



AGENDA

CABINET

MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2006

10.30 AM

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, ST PETERS HILL,
GRANTHAM**

Duncan Kerr, Chief Executive

CABINET MEMBERS:	Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal (Leader/ Portfolio: Strategic Partnerships & Community Safety), Councillor Terl Bryant (Portfolio: Resources & Assets), Councillor Ray Auger (Portfolio: Healthy Environment), Councillor Paul Carpenter (Deputy Leader & Portfolio: Access and Engagement), Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright (Portfolio: Organisational Development & Housing) and Councillor John Smith (Portfolio: Economic)
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Cabinet Support Officer:	Lena Shuttlewood tel: 01476 406119 e-mail: l.shuttlewood@southkesteven.gov.uk
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Members of the public are entitled to attend the meeting of the Cabinet at which key decisions will be taken on the issues listed on the following page. Key decisions are marked *.

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes**
To approve the record of the Cabinet meeting held on 5th December 2005.
(attached)
3. **Declarations of Interest (if any)**

CATEGORY A PRIORITY ISSUES:

4. **Stamford Gateway Scheme**
Report number PLA549 by the Head of Planning Policy & Economic Regeneration.
(attached)
5. ***Waste Management: Alternate Weekly Collection Consultation and Implementation**
Report number WCS10 by the Head of Waste and Contract Management.
(attached)

CHANGE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN ISSUES:

6. **Budget 2006/07 & 2007/08:**
PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT 2006/07 & 2007/08;
BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND RESERVES;
RENT INCREASE PROPOSALS 2006/07 -
Report number FIN254 by the Director of Finance and Strategic Resources.
(attached)
7. ***Allocation of Income from Reduced Discount of Council Tax on Second Homes**
Report number DCS37 by the Director of Community Services.
(attached)

OTHER ISSUES:

8. *** Review of Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme**
A copy of report number FIN252 by the Director of Finance and Strategic Resources previously submitted to the Resources DSP on 24th November 2005 is attached to this agenda, together with the minute containing the DSPs recommendations.
(attached)
9. **Funding of South Kesteven Citizens' Advice Bureaux**
Report number DCS32 by the Director of Community Services. **(attached)**
10. **Community Strategy for Lincolnshire**
Report number CEX310 by the Chief Executive. **(attached)**
11. **Matters Referred to Cabinet by the Council or the Development & Scrutiny Panels**
12. **Items raised by Cabinet Members including reports on Key and Non Key Decisions taken under Delegated Powers.**

- 13. Representations Received from Members of the Public on Matters within the Forward Plan (if any)**
- 14. Representations received from Non Cabinet Members**
- 15. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**



MEETING OF THE CABINET **5 DECEMBER 2005 - 10.30 AM – 12.55 PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor Ray Auger
Councillor Teri Bryant
Councillor Paul Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor John Smith

Councillor Mrs Linda Neal – Leader/Chairman

Corporate Director of Community Services
Corporate Director of Regulatory Services
Corporate Director of Finance and Strategic Resources
Corporate Director of Operational Services
Senior Planning Officer (Policy)
Team Leader – Economic Development
Business Services (Best Value) Officer
Assets and Facilities Manager
Public Relations Manager
Scrutiny Support Officer

Other Members Present:

Councillors Nadarajah, Mrs Percival, Gerald Taylor, Turner, Wilks

CO88. MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE RECORD OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER 2005.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2005 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments to the decision at minute CO78.

- **“2. That a reasonable contribution should be provided by the Town Council to demonstrate their commitment to the project;**
- **3. That the development should fulfil a series of outcomes, to be decided on through liaison with officers and that these should then be agreed and reviewed at a future date by the Cabinet.”**

CO89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)

Councillor Carpenter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute CO93. He left the meeting during consideration of this item.

CO90. LARGE SCALE VOLUNTARY TRANSFER: PROGRESS REPORT

DECISION:

That Cabinet

- (1) **accepts the progress report and notes that there will be Council briefing on 14th December 2005, as requested by the chairman of the Council, to consider the information in relation to the strategic choice of landlord.**
- (2) **recommends to Council, for the purposes of negotiating and developing an “Offer to Tenants”, that in the event of a transfer of the Council’s housing stock proceeding that:-**
 - (a) **50% of the available usable capital receipt from transfer be made available for affordable housing after protecting the General Fund from the impact of transfer;**
 - (b) **100% of any share of “Right to Buy” receipts be made available for affordable housing.**

Considerations/Reasons for decision:

- (1) Report number DRS23 by the Corporate Director of Regulatory Services explaining the current work programme of the project team, which included formation of working groups, strategic choice of landlord, communications and development of the Shadow Board, and future issues, mainly delivering the preferred landlord option and developing and negotiating an “offer to tenants”;
- (2) Large Scale Voluntary Transfer is the preferred stock option for the future ownership and management of the Council’s housing stock, as resolved by Council at its meeting on 26th May 2005;
- (3) Consultants have identified that the Council is likely to receive a share of “Right to Buy” income in the future;
- (4) 50% capital receipts for the General Fund from a Transfer will help fund the Council’s priorities that affect Council tenants as well as all other residents.

CO91. EAST STREET AND WELHAM STREET CAR PARKS: PROGRESS REPORT

DECISION:

To note the update report DCS33 and the progress achieved to date on East Street and Welham Street car parks.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number DCS33 by the Corporate Director of Community Services giving details of the work undertaken in the development of the East Street and Welham Street car park sites in Grantham;
- (2) The completion of a Traffic Impact Study for Welham Street and the likelihood that the subsequent recommendations can be implemented within budget;
- (3) Tenders received for the demolition of the East Street site, which has been delayed until after Christmas in response to concern from local businesses that disruption will affect trade.

CO92. COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2006-2009

DECISION:

- (1) That the Community Plan be approved;**
- (2) The Cabinet notes that an Action Plan will be completed in early 2006, and once approved, to recommend to Council the adoption of the completed Community Plan and Action Plan.**

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number DCS34 by the Director of Community Services introducing the new approach to the Community Plan for the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP);
- (2) Copies of the draft plan circulated at the meeting;
- (3) New terms of reference for the LSP, as explained in the report, including five task and finish groups aligned with priorities;
- (4) The new approach is supported by the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) as an example of good practice;
- (5) Minor amendments required to the plan the use of photographs of the rural routes bus.

CO93. CONCLUSIONS FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION ABOUT THE URBAN CAPACITY STUDY

DECISION:

That the Cabinet

- (1) Notes the detailed comments and officer response made about the Urban Capacity Study (UCS) summarised in the schedule to report PLA541;**
- (2) Endorses the approach set out in the report to:**
 - **Update Housing Land supply figures used in the UCS to 30th September 2005.**
 - **Amend the methodology set out at the beginning of the study to clarify that sites of 0.4 ha or with an anticipated capacity of 10+ dwellings have been included and that all Greenfield sites including allotments are excluded from the study.**

- **Update the conclusions for each site included in the UCS which has received planning permission since September 2004 (this should include the deletion of a capacity for Springfield Park and Gonerby House which were included as both commitments and UCS sites in the consultation draft).**
- **Update all relevant site details where information about the site has been made available through the consultation process, this includes discounting sites where the land owners or occupier has provided information suggesting that the site would not be available for redevelopment for housing.**
- **Fully assess the additional sites suggested through the consultation process and include these sites if suitable for housing development in the UCS.**
- **Give further detailed consideration to the issue of site currently in an employment use and consider the conclusions raised in the employment land review (ELR) to the UCS.**

(3) Approves that these changes be incorporated into a final UCS which should be published as a background documents for the Local Development Framework, subject to the following changes.

- **The introduction to the document include a statement clearly communicating that the study is subject to the normal planning application process, to be determined by the Economic Development Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Senior Planning Officer (Policy).**
- **Page 10 of Appendix B (Site Identifications DE 17 and DE18) not be discounted and that relevant sections be amended as necessary.**

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number PLA541 by the Head of Planning Policy and Economic Regeneration presenting feedback from the public consultation on the Urban Capacity Study and proposed amendments;
- (2) Outcomes of the Employment land Review reflecting original outcomes of the UCS;
- (3) In relation to sites DE17 and DE18, the policy team response has been superseded by new evidence - outline planning permission has been granted to a site adjacent to Northfields Industrial Estate and full planning application submitted for the site;
- (4) Redevelopment of vacant upper floors or housing which are converted to flats will count towards the location's structure plan housing requirement and this is taken into account in the normal planning process;
- (5) Housing developers are following government policy and producing applications of higher density;
- (6) The Local Development Framework will include at least one affordable housing policy to cover all sites within the district
- (7) Sites identified in the study are potential sites that may see development if appropriate in the future.

CO94. REVIEW OF THE EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN TO 2026: OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

DECISION:

(1) That Cabinet agrees

- (a) to the proposed amendment to the Eastern Sub-Area;**
- (b) that Policies 2 and 3 of the current RSS8 encompass the key principles of sustainability and should be retained;**
- (c) to the preferred Option 2A for housing development (that is to follow trend based projections for both the level and distribution of housing in this district)**

(2) That the Portfolio Holders for Economic Development and Housing meet with Council planning officers and the Regional Assembly Director of Planning to discuss the Council's concerns over local housing requirements.

Considerations/Reasons For Decision:

- (1) Report number PLA542 by the Head of Planning Policy and Economic Regeneration summarising the issues raised by the "Options for Change" documents produced by the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) for consultation;
- (2) Officer comments presented in the report on each of the issues raised;
- (3) Changes to the sub-area boundary allocated to South Kesteven has no material effect;
- (4) Sustainability criteria presented in the document reflect national guidelines;
- (5) Housing development option 2A allows scope for development in smaller market towns, large villages as well as Grantham. The other options presented would limit areas of development;
- (6) A joint Lincolnshire response will be presented to the EMRA via the Lincolnshire Assembly.

CO95. BUDGET 2006/07: COUNCIL TAX BASE

DECISION:

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended), the amounts shown below be recorded as the Council Tax bases for 2006/2007.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Band D Equivalents</u>
Grantham	10,349.0
Stamford	6,755.2
Bourne	4,274.9
Deeping St James	2,309.5

Market Deeping	2,005.8
Allington	343.3
Ancaster	499.7
Aslackby & Laughton	100.4
Barholme & Stowe	34.0
Barkston & Syston	261.8
Barrowby	712.0
Baston	546.5
Belton & Manthorpe	208.1
Billingborough	403.3
Bitchfield & Bassingthorpe	57.8
Boothby Pagnell	62.4
Braceborough & Wilshorpe	126.2
Burton Coggles	39.3
Careby, Aunby & Holywell	67.3
Carlby	198.7
Carlton Scroop & Normanton	125.9
Castle Bytham	301.5
Caythorpe	537.0
Claypole	484.3
Colsterworth, Gunby & Stainby	586.2
Corby Glen	396.1
Counthorpe & Creeton	34.1
Denton	123.6
Dowsby	60.8
Dunsby	49.1
Edenham	114.3
Fenton	44.7
Folkingham	281.6
Foston	187.2
Fulbeck	213.1
Greatford	122.5
Great Gonerby	758.6
Great Ponton	122.8
Haconby	165.7
Harlaxton	312.6
Heydour	147.9
Honington	65.4
Horbling	151.9
Hougham	79.1
Hough-on-the-Hill	153.0
Ingoldsby	114.7
Irnham	103.6
Kirkby Underwood	82.3
Langtoft	737.5
Lenton, Keisby & Osgodby	62.4
Little Bytham	111.1
Little Ponton & Stroxtone	69.6
Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without	1,572.6
Long Bennington	821.6

Marston	152.8
Morton	793.6
North Witham	58.3
Old Somerby	90.1
Pickworth	68.0
Pointon & Sempringham	201.9
Rippingale	324.3
Ropsley, Humby, Braceby & Sapperton	343.8
Sedgebrook	141.5
Skillington	127.7
South Witham	465.8
Stoke Rochford & Easton	87.1
Stubton	72.3
Swayfield	145.3
Swinstead	86.0
Tallington	181.2
Thurlby	782.6
Toft, Lound & Manthorpe	139.0
Uffington	303.8
Welby	78.2
Westborough & Dry Doddington	138.5
West Deeping	120.5
Witham-on-the-Hill	89.4
Woolsthorpe	143.3
Wyville-cum-Hungerton	<u>18.4</u>
SKDC TOTAL	<u>43,803.0</u>

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

(1) Report number FIN250 by the Corporate Director of Finance and Strategic Resources stating that the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 amended by s84 of the Local Government Act 2003 allow each authority to make its own arrangement for adopting the Council Tax base.

CO96. ESTABLISHMENT OF A LEISURE TRUST

DECISION:

(1) **That the Council proceeds with the development of a leisure trust with charitable status, to deliver a range of leisure services on behalf of the District Council;**
 (2) **That the following facilities and services be identified as suitable for transfer.**

- Bourne Corn Exchange
- Stamford Arts Centre
- Bourne Leisure Centre
- Stamford Leisure
- Deepings Leisure Centre
- Centre

- **Grantham Meres Leisure Centre**
- **Guildhall Arts Centre**
- **South Kesteven Sports Stadium**
- **Sport Development**
- **Arts Development**
- **Play Development**

- (3) That the final decision is only taken when robust business plans have been prepared and approved by Cabinet;**
- (4) That consideration continues to be given to opportunities for cost saving through partnership with neighbouring authorities;**
- (5) That Cabinet notes that budget provision of £100k to £150k will be required to develop a leisure trust and that this funding should be identified in the normal 2006/07 and 2007/08 budget setting process;**
- (6) That the contract with Leisure Connection for the management of the Deepings Leisure Trust be extended until March 2008 on the existing terms;**
- (7) That the Cabinet prefers the development of a single trust rather than multiple trusts.**

Considerations/Reasons For Decision:

- (1) Report number LAC147 by the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services outlining the considerations for proceeding with a leisure trust;**
- (2) Positive response to proposal from main consultees including Lincolnshire County Council and Burghley Estates;**
- (3) Current contractor remains keen to discuss with the Council other options for service provision including an Industrial Provident Society model or a separate independent trust;**
- (4) The Sports and Recreation Trust Association, representing trusts as they are established, is developing a Charter of Integrity for trust arrangements which suggests that a trust be independent, especially from organisations for profit;**
- (5) Partnership working in the setting up of a trust can yield significant savings.**

Other Options Considered and Assessed:

The report gave advantages and disadvantages of a single versus multiple trusts. Cabinet considered that the benefits of a single trust, including significantly reduced costs, far outweigh those of multiple trusts, as confirmed by work undertaken by consultants.

CO97. MOVING TO A CASHLESS OFFICE

DECISION:

Subject to consultation with tenant compacts, cash payments stop before the opening of the Customer Services Centre, 'Allpay' be introduced and direct debit dates be increased.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number DOS295 by the Director of Operational Services and the Revenues Manager which presented the report of the E-Government Working Group: "Moving Towards a Cashless Office";
- (2) The endorsement of the working group report by the Engagement and Resources Development & Scrutiny Panels;
- (3) Further information provided at the meeting by a member of the E-Government Working Group;
- (4) Evidence gathered by the working group from a number of other local authorities;
- (5) Potential Gershon cashable and non-cashable savings are achievable from the proposal;
- (6) 'Allpay' would significantly increase the outlets and times at which customers could pay bills. It would enhance local businesses, especially rural ones, and provide cheaper costs of transactions. 'Allpay' would not be introduced at the Council offices;
- (7) Staff time could be better deployed in more customer services activities at all area offices;
- (8) Increasing direct debit dates would increase collection rates and provide better service to the customer by increasing flexibility;
- (9) The Council has a statutory duty to consult with tenants on service changes;
- (10) The changes need implementing before work commences on the customer services centre to reduce disruption to customers.

CO98. REVIEW OF FOOTWAY LIGHTING THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

DECISION:

- (1) That discussions continue with Lincolnshire County Council regarding their taking over full responsibility for dealing with all lighting throughout the district until such time that a detailed costing is received enabling full cost comparison to measure the financial viability.**
- (2) That, until such time that all information is available to allow this cost comparison, installation of new lights (funded on a 50/50 basis with contribution from Parish Councils) is suspended.**

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number AFM7 by the Assets and Facilities Manager, reviewing progress on the discussions that have taken place with Lincolnshire County Council aimed at researching and validating any benefits from them taking full responsibility for all lighting in the district;
- (2) Final costings, which will determine the potential cost savings, are awaited from Lincolnshire County Council.

