

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

REPORT NO. CEX265

DATE: 10th January 2005

TITLE:	Annual Stakeholder Conference, 9th December 2004
COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	All
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	As detailed in Conference Summary
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Chief Executive's Report No. CEX253 Path to Pride Leaflets

Introduction

The Council held its first ever Stakeholder Conference on 9th December 2004 in the Guildhall Theatre and was intended to bring together the various representatives of the communities of South Kesteven. Invitations were sent out to all those with a share or "stake" in the future health and well being of the Community and the full list of delegates is included in the summary notes of the Conference attached to this report.

The Conference was timed so that any outcome could inform the development of the new Community Strategy when it comes into effect from the 1st April next year and also be fed into the District Council's budget making process.

It was rewarding to see a good attendance with over 120 people taking part in the Path to Pride Workshops. The favourable feedback received from delegates heralded the establishment of this enjoyable event on an annual basis.

Recommendation

That the outcome from the Stakeholder Conference be taken into account in the Council's Change Management Action Plan.

Duncan Kerr
Chief Executive

Outcome from the South Kesteven Annual Stakeholder Conference held on Thursday the 9th December 2004 in the Guildhall Theatre, Grantham commencing at 10.00am.

Attendees

District Councillors
Parish and Town Council representatives
County Councillors representing wards in South Kesteven Area
Representatives from Tenant Compacts who sit on Local Area Assemblies
Chairs of all Town Centre Management partnerships
LSP Members
Tenant Compact representatives
Senior Managers
Local MPs

Summary of the meeting

Councillor Graham Wheat, Chairman of South Kesteven District Council, thanked everyone for attending the seminar and urged all delegates to participate in the morning's event.

Duncan Kerr, Chief Executive of the Council, then gave a presentation explaining the Council's progress over the last year, its current priorities and its aspirations for the future. Copies of the slides used in this presentation are enclosed.

Delegates were then divided into workshops each chaired by a Cabinet member or members from South Kesteven. Each of these workshops considered:

- Specific aspects of the Council's progress against the key issues identified in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) report completed in October 2003
- The Council's progress on one of its major priorities
- One aspect of the Council vision for the future as set out in the draft booklets entitled "Path to Pride"

The workshops lasted until 12.00 noon, after which the following issues were identified in the feedback.

Issues correctly identified or addressed by the Council over the past year

- Anti social behaviour as a priority
- Annual review of priorities
- Scrutiny
- Management development
- Local area assemblies
- Commitment to learn from the best
- Disparity of resources
- Action plan for Grantham

Issues yet to be addressed by the Council

- Flexibility of priorities
- Delivery on priorities
- Measuring achievement
- Communications
- Demonstrating Value For Money
- Explaining recycling strategy
- LSP role e.g. health
- Encouraging community empowerment
- Measuring engagement
- Communicating non priorities

Issues arising from the consideration of progress on each of the Council's priorities.

1. Anti-social behaviour

- Consulting the public
- Expanding CCTV
- Graffiti, Noise & Litter
- Defining anti-social behaviour
- Education

2. Access

- Access to those not computer literate
- Learning from other authorities
- Resolving enquiries first time is vital
- Broadband for rural communities

3. Capacity

- Communication still an issue
- Making partnerships more productive
- Customer surveys important

4. Street Scene

- Indicative of PRIDE
- Rural issues
- More than litter
- Enforcement & education

5. Town Centre Development

- Finance
- Community input & support
- Marketing and promotion
- Co-ordination & drive from LSP
- Clear vision

Future problems or issues that the Council may need to address if it is to be successful in following the “Path to Pride”

- Review Priorities
- Improve Capacity to learn from best practice elsewhere
- Ensure that the staff are fully supportive
- Explain to residents what the local authority does
- Improve engagement by young people
- Improve the assessment and data for assessing need
- Village development plans are vital
- Remember to reflect the needs of rural communities
- Embrace new technologies and industries
- Continue to improve communication and consultation

The Leaders of the three major groups on the Council then gave their feedback and said they recognised many of the issues raised. It was agreed that these would be included in the revision of the Council’s Change Management Action Plan for 2005/6.

The Chairman thanked all delegates for their contributions and asked them whether they had enjoyed the meeting and would come again. There was a consensus that the meeting had been enjoyable and worthwhile. Most delegates thought that the meeting could have been longer in order to allow fuller debate on the important topics raised.