23	£1,500.00
Boston Book Festival	Jan-23	£1,500.00
Indian Cultural Organisation of Lincolnshire	Jan-23	£1,500.00
Boston Volunteer Centre Charity	Jan-23	£1,500.00
Boston Borough Council - King's Coronation	Jan-23	£1,500.00
Boston Hanse Group	Jan-23	£1,500.00
Boston Wheelers Cycling Club Go Ride	Jan-23	£1,000.00
Boston Lithuanian Community	Jan-23	£1,500.00
St Botolph's Rotary Club	Jan-23	£420.00
		£57,598.80