CO99. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

DECISION:

That Cabinet accepts the tender from Cleanaway Ltd to the value of £836,527.09 (per annum) for a contract term of 7 years with an option, subject to satisfactory performance, to extend by a further 3 years.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number DCS35 by the Corporate Director of Community Services detailing the selection process and considerations for the selection of preferred contractor;
- (2) The Council is required by law, after a period of ten years with the same contractor, to offer the grounds maintenance service to tender on the open market;
- (3) Cleanaway Ltd submitted the lowest tender with the highest percentage award;
- (4) Cleanaway Ltd has committed, at their own cost, to complete a comprehensive professional inspection and report on the condition of all the Council's mature tree stock;
- (5) The contractor has agreed that there will be no penalty for removing elements of the work from the contract.

CO100. ITEMS RAISED BY CABINET MEMBERS INCLUDING REPORTS ON KEY AND NON-KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

Councillor John Smith: Portfolio – Economic Development

Decision: That approval be granted to the Corporate Manager Democratic and Legal Services to defend and resist a High Court challenge in respect of a judicial review of a decision to grant planning permission taken by the Development Control Committee and that the Council's Barrister be instructed to appear for the Council in the pending High Court proceedings and any further appeal courts proceedings regarding this particular challenge if that proves necessary.

[Decision made: 28.11.05]

Decision: That approval is granted to adopt a shopfront design guide for Bourne.

[Decision made: 05.12.05]

Decision: To approve the first Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) as attached at appendix 1 to report PLA545. That the AMR be published and formally submitted to the First Secretary of State. Publication of the documents should include making it available on the councils' web site and at all of the local libraries and district offices.

[Decision made: 05.12.05]

Councillor Mrs. Frances Cartwright: Portfolio – Organisational Development, LSVT and Housing Landlord Function

Decision: To approve the award of a Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant for building adaptations to a property at Kesteven Road, Stamford.

[Decision made: 14.11.05]

Decision: To approve the award of a Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant for building adaptations to a property at Winchester Road, Grantham.

[Decision made: 28.11.05]

Councillor Paul Carpenter: Portfolio – Access and Engagement

Decision: That approval be granted to fly the Lincolnshire Flag outside the Council Offices at all times apart from those nominated dates when the Union, St. George's and Council flags are flown for this municipal year.

[Decision made: 28.11.05]

Decision: To approve acceptance of the tender received from A Hatcher & Sons Ltd of Sleaford in the sum of £165,133.00 for the internal alterations and extension to the existing Banking Hall area to create the shell to the proposed Customer Services Centre.

[Decision made: 05.12.05]

CO101. IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC LOCAL GOVERNMENT RETURN 5

The Leader agreed to take this item as urgent business as the IEG Return 5 must be submitted to the ODPM no later than 19th December 2005 but the new pro forma required by Return 5 was not released by the ODPM by 9th November and this did not allow for timely completion of the return to meet reporting deadlines.

DECISION:

That Cabinet delegates authority for approval of IEG5 to the Access and Engagement Portfolio Holder.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number DOS297 by the Director of Operational Services explaining the tight timeframe for submission of the Implementing Local Government Return 5;
- (2) The IEG5 will be published on the Council's intranet and website once submitted;

- (3) The Council is on target for full achievement of Best Value Performance Indicator 157 by the end of December 2005;
- (4) The E-Government Working Group is providing additional member input by scrutinising the document.

CO102. LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES

The Leader agreed to take this item as urgent business to enable a timely response to the request for financial support for the Lincolnshire Community Policing Initiative. Such a response could not be made ahead of the meeting between the Chief Executives of the Lincolnshire authorities that took place on 22nd November.

DECISION:

That the Cabinet

- (1) Supports the proposals for community policing set out in the letter dated 11th November from the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council;**
- (2) Lincolnshire County Council be urged to enter into a formal service level agreement with the Police Authority on expected service outcomes;**
- (3) Agrees that a contribution of £65,700 towards the cost of the Community Policing Initiative be recommended for approval to Council as part of the Council's 2006/07 budgetary processes;**
- (4) Agree that the application of the funding (£60,000) required for taking forward the Council's Action Plan for tackling anti-social behaviour (approved by Cabinet on 10th October) be suspended whilst the Action Plan is reviewed.**

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number DCS34 by the Corporate Director of Community Services explaining the proposals developed by Lincolnshire Police for developing a new model of policing based on operating at a community level;**
- (2) Appended letter from the Lincolnshire County Council Leader setting out the county's position;**
- (3) The proposed model has been developed in conjunction with this authority and largely based on the Council's practices.**

DATE DECISIONS EFFECTIVE:

Key decisions at minutes CO92, CO93, CO94, CO95, CO96, CO97, CO99, CO122 and non-key decisions taken on 5th December 2005 will become effective on 14th December 2005 unless subject to call-in by the relevant Development & Scrutiny Panel Chairman or five members of the Council. The decision at CO90 is a matter of policy and therefore stands referred to full Council.

**South Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham,
Lincolnshire NG31 6PZ**

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Agenda Item 4

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: M Sibthorp; Head of Planning Policy & Economic Regeneration

REPORT NO: PLA.549

DATE: 9th January 2006

TITLE:	STAMFORD GATEWAY SCHEME
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	N/A
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	N/A
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr John Smith; Economic Development
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Town Centres; Street Scene
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	Scheme implementation is likely to have positive impacts
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Report PLA.525; Cabinet 7 th November 2005

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND SUMMARY

At their meeting of 7th November 2005 , Cabinet resolved to contribute £350,000 towards the cost of the Stamford Gateway public realm scheme, subject to a number of conditions. Cabinet are invited to review this decision in the light of the decision of Stamford Town Council to not contribute to the scheme.

2. DETAILS OF REPORT

At their meeting of 7th November 2005, Cabinet considered a report (PLA.525) inviting a contribution towards the cost of the Stamford Gateway scheme; a major public realm enhancement project in Sheepmarket and Red Lion Square. The scheme, sponsored by Stamford Vision, has attracted contributions from Welland Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership and Lincolnshire County Council and a number of other national, regional and local organisations. At the meeting it was resolved

That the Cabinet is minded to approve the contribution for the sum of £350,000 for the Stamford Gateway project subject to the following terms:

- 1. That the sum is payable in three instalments of 40%, 40% and 20% linked to the delivery of specified outcomes approved by Cabinet;**
- 2. That a reasonable contribution should be provided by the Town Council to demonstrate their commitment to the project;**
- 3. That the development should fulfil a series of outcomes, to be decided on through liaison with officers and that these should then be agreed and reviewed at a future date by the Cabinet;**
- 4. That the final scheme design, including any liabilities or responsibilities that will accrue to the District Council will be approved by the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Assets;**
- 5. No further financial assistance will be sought or forthcoming from the District Council for this project.**

Stamford Town Council were invited to contribute to the scheme. The matter was considered at a meeting of the Town Council on 13th December 2005. Subsequent to that meeting, the Town Clerk has responded as follows;

“At the Town Council meeting which took place on Tuesday 13th December, this matter was debated at length. A majority vote was not in favour of providing a financial contribution. However, for the record, on 22nd February 2005, the Town Council did vote as a majority in support of the project as a whole.”

In the light of Condition 2 attaching to the Cabinet decision of 7th November, Cabinet are invited to consider whether they wish to continue to contribute to the scheme notwithstanding the position adopted by Stamford Town Council.

Dependent upon Cabinet's decision on the matter, Condition 3 set out above requires a series of outcomes to be agreed. A meeting is scheduled to discuss these prior to the Cabinet meeting. A verbal update will be given at the meeting, should this be required, and Cabinet invited to agree the necessary outcomes.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED

Outlined in previous report PLA.525

4. COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

Outlined in previous report PLA.525

5. COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

Outlined in previous report PLA.525

6. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

None

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet are invited to consider whether they wish to continue to contribute to the Gateway scheme, in the light of the decision of Stamford Town Council.

2. In the light of any decision made in respect of Item 1, Cabinet are invited, if appropriate, to determine appropriate scheme outcomes.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

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Agenda Item 5

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Garry Knighton – Head of Waste and Contract Services

REPORT NO. WCS 10

DATE: 9th January 2005

TITLE:	Alternate weekly collection consultation and implementation
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Waste Collection Arrangements
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	16 th June 2005
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	PFP

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Ray Auger – Portfolio Holder for Healthy Environment
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Recycling
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	Minor
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	Unless exempt, this report is a public document and available from the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Report WCS7 to Cabinet on 08.08.05

1. SUMMARY

This report follows the recent consultation on the proposed introduction of an alternate weekly collection service throughout the district. Results from the consultation and recommendations on the possible future options are explained.

2. INTRODUCTION

In June 2005 the Healthy Environment Development and Scrutiny Panel created a Working Group to assess the future of recycling. This working group, chaired by Councillor Nick Craft, identified a number of factors that must be considered in taking recycling into the future:

- Challenging future recycling targets. These are likely to be increasing aiming to bring lower performing authorities in line with better performing neighbours, some of who are achieving nearly 50% recycling rate.
- New legislation requiring the Council to collect at least two recyclables from every household from the kerbside by 2010.
- Demands placed upon Lincolnshire County Council, and subsequently all district councils, to divert biodegradable waste from landfill.

As a result of these factors, and considering a number of options, the working group recommended that a Twin Bin system be introduced in South Kesteven.

Following the recommendation, it was recognised a consultation process was required to identify the need from the public.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- To proceed with the introduction of the alternate weekly collection system for waste throughout the whole district council area.
- To implement the rollout of the system in a phased approach, beginning in September 2006, ending Summer 2007.

4. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Consultation

Following the recommendation from the Healthy Environment Development and Scrutiny Panel, and its working group, it was agreed that changes were necessary in the future of recycling to achieve any future targets and fulfil any legal duties. However, it is important that residents within the district have an opportunity to comment on this integral service, and as such a period of consultation was conducted.

The consultation was carried out through a variety of media:

- a. A comprehensive article and questionnaire in *sktoday*
- b. Press releases, with one newspaper running a questionnaire
- c. Presentations to all Local Area Assemblies
- d. Presentations to community groups
- e. Detailed correspondence with relevant community groups

sktoday

A detailed article was written in the October issue of the magazine, with a questionnaire enclosed. Copies of both are enclosed as Appendix A1 and A2.

The article raised a lot of questions with readers and there was a good response to the questionnaire. A total of 2,160 responses were received despite a number of complaints of lack of delivery.

The results have been analysed and the following table highlights the key results:

Percentage of respondents preferring a wheeled bin for refuse collection	72.7%
Percentage of respondents preferring black sacks for refuse collection	27.3%
Main reason for preferring wheeled bins	Easy to move
Percentage of respondents preferring a wheeled bin for recycling collection	69.3%
Percentage of respondents preferring a box for recycling collection	30.7%
Main reason for preferring wheeled bins	Easy to move

The results support the thoughts of officers in Waste and Contract Services, where a number of calls are made, regularly enquiring about wheeled bins and increased recycling.

Though there is still a demand for black sacks and boxes for recycling, this is perhaps swayed by those areas which we are already aware will be exempt. All publicity explained that inclusion of the postcode on the questionnaire was important to help identify areas where wheeled bins would cause a problem, therefore the results may have been influenced by people's worries about the Council introducing a blanket scheme, and ignoring individual needs.

Press Releases, and 'unofficial' surveys

The Grantham Journal and the Stamford Mercury ran a brief survey in the local newspapers in the summer, when reports from the working group were discussed by the DSP. These results also indicated a preference to wheeled bins, rather than maintaining the current system.

Local Area Assemblies

These presentations were very popular, and a large number of responses resulted from them, largely from community groups. The presentations allowed questions to be answered directly on the possible changes and a detailed explanations to the reasons were given.

Community Groups and Members of the Public

As with any possible change, there are supporters and objectors, and a large amount of correspondence was exchanged with regards to this subject.

Most letters received expressed concerns about the impact on their lifestyle and health, including worries about storing waste for longer and moving wheeled bins. All anxieties were addressed individually, and few went on to express further problems.

Outcomes

It is evident from the feedback received that there are areas where wheeled bins would be unsuitable, however, it has always been a recognised factor that some properties would be exempt from this collection method. A Policy on Exempt Properties would be required should this method be selected.

At large though, the residents of South Kesteven would like to see wheeled bins introduced for both refuse and recycling collections.

Implementation

Based on the results above, two programmes of implementation have been written. These are attached as Appendix B1 and B2.

The 'Big Bang' approach, though possible, would be the least effective and successful. There are a number of reasons why this approach would perhaps fail:

- a. It is estimated that distribution of bins would take approximately 6 months, and therefore some households would start using their bins long before collections are due to commence. This situation occurred with the introduction of the green waste scheme.
- b. An integral part of introducing an alternate weekly collection scheme is **publicity**. It is recommended by all communication specialists to run publicity three weeks and one week before implementation. A lack of resources would make this impossible to cover the whole 365 square miles on this time frame.

Therefore, a phased-in approach is recommended, implementing the scheme round by round. Advantages of this method of implementation are:

- a. Bins are delivered no more than 4 weeks prior to collections starting. Residents will receive the bin and, even if used, will not cause a large problem.
- b. Problems and experiences can help to avoid the same issue on the next phase. All new schemes require some evaluation period and refinement, which can be done easily at the end of each phase.
- c. Vehicles will be adapted with bin lifts as required, and therefore there will not be a large period of time where bags are still being collected by converted freighters. Though it is possible to work with the bin lift fitted, it causes unnecessary strain on the collection staff.
- d. Publicity can be targeted to specific areas. Whole villages can be canvassed with a road show, and door stepping can be done in the town areas. This is the most successful way of promoting this scheme.

Though the implementation would not be complete until June 2007, the scheme would be based on a more solid foundation, with more success, less complaints and higher recycling rates.

5. COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

The cabinet would need to ensure sufficient resources are included within its Revenue and Capital Programmes to carry out the recommendations.

6. COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

No comment.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Various options were considered by the working group of the Healthy Environment Development and Scrutiny Panel, of which the move at an alternate weekly collection scheme with two wheeled bins seems the most appropriate for South Kesteven District Council. This is supported by the consultation with the public and it is possible to implement this scheme by Summer 2007.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

Garry Knighton
Head of Waste and Contract Services
Extension 6276



Bags, boxes or bins?

“ The choice is yours

We are having to review our collection procedures to meet the challenging targets set by government. A working party to assess these alternatives for waste collection has reported to Cabinet at SKDC and their observations have now been incorporated into a questionnaire. Please complete this as your views are important.

”

— Councillor Ray Auger, portfolio holder for healthy environment

LIKE all UK councils, SKDC is coming under significant pressure from central government to improve its recycling targets.

Similarly, the general public has voiced strongly held views about how we collect waste (for example, some believe the current system to be outdated) – all of which has led to a major review of the collection systems.



As sustainable waste management officer, Dawn Temple explains, SKDC is determined to have a clear picture of how customers want refuse and recyclables collected in future.

Dawn says: "We are committed to consulting with the public on all issues, but especially on those that they consider to be most important, one of which is definitely waste collection.

"The government has made it clear that we must attain higher recycling targets and to meet those targets we are proposing to introduce an alternate weekly collection system. That means every property moving onto a weekly collection cycle – one week for refuse collection and the next for recyclables – and so on.

"Our challenge is to introduce a scheme with the right short, medium and long term benefits for everyone. That's why we are asking our customers what they want before taking final decisions."



Dawn Temple

Your views are crucial

OBVIOUSLY different people have different views but SKDC wants an accurate barometer of public opinion. That's why you'll find a questionnaire in this edition of **sktoday** giving you the chance to tell us your preferred type of container for your refuse and recyclables. After all, it's you who are going to use it! So please take the time to complete and return the questionnaire. We really need to understand your views and requirements. There are pluses and minuses on both issues – black bags or wheelie bins for refuse and boxes or wheelie bins for recyclables.

For example, you might feel that black bags are easier to store and that you feel unable to store – or have access problems – with a wheelie bin. On the other hand, you might believe that the wheelie bins are cleaner, easier to move and that the bags split too easily.

The choice is yours.

"We are determined to provide the best collection service to our residents as well as meeting the government's recycling targets. To do so, firstly we need to know what people think. Whatever your view we need to know it," adds Dawn Temple.

The questions

1. Which container would you prefer to use for your waste collection, bearing in mind that it will be collected on an alternate weekly schedule. Refuse will be collected one week, and recyclables the next? (please tick appropriate boxes)

	Refuse	Recycling
Black bags	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wheelie bins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. What are your reasons for the above choices?

