

Corporate Plan Consultation – 1st August 2016 to 9th September 2016

The corporate plan was made available during 1st August 2016 to 9th September 2016 on the Council website and social media. The plan was sent out to all members of the viewpoint panel for their comments and also made available on Boston Market on Wednesday 17th August.

1.	<p>Hello I think it's very important for the town that all of the public toilets are kept open. No one wants to arrive on a bus and have no facilities. The drinking exclusion zone should be enforced more as well as fines for people who do not clear up after their dogs. If Boston is a clean safe place it will encourage people to visit and spend more.</p>
2.	<p>I can see the problems facing the borough finances as the private sector is also struggling. We are told that we have a lower level of empty shops than comparable towns. I wonder how well Boston are doing in bringing in the business rates due.</p> <p>Are staff remuneration packages affordable? Are these negotiated locally or nationally? Obviously the Private Sector is negotiated locally and the rates are significantly lower than areas as little as 40 miles away.</p>
3.	<p>Before saying anything else, we would like to state that we think Boston Borough Council does a brilliant job overall with limited funds available. We think people forget it's the Government who make the cuts in the first place.</p> <p>The distributor road is desperately needed to help traffic flow and to open up other parts of town. However we already have Redstone Industrial Estate and Riverside Industrial Estate south of the town, both of which have many empty units and these should be considered before building more.</p> <p>Before building new homes, it would be nice to see the many empty properties converted into flats. XXXX and XXXX London Road, Boston is a prime example.</p> <p>Boston has far too many charity shops and betting shops. They give a poor impression of our town.</p> <p>Many vulnerable people have fallen through the net. Your plan talks about the MOST vulnerable. That is not good practise. It should be ALL vulnerable people in the borough. Boston Welfare system is well below the mark and needs appraisal. We appreciate this is almost impossible with current financial restraints.</p> <p>The nearly litter-free town centre of Boston is due mainly to the work carried out by residents from North Sea Camp, but this group of hard workers never seem to get a mention. Likewise with the attractive plants growing in the town. Again no mention of who does the growing. It would be nice to see them get some recognition for the work they do.</p>
4.	<p>As the lead LCC Public Health Consultant, working on health and wellbeing with the Boston Borough Council (BBC), Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the 3rd Sector in the locality, I welcome the opportunity to respond to the draft corporate plan.</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate that we are in times of austerity and that associated efficiencies have to be made; I find it disappointing that there is no mention of Health and Wellbeing of residents despite this having substantial impact on other aspects such as isolation, independence in their own home and unemployment. I would have particularly expected to see this under Section 2 of the Corporate Plan, 'support and protect the most vulnerable within our borough'.</p> <p>Vulnerable populations, such as elderly and deprived communities, are known to experience significant health inequalities. Levels of adult obesity, healthy eating, physical activity, smoking and life expectancy in Boston are all significantly worse than the England average. 20.5% of Boston's population are aged 65+, compared to 16.9%</p>

	<p>nationally; this is set to increase by 21%, exceeding 16,000 people by 2021. This will result in an increased prevalence of age related diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, strokes and dementia. Many of those with long term conditions are dependent on unpaid carers, who then find it difficult to access employment. In Boston 10,500 people aged 65+ provide unpaid care and are often in poor health themselves.</p> <p>Boston Borough Council's continued involvement with the Health and Wellbeing agenda, particularly the operational and strategic networks would be hugely beneficial in gaining intelligence from other strategic partners, identifying opportunities for joint bids and/or joint commissioning and developing strong working relationships with community and voluntary sector organisations. BBC provide vital links to other departments such as Environmental Health, Planning and Housing whom all have an indirect impact on health.</p> <p>The paper attached, commissioned by the District Councils' Network, focuses on district councils' potential role in promoting public health through some of their key functions and enabling roles. Perhaps some of these functions could be considered and integrated into the Corporate Plan.</p> <p>I hope these points are considered useful and I would welcome any feedback - Email sent on behalf, Consultant in Public Health.</p>
5.	<p>Yes I do agree, hopefully now we have Brexit, Boston will become the market town it was when I moved into the area 19 years ago. Immigrants are an extreme burden on the NHS schools and housing. Living on the A52 in Wrangle the residents do not get value for money in relation to the Police. They refuse to get involved when Staples deposit mud and debris on the A52, unless someone is killed, their words to me. The result is that BBC has to come out at extra cost and man power to clean the road and unblock the drains to prevent flooding.</p>
6.	<p>Concerned about the number of shops closing in town centre. Could anything be done through town rates to encourage more non charity shops to occupy these premises? Charity shops do not bring people into town.</p>
7.	<p>Absolutely agree – keep up the good work.</p>
8.	<p>I agree with some of the priorities. I think more mass housing in villages will create problems. People who live in a village do so because they don't want to live in a town. Take Swineshead – too much new housing to take place. The folk there are very upset about it.</p> <p>If you put greater reliance on technology i.e. a lot of people do not have a computer. I don't. My friends don't. So online services will be no good for those customers.</p> <p>There is far too much fly tipping at Tesco. Every week, cookers, chairs, beds, etc left there – even mattresses – it's terrible.</p>
9.	<p>Yes, the ideas are wonderful, but you have no hope of success. Things just get worse.</p> <p>I have so many comments it is impossible to put everything in writing. The main ones:</p> <p>1. Prosperity – rents are increased, shops close, surely it's better to have less rent and no empty shops. Something better than nothing. Boarded up shops does not help increase tourism.</p> <p>3. Place – I would argue that Boston is SAFE. We have never had so many murders, attacks, etc. How long have you people lived in the town?? The "court" section in the 2 local papers are three or four times more than they ever used to be and as for the town being clean – RUBBISH!</p>
10.	<p>Yes, certainly, I agree with the four main priorities.</p> <p>You are all doing a good job already. Boston is an extremely pleasant town. Carry on!</p>

