

**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place**

Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>08 September 2020</b>
Subject:	<b>Boston Infrastructure Works</b>

**Summary:**

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) in discussions with Boston Borough Council (BBC) has committed funding towards highway and flood risk improvements which could match up to other local economic development schemes that will support the town's growth, based on the analysis of the town.

The purpose of this report is provide the committee with a brief overview of the projects, and invite members of the committee to review the list of schemes and highlight any additional scrutiny activity.

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to review the list of schemes and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for future updates.

## **1. Background**

Boston is a traditional market town which has a growing port, and is rich in heritage, character and history. Being one of the largest urban areas in Lincolnshire, makes its economic success important not only locally, but also for the County and wider region. However, flood risk, traffic congestion and struggling High Street present barriers to Boston's economic growth.

Following discussions between the Leaders of LCC and BBC, the Place Directorate was asked to consider schemes which could provide benefit to the Town. Service areas across LCC were approached and a long-list of schemes was identified.

Following a review of the projects with Executive Councillors, eight schemes have been agreed (estimating £1,684,000) which will provide economic growth opportunity to the town of Boston.

The final schemes are identified below which includes commentary on the key benefits.

At Appendix A more detail is provided which includes: cost, planned delivery, and scheme progress.

Updates of all schemes will be provided at future Scrutiny Committees, and members are asked to consider whether additional information (to that provided within this report) for the schemes will be of benefit.

Ref	Scheme	Benefits
<b>A</b>	Boston Dock Link Road (South End & St Johns Road)	Investment to support growth in the area of the port by enhancing the physical environment, introducing sustainable movement choice and amenity areas, with the intent to support investor confidence.
<b>B</b>	Haven Banks – Flood Risk Investment	Investment to support growth in the area of the port and locations to the east of the town which will help enhance the existing and new flood risk activities with the intent to support investor confidence.
<b>C</b>	Demolishing Murco garage (200-202 London Road)	<p>There are two key reasons for the clearance and demolition: reducing LCC revenue costs, which are more than just insurance, rates and council tax, there's also the on-going and increasing costs of making the site safe after repeated break-ins, thefts and damage; and also making and keeping the site safe and thereby reducing the liability risk to LCC as the landlord.</p> <p>In addition to the above the site is being retained as it could enable the construction of a roundabout for a new road, and act as the site compound for that.</p>
<b>D</b>	Strategic Business Case for changes to freight rail loop out of the port	A business case to consider ideas for re-routing the railway line could reduce delays within the town due to barrier down time, which in turn will reduce congestion on the highway network, and support investor confidence.
<b>E</b>	Dolphin Lane – Public realm enhancements	Investment to expand the Market Place public realm: reallocating space for pedestrians and commercial opportunities [e.g. footway café tables and seating], reorganising parking and loading, improving perceptions of safety and making landscape improvements. The intent will support investor confidence and stimulate activity within the High Street area.
<b>F</b>	Sleaford Road/Brothertoft Road junction – Traffic signal refurbishment & pedestrian facility upgrade	Investment to bring the junction to the latest standard in terms of control hardware and operation system (MOVA v8), as well as improve pedestrian & cycling facilities. The intent will reduce congestion (improving travel times) and improve sustainable movement choice.
<b>G</b>	A1137 Norfolk Street/Witham Place – Junction improvements	Investment to prohibit the right turn gives more green time to traffic from both Witham Place and Fydell Street. The change in junction delay times, as a result of banning the right turn, improves the performance of the junction which will reduce congestion (improving travel times).
<b>H</b>	Funding a Boston Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan	Investment to produce the plan will identify and assess potential schemes with the intent to support economic growth by protecting and enhancing the environment and improving quality of life for all.

## 2. Conclusion

Members of the committee are invited to review the list of schemes and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration.

## 3. Consultation

### a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

### b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not applicable

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Storyboard Boston v0.5

## 5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Warren Peppard - Head of Development Management, who can be contacted on 01522 554637 or warren.peppard@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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