	Refuse	Recycling
Easy to store	<input type="checkbox"/>	Easy to store
Easy to move	<input type="checkbox"/>	Easy to move
Access difficulties	<input type="checkbox"/>	Access difficulties
Cleanliness issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cleanliness issues
Bags split easily	<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity
Litter on streets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Litter on streets
Better for two weekly collections	<input type="checkbox"/>	Better for two weekly collections
Requires no lifting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requires no lifting
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

3. What is your postcode? This will help us to identify problem areas with the two options

The results will be published in the next edition of sktoday. Thank you for your time – we really do appreciate your views.

Waste collection

It's your choice?

This is your opportunity to decide if you want to change the way in which your waste is collected in South Kesteven. We've based our questionnaire on the article in this edition (see page 6) of sktoday, so it's really important that you read the article carefully to ensure that you make a fully informed decision.

Once you've decided how you want your waste collected, just fill in the form and return it to any of our council offices or to Mrs D Temple, Waste & Contract Services, Council Offices, St Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6PZ. Closing date for replies is noon on November 7 2005.



Appendix B1

PROJECT NOTES – BIG BANG APPROACH

Please note all duration times are in working days.

1. CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

These policies will be reported to Cabinet in February 2006.

12. DECIDE ON BIN COLOUR ETC

Decisions about the bin colour and size will need to be decided before the tender documents are produced.

ID	Icon	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors
1		Campaign strategy	29 days	Wed 28/12/05	Mon 06/02/06	
2		Mixed heriditatem implications	1 day	Fri 30/12/05	Fri 30/12/05	
3		Assisted collections	2 days	Thu 29/12/05	Fri 30/12/05	
4		Identify exempt properties	2 days	Thu 29/12/05	Fri 30/12/05	
5		Complaints policy	3 days	Wed 28/12/05	Fri 30/12/05	
6		Enforcement policy	3 days	Wed 28/12/05	Fri 30/12/05	
7		Collection parameters	3 days	Mon 02/01/06	Wed 04/01/06	2,3,4,5,6
8		Resource assessments	3 days	Mon 02/01/06	Wed 04/01/06	2,3,4,5,6
9		Report policies to Cabinet	1 day	Mon 06/02/06	Mon 06/02/06	
10		Procurement of bins	159 days	Wed 14/12/05	Mon 24/07/06	
11		Report to Cabinet on consultation etc	1 day	Mon 09/01/06	Mon 09/01/06	
12		Decide on bin colour etc	20 days	Tue 10/01/06	Mon 06/02/06	11,9FF
13		Advertise the tender	3 days	Mon 09/01/06	Wed 11/01/06	
14		Deadline for the bin samples to arrive	25 days	Thu 12/01/06	Wed 15/02/06	13
15		Deadline for the expressions of interest	27 days	Thu 12/01/06	Fri 17/02/06	13
16		Evaluate PQQ's etc and draw up Select List	5 days	Mon 20/02/06	Fri 24/02/06	15,14
17		Invite to tender	1 day	Wed 14/12/05	Wed 14/12/05	
18		Deadline for the submission of tenders	19 days	Thu 15/12/05	Tue 10/01/06	17
19		Evaluate tenders	10 days	Wed 11/01/06	Tue 24/01/06	18
20		Prepare Cabinet report	1 day	Wed 25/01/06	Wed 25/01/06	19
21		Report to Cabinet / Portfolio holder for approval	1 day	Mon 24/04/06	Mon 24/04/06	20
22		Announce results and place order	10 days	Tue 11/04/06	Mon 24/04/06	21FF
23		Lead time for manufacture of bins	65 days	Tue 25/04/06	Mon 24/07/06	22
24		Arrange storage for bins during distribution	20 days	Tue 25/04/06	Mon 22/05/06	22
25		Arrange deadline for the distribution of bins	3 days	Tue 25/04/06	Thu 27/04/06	22
26		Procurement of bin lifts	276 days	Tue 10/01/06	Sat 27/01/07	
27		Advertise tender	3 days	Tue 10/01/06	Thu 12/01/06	11
28		Deadline for expressions of interest	25 days	Tue 17/01/06	Mon 20/02/06	27
29		Evaluate PQQ's and draw up Select List	5 days	Tue 21/02/06	Mon 27/02/06	28
30		Invite to tender	1 day	Tue 28/02/06	Tue 28/02/06	29
31		Deadline for submission of tenders	29 days	Wed 01/03/06	Mon 10/04/06	30
32		Evaluate tenders	10 days	Tue 01/08/06	Mon 14/08/06	31
33		Prepare Cabinet report	1 day	Tue 15/08/06	Tue 15/08/06	32
34		Report to Cabinet / portfolio holder	1 day	Wed 16/08/06	Wed 16/08/06	33

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors
35	Announce results and place order	10 days	Thu 17/08/06	Wed 30/08/06	34
36	Lead time for manufacture of lifts	58 days	Thu 31/08/06	Mon 20/11/06	35
37	Arrange fitting schedule	20 days	Tue 24/10/06	Mon 20/11/06	36FF
38	Fitting period	27 days	Sat 23/12/06	Sat 27/01/07	36
39	Negotiate contracts with Materials Recycling Facility	40 days	Tue 10/01/06	Mon 06/03/06	11
40	Bin chipping	7 days	Fri 19/01/07	Sat 27/01/07	
41	Make sure data software installed	7 days	Fri 19/01/07	Sat 27/01/07	26FF
42	Bin distribution	254 days	Mon 06/02/06	Wed 24/01/07	
43	Get full address list for the district	10 days	Mon 06/02/06	Fri 17/02/06	
44	Make full address list of exempt properties	30 days	Mon 20/02/06	Fri 31/03/06	43
45	Issue lists to distributor	3 days	Thu 20/07/06	Mon 24/07/06	44,23FF
46	Arrange staff to assist with distribution	30 days	Tue 13/06/06	Mon 24/07/06	
47	Distribute bins	133 days	Tue 25/07/06	Wed 24/01/07	45,23
48	Publicise changes	263 days	Mon 06/02/06	Mon 05/02/07	
49	Have meeting with PR	5 days	Mon 06/02/06	Fri 10/02/06	
50	Book roadshows	10 days	Mon 05/06/06	Fri 16/06/06	49
51	Decorate trailer	14 days	Mon 05/06/06	Thu 22/06/06	49
52	Order stock for trailer	4 days	Fri 23/06/06	Wed 28/06/06	50,51
53	Order giveaways	10 days	Fri 23/06/06	Thu 06/07/06	50,51
54	Arrange staff for roadshows	3 days	Mon 19/06/06	Wed 21/06/06	50
55	Arrange driver for roadshows	3 days	Mon 19/06/06	Wed 21/06/06	50
56	Write publicity leaflets	5 days	Mon 07/08/06	Fri 11/08/06	49
57	Write letters to all residents	1 day	Mon 14/08/06	Mon 14/08/06	56
58	Arrange printing of letters	10 days	Mon 11/12/06	Fri 22/12/06	57
59	Pack letters	30 days	Sat 23/12/06	Wed 31/01/07	58
60	Post letters	3 days	Thu 01/02/07	Mon 05/02/07	59
61	Prepare information for SKDC website	10 days	Mon 13/02/06	Fri 24/02/06	49
62	Place information on website	2 days	Mon 27/02/06	Tue 28/02/06	61
63	Arrange for a mini page for recycling on webpage	10 days	Mon 27/02/06	Fri 10/03/06	49,61
64	Media / Press conference	30 days	Mon 13/02/06	Fri 24/03/06	49
65	Press releases	10 days	Mon 13/02/06	Fri 24/02/06	49
66	Take out advertorial space in local newspapers	10 days	Mon 14/08/06	Fri 25/08/06	49,56
67	Visit parish councils and LAA where appropriate	5 days	Mon 27/03/06	Fri 31/03/06	65,49,64
68	Review rounds	58 days	Mon 13/03/06	Wed 31/05/06	

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors
69	Assess if the existing rounds need to be altered	14 days	Mon 13/03/06	Thu 30/03/06	
70	Change rounds as necessary	20 days	Fri 31/03/06	Thu 27/04/06	69
71	Write letter informing residents of changes	1 day	Fri 28/04/06	Fri 28/04/06	70
72	Pack letters	20 days	Mon 01/05/06	Fri 26/05/06	71
73	Post letters	3 days	Mon 29/05/06	Wed 31/05/06	72
74	Training of staff	45 days	Mon 09/01/06	Fri 10/03/06	
75	Discussion with union reps	10 days	Mon 09/01/06	Fri 20/01/06	
76	Write presentation on policies and changes	5 days	Mon 13/02/06	Fri 17/02/06	1,49
77	Arrange training session with office staff	3 days	Mon 20/02/06	Wed 22/02/06	49,76
78	Issue handbooks to all office staff	5 days	Thu 23/02/06	Wed 01/03/06	77
79	Arrange training sessions with crews	3 days	Mon 20/02/06	Wed 22/02/06	76
80	Issue handbooks to all crews	3 days	Thu 23/02/06	Mon 27/02/06	79
81	Arrange training session with Customer Services	3 days	Mon 20/02/06	Wed 22/02/06	76
82	Issue handbooks to staff	3 days	Thu 23/02/06	Mon 27/02/06	81
83	Arrange training with Councillors	5 days	Mon 20/02/06	Fri 24/02/06	76
84	Issue information pack on policies etc	5 days	Mon 27/02/06	Fri 03/03/06	83
85	Place handbooks etc on intranet	3 days	Mon 20/02/06	Wed 22/02/06	1,76
86	Engage members and media	10 days	Mon 20/02/06	Fri 03/03/06	49,76
87	Host waste seminar before main campaign starts	5 days	Mon 06/03/06	Fri 10/03/06	49,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86
88	Report to Cabinet and Council for full approval	5 days	Tue 15/03/06	Mon 21/03/06	1,22,32,49
89	Going live!	14 days	Mon 29/01/07	Thu 15/02/07	1,10,26,40,42,68,74,88
90	Evaluation and monitoring of scheme	58 days	Fri 16/02/07	Tue 08/05/07	89

Appendix B2

PROJECT NOTES – PHASED-IN APPROACH

Please note all duration times are in working days.

1. CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

These policies will be reported to Cabinet in February 2006.

12. DECIDE ON BIN COLOUR, SIZE, CHIPPING ETC

Decisions must be made before the tender documentation is produced.

25. DELIVERY OF BINS

Made to a centralised area for distribution to the householders in each phase.

38 – 45. BIN LIFT FITTING

It is estimated that one bin lift will be fitted each weekend, however, this is to be confirmed by CP Davidson, Maintenance Contractor.

47. REVIEW ROUNDS

The review of the rounds will attempt to keep all residents on the same collection day, and only the crews' rounds will change. This is made somewhat easier by operating a zonal collection method.

Where unavoidable, residents will be notified of changes to their collection day via a mail shot.

56. BIN DISTRIBUTION

Collection rounds determine stages of distribution. This equates to **approximately 5,000 properties per round.**

Phase 1 will cover Round 1 – 5,000 properties

Phase 2 covers Round 2 – 5,000 properties

Phase 3 covers Rounds 3 and 4 – 10,000 properties

Phase 4 covers Rounds 5 and 6 – 10,000 properties

Phase 5 covers Rounds 7 and 8 – 10,000 properties

Phase 6 covers Rounds 9 and 10 – 10,000 properties

Phase 7 cover Rounds 11 and Farm – 6,000 properties

118. PHASE FOUR GO LIVE

There is a delay over the Christmas 2006 period for implementation. This is based on a number of factors:

- a. Distribution companies will not be able to complete delivery over this period
- b. Leaving bins with householders will encourage them to use them when waste arisings are very high, however, we would not be able to empty once full.
- c. Advice from experts at Central Government and Agencies do not suggest introducing an alternate weekly collection scheme during the Christmas period.

ID	Icon	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors	Resource Names
1		Campaign strategy	29 days	Wed 28/12/05	Mon 06/02/06		
2		Mixed heriditament implications	0.5 days	Fri 30/12/05	Fri 30/12/05		
3		Assisted collections	1 day	Fri 30/12/05	Fri 30/12/05		
4		Identify exempt properties	2 days	Thu 29/12/05	Fri 30/12/05		
5		Complaints policy	3 days	Wed 28/12/05	Fri 30/12/05		
6		Enforcement policy	3 days	Wed 28/12/05	Fri 30/12/05		
7		Collection parameters	3 days	Mon 02/01/06	Wed 04/01/06	2,3,4,5,6	
8		Resource assessments	3 days	Mon 02/01/06	Wed 04/01/06	2,3,4,5,6	
9		Report policies to Cabinet	1 day	Mon 06/02/06	Mon 06/02/06	2,3,4,5,6,7	
10		Procurement of bins	156 days	Mon 09/01/06	Fri 11/08/06		
11		Report to Cabinet on consultation etc	1 day	Mon 09/01/06	Mon 09/01/06		
12		Decision on colour, size, chipping etc	20 days	Tue 10/01/06	Mon 06/02/06	11,9FF	
13		Advertise the tender	3 days	Tue 07/02/06	Thu 09/02/06	12	
14		Deadline for the bin samples to arrive	26 days	Fri 10/02/06	Fri 17/03/06	13	
15		Deadline for the expressions of interest	27 days	Fri 10/02/06	Mon 20/03/06	13	
16		Evaluate PQQ's etc and draw up Select List	5 days	Tue 21/03/06	Mon 27/03/06	15,14	
17		Invite to tender	1 day	Tue 07/02/06	Tue 07/02/06	9,12	
18		Deadline for the submission of tenders	19 days	Wed 08/02/06	Mon 06/03/06	17	
19		Evaluate tenders	10 days	Tue 07/03/06	Mon 20/03/06	18	
20		Prepare Cabinet report	1 day	Tue 21/03/06	Tue 21/03/06	19	
21		Report to Cabinet / Portfolio holder for approval	1 day	Mon 24/04/06	Mon 24/04/06	20	
22		Announce results and place order	10 days	Tue 11/04/06	Mon 24/04/06	21FFF	
23		Lead time for manufacture of bins	65 days	Tue 25/04/06	Sat 22/07/06	22	
24		Arrange storage for bins during distribution	30 days	Tue 25/04/06	Mon 05/06/06	22	
25		Delivery of bins	15 days	Mon 24/07/06	Fri 11/08/06	23	
26		Procurement of bin lifts	324 days	Tue 10/01/06	Mon 26/03/07		
27		Advertise tender	3 days	Tue 10/01/06	Thu 12/01/06	11	
28		Deadline for expressions of interest	26 days	Fri 13/01/06	Fri 17/02/06	27	
29		Evaluate PQQ's and draw up Select List	5 days	Mon 20/02/06	Fri 24/02/06	28	
30		Invite to tender	1 day	Mon 27/02/06	Mon 27/02/06	29,9	
31		Deadline for submission of tenders	29 days	Tue 28/02/06	Fri 07/04/06	30	
32		Evaluate tenders	10 days	Mon 10/04/06	Fri 21/04/06	31	
33		Prepare Cabinet report	3 days	Mon 24/04/06	Wed 26/04/06	32	
34		Report to Cabinet / portfolio holder	1 day	Mon 29/05/06	Mon 29/05/06	33	