11.	Yes, I agree with the four main priorities.
12.	<p>I more or less agree with the priorities. The comments seem very repetitive to an outsider. I hope it's clear to the Councillors who will do the voting!</p> <p>Endeavour to give Boston a clean entrance i.e. Sleaford Road from the playing field to the station. Perhaps landlords need to be tackled about this. Spilsby Road from the church into Boston Bargate Bridge – house frontages need cleaning up! Assembly Rooms – clock needs to be <u>accurate!</u> and clock face mended. Side streets need to be cleaned. <u>Incomers</u> need to be advised about clearing of waste products and advice on which bags/bins to use! <u>FLOWERS IN AND AROUND TOWN</u> are wonderful and should be encouraged!! <u>Industry</u> should be light industries – to be encouraged – but not <u>DIRTY</u> industries. We grow <u>FOOD</u> in this area!! PLAN far enough ahead so that in 10/20 years time housing will not be in an industrial/business area as it is now i.e. CALDER (as was) surrounded by housing. Encourage English/British shops to come to the town. It seems to me that locals <u>DO NOT</u> go to buy goods in foreign shops – <u>I do</u> – and have found their staff helpful and the shops interesting <u>BUT</u> we should not be <u>swamped</u> by them. Keep <u>THE GREEN</u> and the <u>MARKET</u> going, these bring a great number of visitors to the town all year round, they are unique!! Make every endeavour to keep BOSTON free from flooding by pushing for the <u>flood barrier</u> otherwise whatever is done may well not be necessary if Boston is doomed to flooding!</p> <p>Make sure Councillors are forward thinking – not just for now but for the distant future.</p> <p><u>NB</u> I do not consider Boston is as safe a place to live now as it was in the past!</p>
13.	<p>Yes, I agree with the four main priorities.</p> <p>Page 4 (2) I think it should be 'provide quality welfare support to those who need it'.</p> <p>Page 4 (4) I think it should be 'continue to support and enforce housing standards throughout the housing market.'</p>
14.	<p>Yes, I agree with the four main priorities.</p> <p>I don't think you can achieve this. The town centre and close areas are filthy and untidy. You build more houses – for who? Not Boston people. Anti-social behaviour. Just stand in the town centre and watch what goes on. Low crime rate! Will be, you cannot find a bobby to report any crime. Don't bother to phone them, they are too busy.</p>
15.	<p>Prosperity. Boston needs the Council to express to the Government we are a special case for extra funding due to the continued influx of migrants. Demands on schools, doctors, hospital services have reached saturation point. Boston is in dire need for more funding!</p> <p>We are losing many quality shops due to the cost of business rates. So they tell us. We are informed Screwfix, Lidl and various other companies are interested in coming to the town. Let's hope we don't lose them i.e. Morrison's, QD, Clarks, Homebase, Brantano, Edinburgh Woolshop.</p>
16.	<p>Yes, I agree with the four main priorities.</p> <p>Do hope bin collections continue. It is a great help.</p>
17.	The priorities are good. Just hope they are achievable.
18.	I agree in principal with the four priorities. However the caveat of "within the current financial context" does give a let out and where I realise it is essential in the climate of cuts, renders most of the rest meaningless. I would also say that whereas I fully applaud the increased use of technology to cut costs it must be remembered that many of the most vulnerable do not have access to technology and so can be disenfranchised.

	<p>Prosperity. It would seem to a resident that this is being seen through blinkers spectacles. The halving of available parking spaces in the market has had a seriously adverse effect on businesses there. The lack of spaces and prohibitive cost means people do not drop by to do the Top Up shop that they used to and just do it all in the supermarkets. The prohibitive cost of parking throughout the town is a disincentive to shopping in Boston. By cutting the charges, more people would use the town, not only matching or beating the present revenue but also the prosperity of the town. The council's attitude to the market is killing it off. We no longer have a wool stall, gold stall and many others have left. Why can't the stalls have their vans behind? The range of vegetables available has decreased and there are more and more "£1 a bowl" stalls. What percentage of the town are Single Occupancy dwellings? They do not want a whole bowl – they want the variety and option to buy small quantities. The charges for parking going on into the evening and on Sundays penalises evening trade for Theatres etc. It is bad enough that Blackfriars gets zero funding but that its patrons also have to pay to park means that the vastly funded Spalding Theatre becomes even more attractive. Even in residential areas there are parking restrictions on Sunday – this is Punitive and counterproductive. Having lived on Windsor Bank for 16 years I am moving away as I can no longer tolerate the disruption to my life of having to move my car every two hours up to eight o'clock at night.</p>
19.	<p>Re: encouraging the growth of Boston. I agree with the aims of the Council, but I must express my concern of the methods of endeavouring to reach same:- attracting people to Boston.</p> <p>I can't see how one attracts people to Boston by reducing the Public Toilets by 50% especially with an elderly population. Increasing the parking fee and running buses through Narrow Bargate which was always considered to be a hazard. It was a good move to make it a walk way, only soon after relinquish the walk way and make it a Bus Route. There is no good reason not to circle the buses around at the Assembly Rooms and also at the other end of the walk way near 'Next', rendering the walk way safe as was the reason for its adoption in the first place.</p> <p>I also said at the time of Garden Waste charge (extra Council Tax by the back door) would increase fly tipping which has manifested itself, making it debatable if the cost were reduced by this because of the extra cost of clearing fly tipping. Garden waste was initially praised for the income that it brought in. Is this not credited now? People without garden waste obviously do not contribute, is this overlooked or ignored?</p>
20.	<p>Mostly agree. Would not be helpful for services to go on line only as a lot of people cannot access internet.</p>