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors	Resource Names
35	Announce results and place order	10 days	Tue 30/05/06	Mon 12/06/06	34	
36	Lead time for manufacture of lifts	58 days	Tue 13/06/06	Tue 29/08/06	35	
37	Arrange fitting schedule	20 days	Tue 30/05/06	Mon 26/06/06	34	
38	Fit bin lift to Round 1 freighter	2 days	Sat 26/08/06	Mon 28/08/06	34FS+60 days	
39	Fit bin lift to Round 2 freighter	2 days	Sat 30/09/06	Mon 02/10/06	38FS+20 days	
40	Fit bin lift to Round 3 and 4 freighters	7 days	Sat 04/11/06	Mon 13/11/06	39FS+20 days	
41	Fit bin lift to Round 5 and 6 freighters	7 days	Sat 13/01/07	Mon 22/01/07	40	
42	Fit bin lifts to Round 7 and 8 freighters	7 days	Sat 27/01/07	Mon 05/02/07	41	
43	Fit bin lifts to Round 9 and 10 freighters	7 days	Sat 10/02/07	Mon 19/02/07	42	
44	Fit bin lifts to Round 11 and 'B' freighters	7 days	Sat 24/02/07	Mon 05/03/07	43	
45	Fit bin lifts to Recycling freighters	12 days	Sat 10/03/07	Mon 26/03/07	44	
46	Negotiate contract with Materials Recycling Facility	40 days	Tue 10/01/06	Mon 06/03/06	11	
47	Review rounds	90 days	Wed 01/03/06	Tue 04/07/06		
48	Assess if the existing rounds need to be altered	14 days	Wed 01/03/06	Mon 20/03/06		
49	Change rounds as necessary	40 days	Tue 21/03/06	Mon 15/05/06	48	
50	Write letter informing residents of changes	1 day	Tue 16/05/06	Tue 16/05/06	49	
51	Pack letters	20 days	Wed 17/05/06	Tue 13/06/06	50	
52	Post letters	3 days	Wed 14/06/06	Fri 16/06/06	51	
53	Change rounds as necessary	5 days	Wed 28/06/06	Tue 04/07/06	52SS+10 days	
54	Bin chipping	7 days	Fri 16/03/07	Mon 26/03/07		
55	Make sure data software installed	7 days	Fri 16/03/07	Mon 26/03/07	26FF	
56	Bin distribution	352 days	Mon 06/02/06	Wed 30/05/07		
57	Get full address list for the district	10 days	Mon 06/02/06	Fri 17/02/06		
58	Make full address list of exempt properties	30 days	Mon 20/02/06	Fri 31/03/06	57	
59	Issue lists to distributor	3 days	Tue 16/05/06	Thu 18/05/06	58,22,49	
60	Arrange staff to assist with distribution	30 days	Fri 07/04/06	Thu 18/05/06	59FF	
61	First stage of bin distribution	14 days	Wed 26/07/06	Mon 14/08/06	59,25SS+2 days	
62	Second stage of bin distribution	14 days	Tue 15/08/06	Thu 31/08/06	61	
63	Third stage of bin distribution	27 days	Fri 01/09/06	Fri 06/10/06	62	
64	Fourth stage of bin distribution	27 days	Mon 08/01/07	Fri 09/02/07	63	
65	Fifth stage of bin distribution	27 days	Sat 10/02/07	Thu 15/03/07	64	
66	Sixth stage of bin distribution	27 days	Fri 16/03/07	Mon 23/04/07	65	
67	Seventh stage of bin distribution	27 days	Tue 24/04/07	Wed 30/05/07	66	
68	Publicity	375 days	Mon 09/01/06	Mon 04/06/07		

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors	Resource Names
69	Have meeting with PR	5 days	Mon 09/01/06	Fri 13/01/06		
70	Book roadshows	10 days	Mon 05/06/06	Fri 16/06/06	69	
71	Decorate trailer	14 days	Mon 05/06/06	Thu 22/06/06	69	
72	Order stock for trailer	4 days	Fri 23/06/06	Wed 28/06/06	70,71	
73	Order giveaways	10 days	Fri 23/06/06	Thu 06/07/06	70,71	
74	Arrange staff for roadshows	3 days	Mon 19/06/06	Wed 21/06/06	70	
75	Arrange driver for roadshows	3 days	Mon 19/06/06	Wed 21/06/06	70	
76	Write publicity leaflets	5 days	Mon 07/08/06	Fri 11/08/06	69	
77	Write letters to all residents	1 day	Mon 14/08/06	Mon 14/08/06	76	
78	Arrange printing of letters	10 days	Mon 11/12/06	Fri 22/12/06	77	
79	Pack letters	30 days	Mon 25/12/06	Wed 31/01/07	78	
80	Post letters	3 days	Thu 01/02/07	Mon 05/02/07	79	
81	Prepare information for SKDC website	10 days	Mon 16/01/06	Fri 27/01/06	69	
82	Place information on website	2 days	Mon 30/01/06	Tue 31/01/06	81	
83	Arrange for a mini page for recycling on webpage	10 days	Mon 30/01/06	Fri 10/02/06	69,81	
84	Media / Press conference	30 days	Mon 16/01/06	Fri 24/02/06	69	
85	Press releases	10 days	Mon 16/01/06	Fri 27/01/06	69	
86	Take out advertorial space in local newspapers	10 days	Mon 14/08/06	Fri 25/08/06	69,76	
87	Visit parish councils and LAA where appropriate	5 days	Mon 27/02/06	Fri 03/03/06	85,69,84	
88	Promotion in Phase One area	15 days	Wed 26/07/06	Tue 15/08/06	61SS	
89	Promotion in Phase Two area	15 days	Tue 15/08/06	Fri 01/09/06	62SS	
90	Promotion in Phase Three area	15 days	Fri 22/09/06	Wed 11/10/06	63SS+15 days	
91	Promotion in Phase Four area	15 days	Fri 26/01/07	Tue 13/02/07	64SS+15 days	
92	Promotion in Phase Five area	15 days	Thu 01/03/07	Tue 20/03/07	65SS+15 days	
93	Promotion in Phase Six area	15 days	Fri 06/04/07	Thu 26/04/07	66SS+15 days	
94	Promotion in Phase Seven area	15 days	Tue 15/05/07	Mon 04/06/07	67SS+15 days	
95	Training of staff	153 days	Mon 09/01/06	Tue 08/08/06		
96	Discussion with union reps	10 days	Mon 09/01/06	Fri 20/01/06		
97	Write presentation on policies and changes	5 days	Tue 07/02/06	Mon 13/02/06	1,69	
98	Arrange training session with office staff	3 days	Tue 14/02/06	Thu 16/02/06	69,97	
99	Arrange training sessions with crews	3 days	Tue 14/02/06	Thu 16/02/06	97	
100	Arrange training session with Customer Services	3 days	Tue 14/02/06	Thu 16/02/06	97	
101	Arrange training with Councillors	5 days	Tue 14/02/06	Mon 20/02/06	97	
102	Engage members and media	10 days	Tue 14/02/06	Mon 27/02/06	69,97	

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors	Resource Names
103	Host waste seminar before main campaign starts	5 days	Tue 28/02/06	Mon 06/03/06	69,98,99,100,101,102	
104	Pre Launch Training of office staff	3 days	Wed 26/07/06	Fri 28/07/06	88SS	
105	Issue handbooks to all office staff	5 days	Mon 31/07/06	Fri 04/08/06	104	
106	Pre launch training of crews	3 days	Wed 26/07/06	Fri 28/07/06	88SS	
107	Issue handbooks to all crews	3 days	Mon 31/07/06	Wed 02/08/06	106	
108	Pre launch training of Customer Services	3 days	Wed 26/07/06	Fri 28/07/06	88SS	
109	Issue handbooks to staff	3 days	Mon 31/07/06	Wed 02/08/06	108	
110	Pre launch training of Councillors	5 days	Wed 26/07/06	Tue 01/08/06	88SS	
111	Issue information pack on policies etc	5 days	Wed 02/08/06	Tue 08/08/06	110	
112	Place handbooks etc on intranet	3 days	Wed 26/07/06	Fri 28/07/06	88SS	
113	Report to Cabinet and Council for full approval	5 days	Tue 25/04/06	Mon 01/05/06	1,22,32,69	
114	Going Live!	216 days	Tue 29/08/06	Fri 15/06/07		
115	Phase One Go Live	10 days	Tue 29/08/06	Mon 11/09/06	38,61	
116	Phase Two Go Live	10 days	Mon 09/10/06	Fri 20/10/06	39,62,115	
117	Phase Three Go Live	10 days	Mon 20/11/06	Fri 01/12/06	40,63,116	
118	Phase Four Go Live	10 days	Mon 12/02/07	Fri 23/02/07	41,64,117	
119	Phase Five Go Live	10 days	Mon 19/03/07	Fri 30/03/07	42,65,118	
120	Phase Six Go Live	10 days	Mon 30/04/07	Fri 11/05/07	43,66,119	
121	Phase Seven Go Live	10 days	Mon 04/06/07	Fri 15/06/07	44,67,120	
122	Evaluation and monitoring of scheme	58 days	Tue 12/09/06	Tue 28/11/06	115	

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

REPORT NO: FIN 254

DATE: 9 January 2005

TITLE:	BUDGET 2006/07 AND 2007/08 - PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT 2006/2007 AND 2007/08 BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND RESERVES - RENT INCREASE PROPOSALS 2006/07
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	POLICY FRAMEWORK & KEY DECISION
COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	CABINET AND FINANCE PORTFOLIO HOLDER
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to comment upon:

- (i) the Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2006/07 and indicative settlement for 2007/08.
- (ii) Budget Requirement and Reserves
- (iii) Housing Rents 2006/07
- (iv) Other Budget issues.

Recommendations

It is recommended the Cabinet:

1. Note the impact of the provisional Local Government Settlement for 2006/07 and 2007/08.
2. Set a target General Fund budget requirement of £13.959m for 2006/07 and consider preparing indicative figures for 2007/08. These to be reviewed by the Cabinet later in the Budget process.

3. Ensure the scale of charges are reviewed as part of the Gateway Budget Review.
4. Agree to the rent proposals set out in the report and these to be consulted with the Tenant Compact.
5. Request further feedback on budget consultation from the Budget Working Party and public feedback from SKNews and the LAA meetings in January, in time for its consideration of budget plans in February.

Provisional Local Government Settlement 2006/07

The provisional settlement data was received on the 5th December 2005. The final settlement data will be received in time for the setting of Council Tax in the New Year. The consultation closes on the 11th January 2006.

2. This report covers the following areas;
 - a. New grant distribution system
 - b. National summary of Settlement
 - c. Capping and Level of Council Tax
 - d. Impact at South Kesteven and likely target Budget Requirement

New Formula Grant Distribution System

3. During the summer the Government consulted on the options for changing the formula grant distribution system. They have opted for the four block model. The new distribution method is similar to the previous system in that slices of money will be distributed according to authorities relative needs; the system will equalize for potential to raise income and a mechanism will be retained to prevent detrimental changes to their grant allocation (the floor damping system).
4. The main change is the removal of notional spending and tax elements i.e. spending as measured by Formula Standard Spending shares and assumed levels of Council Tax. The Government believes these figures previously have been subject to misinterpretation. The new system focuses on cash amount of grants.
5. A brief synopsis of the four blocks follows.

i) Relative Needs Block

This is split into seven main areas of service need- Children's Services, Adults' Personal Services; Police; Fire; Highways Maintenance; Environmental Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS); and Capital Financing.

The relative needs formula (RNF) is designed to reflect the relative needs of individual authorities in providing services. They do not measure the actual amount required to be spent on services. The building block for each area will be an amount per client, topped up by factors such as deprivation and area costs. Since the formulae only reflect relative differences they are expressed as a proportion of the total RNF.

The amount of monetary grant is set by the results of the next three blocks.

Authorities are grouped into those delivering similar services. The RNFs are added together to give a total RNF for each group. The total for each group is then divided by the total population for that group of councils as measured by the mid year population estimates. The minimum RNF per head across all Councils providing the group of services is then subtracted from the RNF per head for each council. The sum of the RNFs above the minimum for each Council is then calculated and is multiplied by the mid-year projected population. The control total for the block is then distributed in proportion to this.

The Relative needs block for South Kesteven is the EPCS block.

ii) Relative Resources Amount

This will be a negative figure and is an assessment of the ability of Councils to raise money locally. Those that can raise more money locally require less government support. The Council tax base is the important factor of this block.

iii) Central Allocation

The remaining money left in the grant pot is then distributed through the central allocation pot on a per head basis.

iv) Floor Damping Block

This exists to ensure that all authorities receive a reasonable grant increase. The Government sets a minimum increase in grant and increases above the floor are scaled back to pay for the floor guarantee.

Summary of National Position

6. The key points of the settlement as provided by the Local Government Association (LGA) are:

- A headline increase of 4.5% in aggregate External Finance in 2006/07 and 5.0% for 2007/08, (including schools). In 2005/06 the increase was 6.2%.
- An increase in Formula grant beyond the Spending review 2004 of £305m in 2006/07 and £508m in 2007/08.
- Total increase in Formula grant of 3.1% in 2006/07 and 3.8% in 2007/08
- Relief of spending pressures through
 - -funding of net cost of new burdens
 - -financing cost pressures of pensions rule of 85 rule
 - -agreement to work with LGA on managing pressure on pay, waste, adult social care

- -commitment costs of new licensing will be met by national fee regime.
- Increase in ring-fenced grant of over 50%-in particular the introduction of ring-fenced Dedicated schools grant in 2006/07.
- New formulae changes for Personal social care and Concessionary fares
- Damping arrangements-the floors will be 2% for 2006/07 and 2.7% for 2007/08, for those with Education and social services, 3.2% and 3.7% for police Authorities, **3% and 2.7% for Shire districts**, and 1.5% and 2.7% for fire authorities.
- Publishing of notional amounts for capping purposes for those Authorities impacted on by the changes in Education Funding.

Table 1 below summarises Government Funding for 2006/07 and 2007/08(£M)

Table 1 - Aggregate External Financing

		2005/06 Adjusted	2006/07	Change Adjusted	2007/08	Change Adjusted
	TOTAL AEF	59,423	62,103	4.5%	65,083	5.0%
Of						
which	Special Grants	39,190	41,179	5.1%	43,433	5.5%
	NET AEF (SR2004)	44,281	47,184	6.6%	49,608	5.1%
Plus	Total post-SR transfers	-24,049	-26,260		-27,958	6.1%
Equals	NET AEF	20,233	20,924	3.4%	21,650	4.0%
Minus	NNDR Distributable Amount	18,000	17,500	-2.8%	17,500	0.0%
Equals	TOTAL RSG	2,233	3,424	53.4%	4,150	25.0%
Minus	RSG for specified bodies	63	65	2.6%	58	-4.4%
	TOTAL RSG FOR RECEIVING					
Equals	AUTHORITIES	2,170	3,360	54.8%	4,092	25.5%
add						
back	NNDR Distributable Amount	18,000	17,500	-2.8%	17,500	0.0%
plus	Police Grant (incl. Met. Special					
plus	Payment)	3,883	3,931	1.2%	4,028	2.5%
equals	FORMULA GRANT	24,053	24,791	3.1%	25,620	3.8%

Source LGA/ODPM

7. The above table demonstrates the macroeconomic switches of funding between special grants, NNDR and Formula Grant. The NNDR rate in the pound will rise by 2.7% in line with September 2005 RPI, taking it to 43.3p in the pound. It is expected that the level of external support should keep Council Tax increase to less than 5%.

Table 2 below shows the changes in Special grants (£m)

Table 2: Special Grants

	2005/06 Adjusted	2005/06 to 2006/07 Latest		2006/07 to 2007/08 Latest	
		2006/07 Latest	2006/07 Change	2007/08 Latest	2007/08 Change
Education	28,676.0	30,466.3	6.2%	32,288.9	6.0%
PSS	2,805.0	2,901.8	3.5%	2,894.5	-0.3%
Fire	0.6	0.6	0.0%	0.6	0.0%
Police	4,442.0	4,519.0	1.7%	4,868.3	7.7%
EPCS	389.4	392.3	0.7%	390.6	-0.4%
Capital	425.0	455.0	7.1%	535.0	17.6%
Unallocated	2,453.5	2,443.9	-0.4%	2,455.2	0.5%
TOTAL	39,191.6	41,179.0	5.1%	43,433.1	5.5%

The above table highlights the authority's level of special grants for Education, Police and Personal Social Services. Those with Education powers will be working out the impact of the dedicated schools budget and whether there is an adverse impact on other services of the ringfence.

Formulae Changes

8. There are a lot of Formulae changes included within the settlement. The Lincolnshire Missing Millions campaign responded to the consultation paper on the changes. In terms of South Kesteven District Council the formula changes in the EPCS block for concessionary travel were the ones requested by the Lincolnshire Authorities. I will need to analysis the data in detail to ascertain any other formulae changes impacting on South Kesteven District Council, in particular those relating to density, sparsity, capital financing and flood defence. Individual authority tables have now been published and I will update the Cabinet on any relevant issues for South Kesteven.

Winners and Losers - Re-Distribution of Formula Grant

9. Table 3 overleaf shows the % change in formulae grant across the regions. The East Midlands has the greatest increase in formula grant over the next 2 years.

Local Authority type	2006/07 (%)	2007/08 (%)
London area	2.7%	3.5%
Metropolitan areas	2.6%	3.6%
Shire areas	3.3%	4.0%
Isles of Scilly	7.1%	12.1%
Inner London boroughs incl.		
City	2.6%	3.7%
Outer London boroughs	2.6%	3.2%
London boroughs	2.6%	3.5%
GLA - all functions	3.0%	3.6%
Metropolitan districts	2.4%	3.6%
Metropolitan fire authorities	1.7%	2.9%
Metropolitan police authorities	3.5%	3.7%
Shire unitaries with fire	3.5%	6.1%
Shire unitaries without fire	2.8%	4.2%
Shire counties with fire	3.1%	4.2%
Shire counties without fire	2.9%	3.7%
Shire districts	4.8%	4.7%
Combined fire authorities	3.4%	3.6%
Shire police authorities	3.4%	3.7%

FLOOR GROUPS

Education/PSS Authorities	2.7%	3.7%
Police Authorities	3.4%	3.7%
Fire Authorities	2.4%	3.1%
Shire Districts	4.8%	4.7%

GO REGIONAL SUMMARY

South West GOR	3.3%	4.2%
South East GOR	3.1%	3.4%
London GOR	2.7%	3.5%
Eastern GOR	3.5%	4.1%
East Midlands GOR	3.6%	4.5%
West Midlands GOR	3.0%	4.0%
Yorkshire and Humber GOR	2.8%	3.6%
North East GOR	2.7%	3.5%
North West GOR	2.9%	3.8%

South Kesteven District Council-The local impact and interpretation of the Settlement

10. The remainder of the report considers the settlement data specific for South Kesteven District Council and offers some comments on the settlement generally.

It should be borne in mind that the comparison between 2005/06 and 2006/07 assumes that any new obligations in 2006/07 have been adjusted in the 2005/06 grant figure shown to create a like for like comparison of grant increase. The cash increase in grant will simply be the 2006/07 grant, plus the net impact of the amending reports over the grant received in 2005/06. It will be important to determine how much of the Council budget is allocated to the new areas, in particular free concessionary fares because this will determine the real increase in resources to the Council. Table 4 below is a summary of the position for South Kesteven.

Table 4 - South Kesteven's Settlement Figures

Description	2006/07	2007/08
Relative needs Amount	£3.218m	£3.269m
Relative Resource Amount	£-2.215m	£-2.413m
Central Allocation	£8.294m	£8.820m
Floor Damping	£-.0028m	£-.062m
Formula Grant	£9.269m	£9.615m
Formula grant after Amending reports	£9.323m	
FG- rsg	£1.493m	
FG-nndr	£7.7776m	
Amending grant	£.0054m	
Adjusted Grant 2005/06	£8.973m	£9.269m
Grant Received 2005/06	£8.368m	
Increase in Formula grant on Adjusted 2005/06	3.3%	3.7%
Increase including amending reports	3.9%	
Increase on cash base-assume no additional functions	10%	

11. Table 4 illustrates the calculations of grant at local level. Overall it is not a bad settlement for South Kesteven District Council. In terms of the rest of the Lincolnshire Districts table 5 below shows the position.

Table 5 - Increases in Lincolnshire

Authority	Increase % 2006/07
Boston	8.1
East Lindsey	7.6
Lincoln	3.0
North Kesteven	9.8
South Holland	5.2
West Lindsey	10.9

12. Thus on a relative basis South Kesteven District Council has not fared as well in the settlement as its neighbours. I will need to investigate the detailed formulae to see whether the impacts of weightings for sparsity have been changed. Although South Kesteven increase is just above the average countrywide it remains very close to the floor, and thus sensitive to any changes in damping arrangements.
13. It is the relative position that is so important. The new grant system formulae will over time redirect monies from one area to another and we must review the individual factors in the formula to ensure we respond to future Government consultation on the formulae.
14. Following a seminar I attended on the Local Government settlement a number of interesting factors emerged. Firstly that there is a clear expectation from the ODPM that local authorities would announce indicative Council Tax figures for 2007/08, in order that Council Taxpayers would be advised in advance of the likely situation .For this to be meaningful we would require the major precepting authorities to provide their figures. I am studying the Budget requirement regulations to ensure any Council resolutions relating to 2007/08 are included if required.
15. Secondly, the new grant system creates a major change in who is paying for Local Services. The removal of Education funding from the ODPM to the DFES as a specific grant moves 50% of funding from formula grant to a single service. Thus the resultant situation is at least 70% of services are being funded by redistributed business rates. If national estimates on the collection of business rates prove poor there could be a funding problem for the Government. It also means the ODPMs flexibility on the size and format of funding is limited because control has been passed to the sponsoring department.
16. At District level, three changes have given the improved funding position. The £350m added for concessionary fares, the amendment of the calculation on interest receipts within the capital financing element, and a change in the national council tax base by Authority type. I am unable to ascertain the additional funding the Council has received from the input of Concessionary Fares. The new money is added to the pot and then goes through the same formula as the rest of the grant and is affected by damping etc. The capital financing change might be more evident when the individual tables are analysed for each Council. The share of national tax base has been tweaked by the ODPM. This is used in the calculations to assess tax raising abilities by class of authority. For 2006/07 Districts have seen a reduction of 3.93% whilst County Councils, Metropolitan Areas have seen an increase. This effectively means Districts would receive more grant within the Resource equalization process.
17. In simple terms the adjustments for the new system and responsibilities perhaps are best measured through the grant increase between 2005/06 cash received and the adjusted grant for that year. For South Kesteven District Council this amounts to £600,000. South Kesteven remains just above the floor. If the government continues to want to see the new grant system work through properly the Council could find its increase at the minimum level only. I think it would be worthwhile reviewing the factors that leave South Kesteven District Council in a relatively poor position to see whether any data can be challenged in future years.

Budget requirement and Capping and Reserves

18. Given the relative position I advise setting a target budget requirement for budget formulation purposes of £13.959m and resultant Council Tax of £105.84, subject to ensuring investment plans are clearly laid out for the Council's priorities. It is likely the capping regime will be harsh and I will need to assess the Government guidance on this before giving final advice on the target budget requirement and level of Council Tax. I would advise that an indicative rise in Council Tax for 2007/08 be assessed within the range of 4.5% to 5% and be linked to the investment plans laid out in the Council's priorities.

19. The Cabinet must also have regard to the level of balances held and the purpose for which they are held. The General Fund working balance which at 31 March 2005 is £3.097m is set at 5% of the Council gross expenditure budget. It exists to cover the Council for any unanticipated expenditure or loss of income that may occur in the year. This reserve is set at an adequate level for normal activity. The Council's specific reserves are shown below, in Table 6.

Table 6 - Specific Revenue Reserves

SOURCE	Balance 31 March 2005 £'000
Insurance Reserve	935
Direct Works Organisation	-
Future Minimum Revenue Provision	1,210
Building Control	319
Capacity Building, Priority Setting and Service Improvements	1,300
Stock Option Ballot Reserve	1,000
Pensions Reserve - Former Employees	372
- Current Employees	1,616

20. Specific reserves must only be held if their use is clear and the timing of their use identifiable. I think it would be prudent for the Cabinet to give serious consideration to using the Capacity and Priority setting Reserve (£1.3m) over the next 2 years. This was set up to pump prime the investment required in achieving the quality outcomes. As part of the 2006/07 budget round I would expect to see plans for the reserves use. It has been used to fund some supplementary estimates in the year relating to the Housing Solutions reviews and Strategic Director posts. During the review of the revised position for 2005/06 it will be possible to estimate the likely requirement of this reserve.

21. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) (£1.2m) Reserve has been reviewed by Butlers, a Treasury Management Consultancy, as a piece of their work on the Treasury management activity of the Council. This reserve was set up to mitigate the impact of any fluctuations in the MRP required by the Council to avoid large increases in Council Tax in any one year arising from the commutation of Loans Charges in 1992/1993. The prudential code is now settling down and following any adjustments required for 2004/05 to bring the old capital financing system in line with the new system, the remainder of this reserve can be brought back to the General Fund and provide further investment to achieve priorities. Thus, the future spending plans need to incorporate the use of this reserve.

22. The Councils capital reserves (£4.6m General Fund) are fully utilized in funding the general fund capital programme. The capital programme will provide a substantial investment in maintaining existing assets and delivery any future priorities.
23. The LSVT ballot reserve (£1m) was set up at the end of 2004/05 and will be used to offset any costs of a failed ballot. Consideration of the use of this reserve will only be made post-ballot.
24. The other specific reserves relate to the insurance fund and the pensions funding deficit. It can be demonstrated the purpose and use of these reserves and they will be maintained at required levels, to ensure Council Tax is not unduly influenced by changes in pension contributions, or insurance market fluctuations.

Housing Revenue Account - Rent Setting 2006/07

25. The main element of policy relating to the Housing Revenue Account is the setting of rents for 2006/07. The Councils current policy is to keep in line with Government guidance on Rent restructuring and guideline rent increases. The following is an analysis of the Government proposals for 2006/07 that will need to be implemented.
26. A review of the ten year rent restructuring policy was undertaken in the summer of 2004, three years into the process. Numerous issues were raised, leading the ODPM to delay implementation of the recommendations until 2006/07.
27. The following changes need to be implemented in full for the 2006/07 rent year:
 - new bedroom weightings for 3,4,5 and 6+ bedroom dwellings
 - new national average rent at April 2000
 - new national average property value at January 1999
 - amend annual updates from the GDP deflator plus real cash increase to RPA
All items plus real cash increase
28. The ODPM have previously recommended a 3.2% rent increase for 2006/07 based on a 2.7% RPI All Items Inflationary element plus 0.5% real cash increase. Individual property rents are not to be increased by more than the 3.2% plus £2 from 2005/06 to 2006/07 and are still subject to caps and limits as specified by the subsidy determination.
29. The ODPM have specified the average rise over all stock for each of 2006/07 and 2007/08 must not exceed 5%. However, the transitional process of rent restructuring together with the annual rent rise will lead to individual rents increasing by amounts above and below 5%. Authorities have the discretion to vary individual rates by +/-5% and are "encouraged to have regard to the policy intention to create more realistic differentials for larger properties" when adjusting the average rent to 5%. A compensation scheme to cover lost rental income is planned by the ODPM.

Other Budget Issues

30. Through the analysis of service plans I would advise the Cabinet to review the scale of charges for individual services. A summary of initial proposals is shown in table 7 below and these will be used in discussions as part of the Gateway Reviews.

Table 7 - Scale of Charges 2006/07

SERVICE	COMMENT	2006/07 CHARGE
Bus Station Departure Charges	Increased in 2004	No increase proposed in 2006/07
Markets	Increased in 2002	Should recover cost of service
Car Parks	Increase in April 2006	Policy of increase every 2 years
Land Charge Fees	Increased in 2003	No increase proposed - full cost recovery being achieved
Grantham Cemetery	Increased in April 2005	Proposed charges in April 2006 to reflect cost increase on grounds maintenance
Helpline Service	Increased in April 2005	Inflationary increase in 2006/07
Licences	Reviewed in 2005	Inflationary increase in 2006/07
Hackney Carriage	Reviewed in 2005	Inflationary increase in 2006/07
Air Pollution	Increased in 2003	Fees set by Dept of Environment
Building Control Fees	Increased in 2005	Increased proposed 2006/07
Planning Fees		Charges to be set by ODPM
Arts Centres	Increased in 2005	Inflationary increase in 2006/07
Bourne Corn Exchange	Increased in 2005	Inflationary increase in 2006/07
Fairs	Increased in 2005	Inflationary increase in 2006/07
Leisure Centres (inc. Stadium)	Increased in 2005	Inflationary increase in 2006/07 in accordance with management contract
Outdoor Recreation	Increased in 2005	Inflationary increase in 2006/07
Pedal Park	Increased in 1999	No increase proposed due to poor usage

31. Budget consultation will be undertaken through SKNews, the LAA's and a joint meeting with Lincolnshire County Council and Police Authority. The Budget Working Group will review the main budget issues as part of the consultation and development process.

Conclusion

32. I will continue to analyse the detail of the settlement and budget and update accordingly.

John Blair
Corporate Director of Finance and Strategic Resources

Agenda Item 7

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY SERVICES)

REPORT NO: DCS 37

DATE: 9TH JANUARY 2006

TITLE:	THE ALLOCATION OF INCOME FROM REDUCED DISCOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX ON SECOND HOMES
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Yes
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	16 TH September 2005
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision
COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	COUNCILLOR LINDA NEAL, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO. COUNCILLOR TERYL BRYANT ASSETS AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	This report relates to a number of A priorities including Affordable Housing, Town Centre Regeneration and Anti Social Behaviour
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	Community Safety is one of the four strategic aims of the Local Strategic Partnership
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	N/A
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	N/A

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report outlines an opportunity that has arisen to submit proposed schemes to Lincolnshire County Council for the use of additional income arising from the reduced discount of council tax on second homes.
- 1.2 District Councils have been invited by Lincolnshire County to submit proposals for schemes that are of mutual benefit to both the district concerned and the County. Given the increased emphasis being placed upon both tiers of local

government to develop and promote excellence in partnership working and the increase importance being placed on Local Strategic Partnerships to deliver the outcomes of Local Area Agreements, it is proposed to request the County Council to make a grant towards the development of the South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve a request to Lincolnshire County Council for a grant allocation from the additional income raised from council tax on second homes.**
- 2.2 To agree that the grant be allocated for use by the Local Strategic Partnership to assist in the development of schemes and projects identified in the draft Community Plan 2006-2009.**
- 2.3 To note that the grant in respect of 2005/2006 will be paid alongside the payment for 2006/2007.**

3.0 DETAILS OF REPORT

National Position

- 3.1 Since 2004/05, Council tax billing authorities (in shire areas these are district councils) have had powers to reduce the discount on second homes from 50% to a minimum of 10%.
- 3.2 With no other alterations, this would have the effect of increasing the Council tax base which would in turn reduce central government revenue support grant.
- 3.3 Therefore, to encourage billing authorities to reduce the discount, council tax regulations provide that the additional income (up to 40% discount) is excluded from the Council tax base used for purposes of the calculation of revenue support grant.
- 3.4 In all other respects this forms part of the Council tax base and therefore, by reducing the discount below 50%, billing authorities will generate additional income, not only for themselves, but also for precepting authorities. In shire areas the main beneficiaries will be county councils.

Current Position in Lincolnshire

None of the billing authorities amended the level of discount in 2004/05.

All reduced the discount to the minimum of 10% for 2005/06 onwards.

The County Council agreed that it would spend its additional income in the relevant districts on agreed schemes of mutual benefit to the district concerned and the county. In order to keep the administration simple it has

been proposed that, subject to the schemes being agreed, the funds would be paid over to the district in the form of a grant, probably 50% at the start of the year and 50% at the end of the year.

Scheme

As part of the budget process, district councils notify the County Council of the Council tax base each January. They will also notify the County Council of that part of the council tax base which is the reduced second homes discount.

This will enable the County Council to determine the estimated additional income it will receive. Subsequently, this level of grant will be adjusted in line with adjustments made in accounting for this additional tax on government returns.

Each district council will as soon as possible submit proposed scheme(s) for which it is applying for grant. The criterion is that each scheme should be of mutual benefit to the district concerned and the county. The County Council will as soon as possible notify each district if each scheme has been approved.

Subject to the scheme(s) being approved, the County Council will pay 50% of the grant at the beginning of the financial year. At the end of the year the second 50% will be paid subject to the County Council receiving a report on the scheme and confirmation that the appropriate level of funds has been spent.

Special Arrangements for 2005/06

The 2005/06 council tax base notified by the district councils to the County Council for tax setting purposes was not done on a consistent basis. Four districts included the additional amount caused by removal of the discount; three did not. Details are shown in Table 1 below:-

Table 1

	Second Home Discount – additional tax base – County Council additional income	
District	Included £000	Excluded £000
Boston		76
East Lindsey		524
Lincoln	33	
North Kesteven	42	
South Holland	47	
South Kesteven		64
West Lindsey	38	
Total	160	664

For those three authorities that excluded the additional Council tax base, the grant in respect of 2005/06 will be paid during 2006/07.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED

- 4.1 In considering other options thought has been given to other mutually important priorities shared by the County Council and South Kesteven District Council. Themes such as community safety, economic development and support to the voluntary sector have been considered.
- 4.2 It is the case that many funding opportunities open to partnerships organisations are not available to local authorities. If this funding is made available to the Local Strategic Partnership opportunities may exist to use the grant as matched funding to support a range of projects within the district. Since the Local Strategic Partnership and the District Council are strategically aligned there are opportunities for mutual gain.

5.0 COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

- 5.1 I have been consulted and involved in the preparation of this report.

6.0 COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

- 6.1 No comment.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Local Strategic Partnership has developed four strategic aims following extensive consultation with local people. They are:

- Affordable housing and sustainable communities.
- Improved transport and access.
- Improved town centres and economic development.
- Community safety.

- 7.2 The L.S.P will also address the five themes outlined by government in the local Area agreements. These themes are also being addressed by the County Council. The themes are identified in the South Kesteven's draft Community Plan 2006-2009 to be addressed through the evolving L.S.P. Action Plan. If the grant arising from the council tax on second homes is approved, allocating funds to the Local Strategic Partnership will facilitate a more integrated and coherent approach to project development and implementation.

8.0 CONTACT OFFICER

John Pell, Corporate Director (Community Services)
Tel: 01476 406102
Email: j.pell@southkesteven.gov.uk

Extract of minute:

RESOURCES DSP – 24TH NOVEMBER 2005

46. REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SCHEME

The Revenues Manager reminded the DSP that the Council had decided to disinvest in discretionary rate relief. Registered charities would receive mandatory rate relief of 80%. Organisations not registered as charities could receive up to 75% discretionary rate relief; these groups would be encouraged to apply for charity status. Organisations had been sent written notice advising them that the scheme is likely to change. Panel Members discussed the potential effects of changing the system on village halls and agreed that they should be encouraged to apply for charity status. It was suggested that village hall committees did not realise the potential rate charges they could face. No condition could be imposed to stop people applying for discretionary rate relief or top-up. Each organisation would need to apply and applications would be judged on the merits of each case. The Panel agreed that there would need to be ruled in place should an organisation appeal against a decision.

CONCLUSIONS: The Panel recommends that: 1. The new Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme should be adopted with effect from 1st April 2006; 2. All awards for Discretionary Rate Relief and Mandatory Rate Relief are delegated to the Revenues Manager; 3. Appeals are dealt with by the Corporate Director of Finance and Strategic Resources in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Finance plus three members of the Resources DSP.

REPORT TO RESOURCES DSP

REPORT OF: Revenues Manager

REPORT NO. FIN/252

DATE: 24TH November 2005

TITLE:	Review of Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	N/A
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	N/A
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Policy Framework Proposal

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Teri Bryant
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Area for disinvestment
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	N/A
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	N/A
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None

1. INTRODUCTION

This report asks Members to consider an alternative Discretionary Rate Relief scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members consider adopting a new scheme with effect from 1 April 2006.

That all awards for Discretionary Rate Relief and Mandatory are delegated to the Revenues Manager.

Appeals are dealt with by the Corporate Director of Finance in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

Background

The Council decided to disinvest in its discretionary grants including Discretionary Rate Relief and set a budget of £10k per annum being 1st April 2006 for the award of Business Rate Relief. Given that decision the remainder of the report focuses on developing a scheme that can achieve that objective.

The Council is not in a position to deny applications for Business Rate Relief therefore the Cabinet must review the criteria of awarding Discretionary Rate Relief and any issues as a result keeping within a budget of £10k per annum.

Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 empowers local authorities to grant Discretionary Rate Relief to ratepayers under certain circumstances.

Awards of Discretionary Rate Relief can be made to various categories of ratepayers.

These include:

- Charitable organisations
- Organisations which are not established or conducted for profit, whose main objectives are charitable and are either:-
 - (i) Established for philanthropic or religious purposes;
 - (ii) Concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature, or the fine arts.
 - (iii) Occupation of the property as a club or society.

Rate relief takes two forms:

Mandatory Relief – This part of the scheme allows 80% rate relief where the applicant is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission, Industrial and Provident Society, or sports clubs registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) with the Inland Revenue. Local Authorities are obliged to award relief in these cases, there is no discretion to refuse or vary the mandatory award. In these cases the Local Authority does not contribute to the cost of providing the rate relief, it is funded by Central Government through the National Non-Domestic Rating Pool.

Discretionary Relief – There are two elements of this part of the scheme:-
 Top-Up Relief applies where the Council decides to “top-up” the 80% mandatory relief, usually to 100%. In these cases, the Council has to contribute 75% of the “topped-up” amount. In the case of non-profit organisations, the Council is obliged to determine applications where the applicant is not a registered charity, but satisfies some or all of the criteria, i.e. philanthropic, religious use etc. In such cases, the Council funds 25% of the relief awarded with the remaining balance being provided by the National Non-Domestic Rating Pool.

In summary:

Level of Relief	South Kesteven Council Tax funded	Central Government NNDR pool funded
Mandatory relief of 80%	0%	100%
Up to 20% additional discretionary relief to charitable organisations	75%	25%
Up to 100% discretionary relief to other eligible organisations	25%	75%

Based on our current figures the Discretionary Rate Relief of approximately £93k per annum is awarded each year. If we don't have a scheme ratepayers would pay approximately an extra £150k in Business Rates per year and affect nearly 250 organisations including village halls and some schools.

Appendix A shows a proposed scheme and our guidance for calculating Discretionary Rate Relief. There is a clear linkage to the Council priorities.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED

None.

5. COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

None - report complied in conjunction with Director of Finance and Strategic Resources.

6. COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

No comments other than to note that this relates to the Council's discretionary powers made under the Local Government Finance Act 1998. The Cabinet is therefore entitled to consider and devise a policy in this regard.

7. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

None - report complied in conjunction with Service Manager.

8. CONCLUSIONS

None.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Kevin Legg – Revenues Manager

Direct dial: 01476 406224

Email: k.legg@southkesteven.gov.uk



SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Promoting Pride in our Communities

Business Rates Charitable Rate Relief Application Guidance

What is Charitable Rate Relief?

It is a relief scheme that allows rates bills to be reduced for charitable and non-profit making organisations.

What organisations may Qualify?

If your organisation is a registered charity, and the property concerned is used wholly or mainly for charitable works, then you may be entitled to 80% relief.

If your organisation is not a charity, but is another type of non-profit making organisation, the Council still has discretion to award relief. To qualify, your organisation must be charitable, religious or concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature, or the property must be used by a non-profit making organisation and used wholly or mainly for recreation purposes.

How do I Apply?

Complete an application form and return to South Kesteven District Council.

If there is insufficient space on the form and you would like to add additional information then you can attach additional sheets if you wish.

Factors Considered when Assessing your Application

- (a) **Whether the application satisfies the legal requirements.**

The Authority cannot award relief to any organisation that does not meet the legal requirements of Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

(b) Which aspects of the Council's Priorities would be met by the award of Discretionary Rate Relief?

Relief will only be awarded to organisations that show they are helping the Authority to achieve its ambitions. These are: -

- Anti-social behaviour (a local priority)
- Access to Council services (a future issue)
- Recycling (a national priority)
- Street Scene (a local priority)
- Town-Centre regeneration and the development of Grantham as a sub-regional centre (a local priority).

(c) Whether the ratepayer is in direct competition with other ratepayers in the immediate vicinity or outside the District

The Authority would not wish to give any organisation a competitive advantage by the award of rate relief.

(d) The benefit the ratepayer brings to the residents of the District

The Authority needs to ensure that the award of Discretionary Rate Relief is to the benefit of the wider population of the South Kesteven District. Any ratepayer who is customer based or whose membership comes from largely outside the District's boundaries is unlikely to qualify for relief unless they can prove a sound case for a specific and unequivocal benefit to residents of the District.

(e) The cost to the Council Tax payer

The cost to the Council Tax payer of awarding relief varies from 25% to 75% of the relief granted. The Authority will need to be satisfied that value for money is being provided, bearing in mind the subsidy from the General Fund which an organisation will receive.

(f) Whether the ratepayer is a local organisation, or a branch of a national organisation

The Authority will need to consider the overall benefit to the community of the organisation and what effect the award of rate relief will have upon the organisation.

If the benefit of the rate relief is kept locally, the relief is more likely to be awarded than if it goes to a national organisation which is based elsewhere.

(g) **Membership costs**

The cost of membership should not be used as a means to restrict membership.

(h) **Whether the organisation actively promotes representation from disadvantaged or under-represented groups in the community**

Organisations which do so are more worthy of rate relief.

(i) **Whether membership is determined by the votes of existing members**

Where an organisation determines membership based on the election by existing members this could be construed as restriction. Such organisations will need to be carefully evaluated as to whether they should receive rate relief.

(j) **Whether the organisation provides training or education for its members**

An organisation which provides training packages or educational aspects for its members is more worthy of relief than one which does not.

(k) **Is the organisation or the facilities provided being funded largely by self-help rather than relying on full external funding?**

Whilst many organisations do depend on grant-aid and awards from statutory bodies, those which undertake fundraising themselves by various methods are probably more worthy of rate relief than those who do not make additional efforts.

(l) **Whether the organisation operates a bar**

An organisation which operates a bar is generating income, although this should not be confused with the self-help detailed in (k) above. There is no reason why discretionary rate relief should be awarded to give additional subsidy.

What if our Circumstances Change?

If the aims and objectives of the organisation, or the use in which the premises are used for, change then the Council needs to be notified of this immediately.

All successful applications will be subject to a review every two years to ensure relief is still applicable.

Further Information

If you require further information then contact the Business Rates Section on (01476) 406256. Email ndr@southkesteven.gov.uk

Where to send your Application Form

South Kesteven District Council
Business Rates Section
Council Offices
St Peter's Hill
GRANTHAM
Lincs
NG31 6PZ

DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AWARD MATRIX

Type of Organisation	Mandatory Relief	Criteria/Comments	Alignment to Council Priorities	Rate of Discretionary Relief
Charity Shops				
(a) Registered charity	80%	All registered charity shops receive 80% mandatory relief. The Authority would have to finance 75% of any discretionary relief awarded, some may also be in competition with other retailers who pay full business rates.	None.	(a) 0% (b) 0%
(b) Non-registered charity	0%			
Sporting Clubs				
(a) Registered charity	80%	Account needs to be taken of whether clubs should provide relevant training, education or recreational activities. In addition, many clubs have bars, which generate profits for the club. If a club is not registered they can apply to Inland Revenue as a CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) if accepted they would be entitled to 80% mandatory relief.	Must demonstrate a link to Council priorities.	(a) No enhancement from 80% mandatory relief. (b) 75% discretionary relief or £500, whichever is lower, or (c) Reduced to 0% if a bar is provided or if gross profit exceeds £10k.
(b) Non-registered charity	0%			
Any organisation which has high levels of membership fees and/or election by existing members.		Account should be taken of criteria that is restrictive.	Must demonstrate a link to Council priorities.	No enhancement from 80% mandatory relief.
(a) Registered charity	80%	Organisations will not be awarded discretionary rate relief.	None	(a) 0%
(b) Non-registered charity	0%			(b) 0%

APPENDIX A

Type of Organisation	Mandatory Relief	Criteria/Comments	Alignment to Council Priorities	Rate of Discretionary Relief
Community Centres & Village Halls				
(a) Registered charity	80%	Community centres provide facilities for residents and fulfil a social need.	(i) Anti-social behaviour (ii) Access to services	(a) Mandatory relief of 80% and discretionary relief of 10%, (b) 75% discretionary relief or £500, whichever is lower, or (c) Reduced to 0% if a bar is provided and gross profit exceeds £10k.
(b) Non-registered charity	0%			
Youth Clubs				
(a) Registered charity	80%	Youth clubs provide a valuable resource to the community and often have few grant-aided resources.	(i) Anti-social behaviour (ii) Access to services	(a) No enhancement from 80% mandatory relief, (b) 75% discretionary relief or £500, whichever is lower.
(b) Non-registered charity	0%			
Others				
(a) Registered charity	80%	Any application that does not fall under the previous headings will be assessed in accordance with the application and supporting documents.	Must demonstrate a link to Council priorities.	(a) No enhancement from 80% mandatory relief, (b) 75% discretionary relief or £500, whichever is lower, or (c) Reduced to 0% if a bar is provided and gross profit exceeds £10k.
(b) Non-registered charity	0%			

APPENDIX A

Appendix A

REVISED GUIDANCE AND POLICY FOR THE AWARD OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

General Operational Guidelines

1. Applications must be submitted on a form which will be supplied by the Authority on request. It will also be available, along with guidance notes, for downloading from the internet.
2. Where there is insufficient details to enable the determination to be made, the Revenue Services (RS) will write to the applicant requesting that the information is forwarded within 28 days of the issue of the request letter. Where information is not supplied within the 28 day timescale, the RS reserves the right to treat the application as withdrawn and will advise the applicant of this decision in writing.
3. The RS may extend the 28 day period as it deems necessary where all the information required is not available immediately from the applicant. This extension period will not exceed a total of 90 days from the date of the original request for information was made.
4. The RS will write to the applicant after the 90 day period has expired advising that the application is considered to be withdrawn. This will not prevent the applicant from submitting a fresh application in the future.
5. When the level of Discretionary Rate Relief is assessed, an evaluation sheet will be completed and authorised by the Revenues Manager. The application form, plus any additional information such as trading accounts and the general guidance shown later in this appendix, will be the basis on whether or not rate relief is awarded.
6. When the Authority has made a determination on the application for rate relief, it will issue details of the award in writing to the applicant. If appropriate, a revised Business Rates bill will also be issued.
7. If the application for rate relief is refused, a statement of reasons for the refusal will be given to the applicant in writing by the Authority.
8. Appeals will be dealt with by the Corporate Director of Finance.
9. All applications for Discretionary Rate Relief will be reviewed on a yearly to ensure that the objectives and aims of the organisation remain the same as they were when the rate relief was granted.

Agenda Item 9
REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY SERVICES)

REPORT NO: DCS32

DATE: 9th January 2006

TITLE:	FUNDING OF SOUTH KESTEVEN CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAUX
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	NO
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	N/A

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	OUNCILLOR LINDA NEAL, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Priority A : Affordable Housing. Priority A: Crime and Disorder
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	YES
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	YES
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Report DCS31 to Cabinet on 7th November 2005.

1.0 INTRODUCTION OR SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following extensive discussions earlier this year with South Kesteven Citizen Advice Bureaux an agreement was reached regarding financial support for the current financial year (2005-2006). The Agreement included the following conditions.
 - A) A grant of £50,000.
 - B) Rent free accommodation of the CAB offices in Stamford (£4,560).
 - C) Free use of the Corn Exchange in Bourne (£2,000).
- 1.2 In return the South Kesteven Citizen Advice Bureaux guaranteed to provide the following services. These services are set out in the agreement attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The CAB requested that the Council engage in constructive and positive discussions on the establishment of an ongoing programme of funding for the bureaux to provide for value for money advice for the people of South Kesteven and this report set out proposals for the longer term.

1.4 The CAB also expressed a concern about long-term stability in funding and the possibility that the Council could consider a further bid for 2005/06 in October of this year. This report includes a request from the CAB for a supplementary grant for the current financial year of £3,500 to reflect the cost of providing an additional three (3) hour session per week at the Grantham office from 1st October this year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet are recommended to:

2.1 To decide whether or not they wish to support the request for a supplementary grant of £3,500 as a contribution towards the additional costs of providing an additional session at the Grantham office from the 1st October 2005.

2.2 Approve core funding of £50,000 for the financial year 2006/2007. The grant will be conditional upon the Citizen Advice Bureaux entering into a Service Level Agreement with the Council.

2.3 To note that additional financial resources will be available to fund additional capacity for advice and support for homelessness through the Government's Homeless Innovation Fund commencing 2006.

2.4 To note that any future grant allocations may be made payable through the Area South Partnership as part of an integrated approach to voluntary sector funding.

3.0 DETAILS OF REPORT

3.1 The South Kesteven Citizen Advice Bureaux have submitted a budget proposal for a three year cycle from April 2006 to March 2009. This has resulted in a request for funding of £69,500 for provision of sessions in the four centres currently served.

3.2 The request has been based on the grant made by the District Council to the CAB in 2002-2003 which was £57,000. An allowance has been added year on year for inflation at 2.2% per year and an additional amount of £7,000 to reflect the full year effect of introducing the additional three (3) hour session per week at the Grantham office.

3.3 The budget proposal also requests a supplementary grant of £3,500 to meet the cost of providing the additional three (3) hour session per week at the Grantham office for the period 1st October 2005 to 31st March 2006.

3.4 In assessing these proposals consideration has been given to whether or not it is appropriate to use the 2002-2003 funding (£57,000) as the starting point. Since a new agreement was signed in 2005 it seems more appropriate to use the agreed funding of £50,000 as the basis for approving future grant levels.

3.5 Earlier this year, the Audit Commission's report on the inspection of Strategic Housing identified that the Council provides funding for the local CAB but does not have a service level agreement in place to ensure that benefits advice, debt counselling and housing rights advice are easily available in the area and

contribute to the prevention of homelessness. Therefore, in response to this criticism it is proposed that the grant would be made subject to the CAB entering into a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

3.6 The S.L.A. may also include some advisory aspects of community safety. The SLA would provide a framework for the provision of advice for an agreed level of funding and would include the items referred to above.

4.0 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

4.1 At the time the agreement was signed performance monitoring arrangements were put in place. This required the CAB to provide information to the District Council. The quarterly returns confirm accreditation under the Community Legal Services (CLS) quality mark and identify the Chairman, Treasurer and Company Secretary. In addition opening hours and the number of sessions undertaken are identified and these are consistent with the Agreement.

4.2 The following table based on client contacts and advice references show the number of clients receiving advice for the period April to September 2005.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Client Contacts</u>	<u>Advice References</u>
April	456	1038
May	324	696
June	452	840
July	382	784
August	421	811
September	452	848
<u>Total</u>	2,487	5,017

4.3 The following table shows the four main areas of advice provided to clients.

	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
April – June	28%	25%	10%	9%	28%
July- September	25%	26%	10%	8%	32%

4.4 The quarterly report for July to September confirms that the Grantham office hours have been extended. The additional session is on a Tuesday for 3 hours public opening.

5.0 COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

5.1 I have been consulted throughout on this report. There is a large difference in the request for funding and the existing level of grant which may require the CAB to consider alternative funding streams if available.

6.0 COMMENTS OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (REGULATORY SERVICES)

6.1 Since the inspection of Strategic Housing earlier this year, a closer working relationship has been developing between senior officers of the Council and the CAB Manager with a view to developing a SLA. Arrangements are also in place to create the opportunity for officers to attend advisors meetings on a quarterly basis to brief advisors on Housing development and also to obtain feedback on operational issues. The first of these sessions has taken place

and this has been a positive step forward in developing a closer working relationship.

6.2 The Council (as part of a Countywide bid) has also successfully bid for ODPM Homeless Innovation Funding to work in partnership with the South Kesteven CAB to prevent homelessness, particularly in relation to work with the private rented sector. This is a two year programme of funding commencing in April 2006. One of the outcomes identified for this project is to provide additional capacity for advice and support within the private sector through an enhanced service in partnership with the Citizen Advice Bureaux who are integral to the successful delivery of the outcomes of the bid.

7.0 COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER (DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES)

7.1 No comments.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 It is clear that South Kesteven Citizen Advice Bureaux have met their obligation under the terms of the agreement signed earlier this year. The proposed recommended grant falls short of the £69,500 requested by CAB but the proposal for future partnership working will provide an opportunity for enhancing services in partnership with the Citizen Advice Bureaux. There is no doubt that this approach will be beneficial for the future sustainability of the CAB.

8.2 The additional sessions provided at Grantham Citizen Advice Bureaux have been provided since the beginning of October 2005 and appears to be providing a worthwhile service and for this reason the request for a supplementary grant may be justified.

8.3 Following the re-organisation of the voluntary sector across Lincolnshire an integrated approach to funding the voluntary sector has been created. Details were set out in report DCS31 considered by Cabinet on 7th November 2005. It involves the creation of three area partnerships. The Partnership relating to South Kesteven is called the Area South Partnership. It may be appropriate for any future funding of the Citizen Advice Bureaux to be channelled through this partnership organisation.

9.0 CONTACT OFFICER

9.1 John Pell, Corporate Director (Community Services)
Tel: 01476 406510
Email: j.pell@southkesteven.gov.uk
22nd November 2005

**South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureaux
Stamford Office**



39 High Street
Stamford
Lincs PE9 2BB

Advice Line 08701 22 44 22
Admin 01780 763051
Fax 01780 480819

Agreement with South Kesteven District Council for financial year 2005 / 2006

Terms and Conditions accepted by South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureaux for the granting of £50,000 as core funding together with rent free accommodation of the Stamford office and free use of the Corn Exchange, Bourne for its weekly advice session by South Kesteven District Council.

The Citizens Advice Bureaux undertake to provide :-

- A quality marked service that is open and available to residents without appointment for 9 hours per week in Stamford
- 6 hours per week in Grantham and progressing to 9 hours per week from 1st October '05
- 3 hours weekly in each of Bourne and the Deepings

A quarterly statement signed by the Chairman provided to the Council within four weeks of the end of each quarter confirming

- opening hours of the bureaux advice sessions
- quality mark possession
- statistical information on number of clients advised and general subject enquiry numbers.

For audit purposes the names of the Trustees Board's Chairman, Treasurer and other members will be listed and changes notified.

Other factors that need to be considered as a necessary part of the work of the Citizens Advice Bureaux in the coming financial year are :-

- A. A constructive and positive discussion on the establishment of an ongoing programme of funding for the bureaux to provide value for money advice for the people of South Kesteven.
- B. After the provision by the National Office of the Citizens Advice of monies to ensure that the Grantham office remains open for the coming financial year, consideration be given to a request later in the year for a small subsidiary budget application which would provide for the funding of additional supervisory and administrative employee costs at Grantham.

/.....

On behalf of the South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureaux I, John Gleeson, being Chairman of the Trustee Board agree to receive the funding identified in the above statement and agree to the terms and conditions detailed.

on behalf of South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureaux

Received by

Chief Executive, South Kesteven District Council

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

REPORT NO. CEX310

DATE: 9th January 2006

TITLE:	Community Strategy for Lincolnshire
COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Linda Neal, Leader
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Draft Community Strategy for Lincolnshire at Appendix A

Introduction

1. Enclosed as Appendix A is a copy of the first draft of the Community Strategy for Lincolnshire which has been prepared by the County Council.

The primary driver for development of this document has been the requirement to have a community strategy in place in order to secure a local area agreement for Lincolnshire. Because this is the driving force behind its inception it is perhaps not surprising that the document is set up in accordance with the four service blocks that form part of the national shared priorities between local government and central government and are reflected in the guidance on Local Area Agreement. Those priorities relate to: children and young people; improving the health of the population; improving the quality of life through increased prosperity; and safer and stronger communities.

The draft Community Strategy is due to be considered by the Lincolnshire Assembly at their meeting on the 13th January where it is hoped that it will be formally approved. Copies of the draft strategy have been sent to key stakeholders including ourselves for consultation on the following aspects:

- 1) are the four priorities right
- 2) is anything missing
- 3) is the principal appearance of the document right.

Commentary on the Draft Community Strategy

2. 1) Vision.

If any community strategy is to be effective it needs to set out an inspirational vision for the community it represents. The draft strategy as presented probably falls short in this respect. There is a short paragraph emphasising the need for a new vision but the document quickly breaks up into the four components without adequately explaining how these are linked together and what overall vision is being followed.

2) Service Blocks.

The documents follows quite closely the national priorities and as such may undervalue local priorities for communities in Lincolnshire. In particular, issues of transport and rural deprivation do not come across coherently through the four service areas.

3) Targets

The columns headed 'Suggested targets' do not include time frames and often have text which is not 'smart'. For example, the section on 'Fear of Crime' is a target suggesting "Fewer than 30,000 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded" and the second on 'Domestic Violence' has a suggested target "continue increases in the reporting of domestic violence".

Other targets appear, I think, to be unrealistic such as reducing the proportion of the population reporting long term illness from 19% to 9% within 3 years and reducing all recipients of council tax benefits from 17.8% to 10%. Conversely some targets appear to be very modest. For example, 50% of migrants to Lincolnshire should be economically active and the targets concerned with increases in business activity do not include any numbers.

3. In terms of a vision for the strategy it would seem to me that the fundamental issue facing Lincolnshire is the severe problem of the county's gva which is, as the strategy identifies, at 75% of the UK average. Although the document includes targets for improving this, the fundamental point is that the county's economic development performance is in one aspect of the community strategy but should be the overarching ambition of the entire community strategy. If this philosophy was adopted many other aspects of the strategy such as health of the population, education, transport would naturally be integrated into this broader vision.

Recommendation

4. Members of the Cabinet consider the draft Community Strategy for Lincolnshire and decide whether they wish to resolve that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, respond.

Duncan Kerr
Chief Executive

A Community Strategy for Lincolnshire 2005-2008



A Community Strategy for Lincolnshire

Creating a new vision for Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire is a unique, beautiful and diverse county. Its key strengths are its people, its environment and its potential. Lincolnshire faces many challenges, including, size – over 6000 square kilometres – transport, areas of deprivation and economic under-development. However, the county also has many strengths. It has provided a welcoming home for many newcomers for centuries. It has unparalleled expertise in farming and food production, a flourishing new university and a wealth of natural beauty.

Bishop Of Lincoln, the Very Reverend John Saxbee and supported by Lincolnshire County Council. A full list of members organisations and their representatives is included on page [].

The purpose of the Lincolnshire Assembly is to:

‘provide a common voice and to ensure action in support of the collective communities of Lincolnshire embracing all sectors of our community’.

Community Leadership

The members of the Assembly work together to provide community leadership and enhance the quality of life of all Lincolnshire residents through the realisation of the vision and achievement of the goals set out in this Community Strategy. The Strategy demonstrates the commitment of all the partners in the Lincolnshire Assembly to work together, by pooling resources, integrating services and listening to the views and taking account of the needs of all the diverse communities, to achieve real change and improvements in Lincolnshire.

Engagement

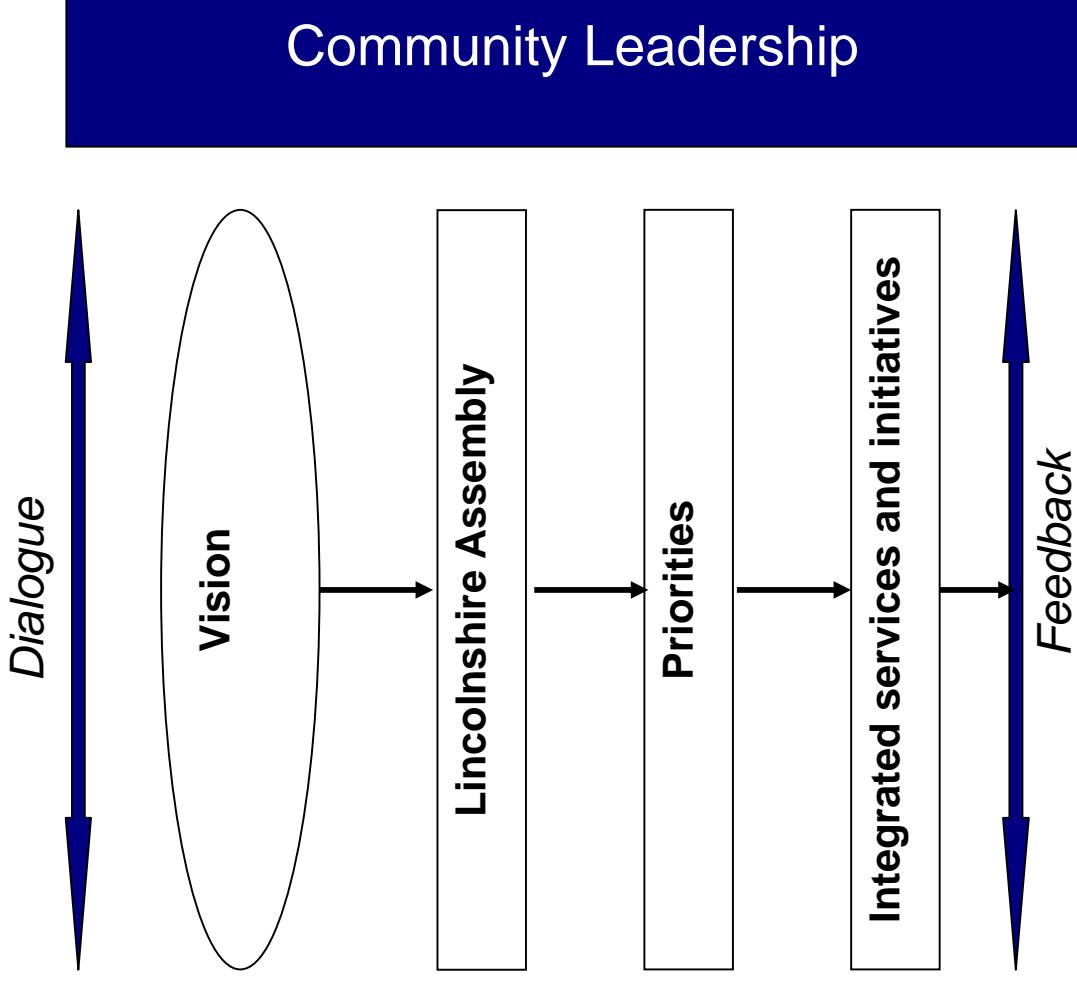
The priorities in this Community Strategy are based on the aspirations, needs and views of a diverse group of residents, gathered through telephone surveys, focus groups and interviews with groups representing a wide range of

The Lincolnshire Assembly

The Lincolnshire Assembly is a new body made up of leading organisations in Lincolnshire including public services, the voluntary sector and business. The Assembly is chaired by the

community views. Information about need has been gathered from a range of sources, including the Index of Multiple Deprivation, which measures the key needs of communities, statistics about health and pay in Lincolnshire.

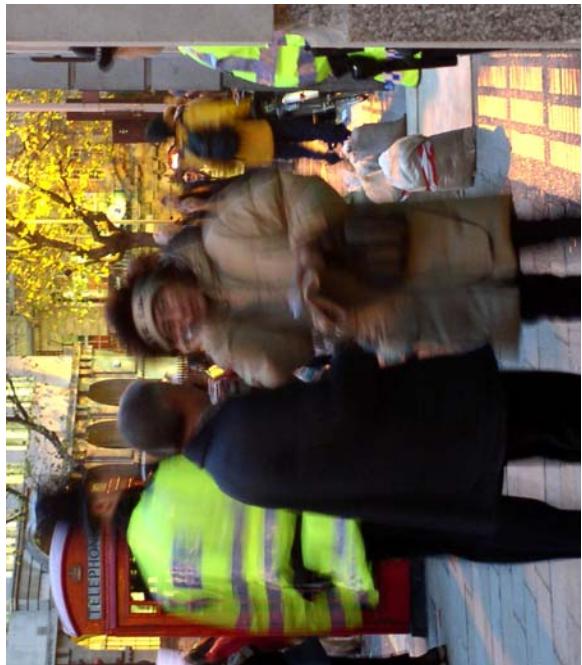
has on improving the quality of life for Lincolnshire people.



Measuring impact

The Lincolnshire Assembly will use the priorities set out in this Strategy to agree the key objectives and targets for the county as a whole. They will measure their performance in achieving these targets. The Assembly will carry on engaging with the community throughout the life of this strategy, to measure the impact which achieving the targets set out in the Strategy

Community Engagement



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Children and Young People

VISION: RAISED ASPIRATION AND ATTAINMENT FOR ALL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
<p>Raise the primary and secondary educational attainment of all Lincolnshire's young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ pre-school provision ◆ achievement at aged 11 ◆ achievement at GCSE level 	<p>Schools and education have been identified as priority issues.</p> <p>It is important to fulfil the requirements of the <i>Building Schools for the Future – Excellence for All</i> programme.</p> <p>Rates of improvement and progress in educational attainment are variable.</p>	<p>15,000 3 & 4 year olds to be receiving free nursery places</p> <p>85% of pupils to achieve Level 5 or above in English, Maths and Science at Key Stage 3</p> <p>65% of pupils to achieve 5 or more GCSEs of grades A-C.</p>
<p>Achieve an improved standard of education for children in particular need. These include children and young people from minority groups, those with disabilities and children from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ expand range of opportunity for Further Education/Higher Education ◆ increase take-up rate of Further Education/ Higher Education ◆ develop culture-specific training opportunities, maximising local knowledge 	<p>Access to and participation in Education and Training, in 14-19 year olds, was deemed 'unsatisfactory' in a 2004 Ofsted report.</p> <p>There has been a large increase in the number of migrant worker and their families moving to the area (0.6% over 10 years), most of whom are non-English speaking. There are now over 8700 non-white residents in the County.</p>	<p>90% of 16 and 17 year olds to participate in education/ work-based learning.</p> <p>Increased access to appropriate language support programmes.</p> <p>See also Building Safer and Stronger Communities</p>

VISION: RAISED ASPIRATION AND ATTAINMENT FOR ALL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
<p>Increase the knowledge economy of the local area, through improved further and higher educational take-up and attainment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ reduce proportion of young people leaving the county ◆ increase inclusivity of learning opportunities 	<p>In the 2004 Young People in Lincolnshire Housing Survey, 44% of respondents stated that the main reason they would leave the area would be to attend further or higher education elsewhere.</p> <p>The 16-44 year old age group account for 60% of those people leaving the county.</p> <p>There are significant inequalities in terms of access to 14-19 education in the area.</p>	<p>Increased number of school leavers remaining in Lincolnshire for Further or Higher Education.</p> <p>Increased number of students from outside Lincolnshire moving to the area to undertake Further or Higher Education.</p> <p>See also Economic Development</p>
<p>Raise the aspirations of children and young people in Lincolnshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ provide opportunities for children and young people to develop, aligned with the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes 	<p>14 wards in Lincolnshire are among the top 10% most deprived wards in the UK. Local evidence suggests that low aspirations perpetuate deprivation.</p>	<p>Measured improvements against the Every Child Matters Outcomes Framework.</p> <p>See also Economic Development and Healthier Communities</p>
<p>Improve the health, education and employment outcomes for looked after children and young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ increase number of GCSEs attained by looked after young people ◆ increase number of young people progressing to HE/FE ◆ reduce health inequalities between 	<p>National statistics show that a comparatively high proportion of looked after children have special educational needs. In addition, this group are less likely to do well at every level of education despite the fact that they themselves consider their education to be important (Social Exclusion Unit, 2003).</p> <p>Looked after children are some of the most</p>	<p>Increase proportion of looked after young people achieving 5 GCSEs of Grade A-C</p> <p>Increase proportion of looked after children progressing to Further or Higher Education, vocational training or work-based learning.</p> <p>Reduce to 5%, the proportion of looked after children to have had three or more</p>

VISION: RAISED ASPIRATION AND ATTAINMENT FOR ALL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
<p>looked after young people and those cared for by birth parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ reduce youth offending in looked after young people 	<p>complex and vulnerable in society. They are more likely to have mental health problems and to be at risk of offending.</p>	<p>placements in one year. 60% of looked after children to attain 5 GCSEs Grade A-G</p> <p>See also Building Safer and Stronger Communities</p>
<p>Provide a comprehensive range of support to help families contribute fully to their children's emotional, physical and social development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ early intervention/ child protection ◆ multi-agency support for families, particularly disadvantaged/ disabled children ◆ extended schools ◆ parent education/ skills programmes ◆ lifelong learning 	<p>There is evidence of the need for a co-ordinated, over-arching strategy tackling the issue of comprehensive childcare provision. There is evidence that support for parents helps reduce anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Local evidence suggests that there is a lack of services and facilities to support parents of children with disabilities in Lincolnshire. These parents feel less able to leave their children in order to participate in employment, training or social activities.</p>	<p>Development of a Childcare Provision Strategy</p> <p>An increased number of parenting support schemes</p> <p>See also Economic Development</p>

Healthier Communities

VISION: IMPROVE HEALTH OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE POPULATION		SUGGESTED TARGETS
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	
Reduce the number of people with life-limiting illnesses, promoting social and economic inclusion develop opportunities for social/ economic inclusion	29,000 adults in Lincolnshire are on incapacity benefit 19% people report long-term illness – higher than the national average See also Economic Development	Proportion of population reporting long-term illness reduced to 9% Number of adults on incapacity benefit to be reduced to 25,000 See also Economic Development
Reduce incidences of life threatening/ life-limiting conditions and improve survival rates Reduce incidences of alcohol and drug related conditions Increase life expectancy and reduce disparity in life expectancy between different areas of the County Develop activities to promote health through positive lifestyle choices Reduce proportion of babies born with low birth weight	Life expectancy in males in Lincolnshire ranges from 75.6 years (Boston) to 77.6 years (North Kesteven) Life expectancy in females in Lincolnshire ranges from 79.3 years (Lincoln) to 81.9 years (South Kesteven) Boston, Lincoln and West Lindsey Areas of East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland have a relatively high proportion of low-birth-weight babies, at 8.4%, 8.1% and 8.7% respectively. North Kesteven has the lowest proportion of low-birth-weight babies (6.9%).	75% of the population to report having good health Proportion of babies born with weight <2500g to be reduced to 6% in each district Increased life expectancy and reduced variation See also Lifelong Learning
Increase access to primary care for all residents, ensuring physical and social factors impeding inclusion are minimised	There is a variable rate of dental decay in children living in the County. 19.9% of children in the West Lincolnshire PCT area have dental decay compared to 30.9% in	A reduced proportion of children with dental decay at 10%, County-wide.

VISION: IMPROVE HEALTH OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE POPULATION		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
<p>Increase transport provision linking rural areas with primary health care units</p> <p>Deliver targeted health promotion activities to hard-to-reach communities</p> <p>Support the establishment of new medical and dental services</p> <p>Review and develop jointly-owned health improvement targets</p>	<p>East Lincolnshire PCT area.</p> <p>Stakeholders and residents report significant challenges facing primary care services, in particular, the paucity of dentists.</p>	<p>A reduced number of conceptions among 15-17 year olds, at 30 per 1000 women.</p> <p>40% of teenage mothers in education or training.</p>
<p>Reduce the under-18 conception rate through development of multi-agency approaches</p> <p>continue to support and develop the range of opportunities to enable single mothers to access learning and personal development</p> <p>deliver targeted support to reduce the teenage pregnancy rate in areas of multiple deprivation</p> <p>reduce the incidence of homelessness among teenage mothers</p> <p>reduce abortion rates</p>	<p>There is local evidence of the need to continue reducing the under-18 conception rate.</p> <p>There is a correlation between the most deprived areas and the higher incidences of under-18 conception.</p> <p>There is evidence to suggest the need to continue investing in education and training for teenage 28.4% of whom are currently undertaking such activities.</p>	

VISION: IMPROVE HEALTH OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE POPULATION		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
<p>Provide comprehensive support for the specific needs of an ageing population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure access to services ◆ Promote independent living ◆ providing support for carers ◆ maximising community involvement ◆ reducing the demand placed on healthcare services ◆ develop opportunities for older people to contribute to economic growth of the county 	<p>Census statistics highlight a significant increase in the 40-59 and 75+ age groups and a decline in the 25-39 year olds.</p> <p>One in ten Lincolnshire people cares for someone with a long-term physical or mental disability, or old age. Over a third of carers provide over 19 hours of care weekly, and one fifth provide over 50 hours. 435,000 people currently provide unpaid care.</p>	<p>A high proportion of carers report feeling well-supported.</p> <p>See also Building Safer and Stronger Communities</p>

Building Safer and Stronger Communities

VISION: ENSURE THAT LINCOLNSHIRE RESIDENTS FEEL SAFE AND ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
To reduce residents fear of crime across the county and increase their feelings of reassurance	<p>In the 2005 MORI survey 42% residents identified community safety services as one of the most important issues for the county</p> <p>Only 4% of respondents to the Lincolnshire Crime Audit Survey knew that crime had decreased during 2003/04, the majority thought it had increased</p> <p>People were most concerned about being victims of burglary and vehicle crime, despite these crime types both falling.</p> <p>Concern about violent crimes was also high despite this being rare. The lowest reported level of violent crimes against the person was in North Kesteven (8.4 per 1000 population) and the highest in Lincoln (32.1 per 1000 population).</p>	<p>Fewer than 30,000 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded</p> <p>5% reduction in violent crime</p> <p>7.5% reduction in domestic burglary</p> <p>Vehicle crime reduced by 7.5%</p>
To reduce levels of crime, particularly in areas where levels are highest	Although crimes occurred throughout Lincolnshire, the vast majority were concentrated in the urban areas around town centres or in areas of high deprivation	

VISION: ENSURE THAT LINCOLNSHIRE RESIDENTS FEEL SAFE AND ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
	Overall in Lincolnshire there is a 1 in 20 chance of being a victim of crime, although residents aged 18 to 24 are ten times more likely to be a victim than those aged over 65.	Reduced incidence of alcohol related crime Increased success of alcohol treatment programmes Increase provision of facilities and activities for young people Improved relationships between younger and older people
To tackle anti-social behaviour, responding to the issues that are of most concern to local residents, particularly behaviour of young people, and to alcohol and drug related problems in town centres.	people aged 18 to 34 are ten times more likely to offend than someone aged 35 or over In Lincoln City, in particular, the past four years has seen a considerable increase in the number of pubs and clubs, as well as a rise in the younger population within the area. Such factors may have an impact on drink-related anti-social behaviour.	One of the aims of the 2005/06 Policing Plan is to establish Community Policing Teams across the county and update the Force's community engagement strategy
To raise profile of police in local communities and foster closer community relations. Involve local people in crime prevention	80% satisfaction levels with Police Authority recorded	Reduced KSI casualty rate of <450 Reduced number of Calendar Year Road Deaths, at <65.
To reduce the level of road traffic accidents across the county and address issues of congestion	The number of people killed or seriously injured on the county's roads has decreased by 22% over the past year. The aim is to ensure that this figure continues to fall on annual basis	

VISION: ENSURE THAT LINCOLNSHIRE RESIDENTS FEEL SAFE AND ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
Tackle the causes and reduce levels of domestic violence	Domestic violence is generally considered a vastly underreported offence.	Continued increase in the reporting of domestic violence.
To build links between diverse communities in Lincolnshire and foster a greater sense of community spirit	The importance of social inclusion to the economic prosperity of localities is well documented. A socially excluded person cannot play a full part in generating economic wealth and so enjoy a higher standard of living - impacting on their quality of life	
Developing a coordinated approach to integrating ethnic minorities, recent asylum seekers and economic migrants into the community to reduce the negative impact on individuals and communities.	According to a survey carried out in 2001, 40% of BME respondents reported that they had been subject to some form of racial discrimination in the county 15% of BME respondents in the survey felt that community relations in Lincolnshire are poor New settlers in Lincolnshire experience high levels of discrimination and harassment. Problems are compounded by sparsity, cultural isolation and lack of support structures.	50% of migrants to Lincolnshire to be economically active
Develop innovative approaches to reduce the impact of rural isolation and ensure	70% of our villages have no permanent shop; 40 % have no village/community	See also Economic Development

VISION: ENSURE THAT LINCOLNSHIRE RESIDENTS FEEL SAFE AND ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
that people feel a part of their local community	<p>centre</p> <p>Over half of all Lincolnshire parishes have no post office or village shop; almost two thirds have no school; and almost 90% have no daily bus service</p>	<p>30% of household waste recycled or composted (2010 Defra target)</p> <p>Value recovered from 45% of municipal waste (2010 Defra target)</p>
<p>Ensure that there are adequate, convenient and acceptable waste disposal facilities for all local people.</p> <p>Reduce levels of waste produced</p> <p>Expand recycling facilities so that they are accessible for all local residents and businesses</p>	<p>Currently 340,000 tonnes of municipal waste are collected and disposed of in Lincolnshire each year.</p> <p>Over 80% of this waste currently goes for disposal in landfill sites, but our aim is to increase reuse, recovery, recycling and composting to minimise the amount of waste that is thrown away.</p> <p>Evidence suggests a need to provide accessible recycling facilities to enable people to contribute to the environment agenda.</p>	
Support sustainable solutions to environmental issues, through increased use of renewable resources.	<p>Local evidence suggests environmental concerns are a priority area.</p>	<p>Generate 10% of energy from renewable sources by 2010</p> <p>An increased number of wind generators and solar water heating schemes in operation</p>

VISION: ENSURE THAT LINCOLNSHIRE RESIDENTS FEEL SAFE AND ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
<p>To ensure that planning services support the improvement in quality of life and economic development</p> <p>Ensure housing developments meet a diverse range of needs, particularly in terms of affordable housing</p>	<p>The Lincolnshire Structure Plan Review to 2021 aims to secure the efficient and effective use of land in the interest of everyone</p> <p>It establishes the amount and general location of development required for meeting the future needs of the County's population while protecting and enhancing Lincolnshire's greatest assets</p> <p>At present there is a shortage of affordable housing</p>	<p>2750 houses per year built on average, in accordance with the Lincolnshire Structure Plan</p> <p>Increased reported satisfaction with visual quality of area</p>

Economic Development

VISION: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE RESIDENTS THROUGH INCREASED PROSPERITY		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
<p>Support the County's changing economy To promote a knowledge economy To build closer links between business and Further and Higher Education Encourage alternative land use and reduce the risk of dereliction. Develop the knowledge-base in agriculture and food production</p>	<p>Lincolnshire is under-performing in comparison with the East Midlands. The growth rate is slow compared to the region and the UK.</p> <p>Lincolnshire has low and falling GDP per capita, relative to the UK average. In 2002, Lincolnshire's GDP was 74% of the UK average, down from 76% in 2001. Real growth from 1995 to 2002 was 0.7% per year, compared with 2.7% for the rest of the East Midlands and 3.1% for the UK over the same period. Over that period, GVA indices fell from 87% of the national average to 74%, indicating substantial slipping back in comparison with the UK as a whole.</p> <p>The Gross Value Added (GVA) per person for Lincolnshire is 75% of the UK average.</p>	<p>GVA per head increased to 85% GDP per capita increased by 10% Increased growth rate</p> <p>See also Children and Young People</p>
<p>Raise aspirations and opportunities for all people across the county To tackle the problems of a low wage economy</p>	<p>The economy in many parts of the county is characterised by low skill, low value adding industries operating in very price competitive markets - undermining the</p>	<p>45% of employment involving higher knowledge industries</p>

VISION: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE RESIDENTS THROUGH INCREASED PROSPERITY		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
<p>To create more high wage, high skilled jobs and train and educate people for those jobs</p> <p>To target deprived areas to help people into employment</p>	<p>economic vitality of many areas.</p> <p>The county is under-skilled and this leads to fewer jobs in the skilled and well-paying 'knowledge-based' sectors</p> <p>Many Lincolnshire people are locked into low aspirational educational and employment circumstances, working longer for less pay than people in other areas.</p> <p>Unemployed people from BME backgrounds have greater difficulty securing employment than white people</p> <p>The low wages mean reduced levels of economic activity in the county leading to social exclusion, reduced standards of living and less investment in quality of life issues.</p>	<p>Reduction of recipients of Council Tax benefits to 10% of households.</p>
<p>To tackle problems of benefit dependency</p>	<p>In terms of Council Tax Benefits as a proportion of the number of households, the current average County-wide is 17.8% of households in the County currently claim Council Tax benefit. This figure is highest in Lincoln at 23.1% and lowest in South Kesteven, at 13.4%</p>	

VISION: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE RESIDENTS THROUGH INCREASED PROSPERITY		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
To promote tourism in the county, particularly in rural areas.	<p>The economic effects arising from visitor activity resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ £973 million business turnover which included £214 million spent by tourism businesses in Lincolnshire ◆ 30,686 jobs 	<p>Increased revenue from Tourist Activity 45,000 jobs provided by the tourist industry</p>
To build a transport infrastructure to support economic growth	<p>The 2005 MORI poll highlighted that the poor network, safety and maintenance of the roads are main concerns</p> <p>Local evidence suggests that the poor road network was identified as a main problem that is holding business back</p> <p>Less than 60km of the County's 8,000 km road network is dualled</p> <p>Only Grantham is on the main rail network and bus services are generally poor. Just 4.1% of Lincolnshire's population travel to work by public transport (compared with 14.5% in England and Wales), reinforcing car dependency</p>	<p>Increased proportion of dualled road network</p> <p>14% of population using public transport to travel to work</p> <p>Increased reported satisfaction with road network, maintenance and safety.</p>
To attract more businesses and provide greater support for existing businesses To encourage and support an	Lincolnshire is heavily dependent on well-established and mature industries. There is little by way of new and technology-based industries.	<p>Increased number of new businesses</p> <p>Increased success rate of new businesses</p> <p>Diversification of business activity</p>

VISION: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE RESIDENTS THROUGH INCREASED PROSPERITY		
ASPIRATION	EVIDENCE	SUGGESTED TARGETS
entrepreneurial spirit for local businesses To promote a greater diversity of businesses	based industry emerging in the county. There is a pressing need for more enterprise, through business start-up, and growth, through innovation There is local evidence of a need for more effective support for inward investment.	Increased inward investment
To build stronger partnership links between businesses and public agencies	There is local evidence of poor relationships between local businesses, public bodies, key agencies and the community and voluntary sector.	An increase in local activity delivered through partnerships and collaborative working.