

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Town centre development and the development of Grantham as a sub-regional centre has emerged as a key Council priority.

The District Council has been instrumental in establishing town centre management partnerships (TCMP's) in each of the four towns in the District. These partnerships have enjoyed varying degrees of success and it is timely to now review their structure, composition, terms of reference and future direction in order that they may become one of the primary vehicles to deliver the Council's town centre development aspirations. Similarly, it is appropriate at this juncture to map out the key steps required in each town to deliver vibrant and vital town centres.

Partnerships: General issues

Stamford Vision, the TCMP for Stamford, should rightly be seen as an exemplar of good practice. It enjoys strong, committed private sector support, is clearly focussed upon a relevant set of priorities, and has been successful in securing external funding for major projects. There is an urgent need to review the aims and objectives for each of the remaining partnerships, and for each partnership to establish clear priorities and up to date action plans. These reviews need also to focus upon the composition and membership of partnerships, particularly to ensure private sector and key stakeholder engagement. The establishment of robust business organisations at sub-partnership level is also required. The creation of appropriate company structures to underpin TCMP activity should be pursued where Partnerships are demonstrably robust and focussed.

The evening economy is a cross-cutting theme that affects a number of category A priorities, and merits strategy development in conjunction with external partners.

Grantham

The key imperative in Grantham is to review and roll-forward the town centre Masterplan. An initial feasibility study is required to ascertain the viability and feasibility of developing the Grantham Canal Basin as a mixed-use redevelopment. Discussions are presently taking place with partner organisations about the scope of this study. Action points arising from the agreed sub-regional checklist can largely be addressed through the masterplanning activity and partnership working. A County Council sponsored transportation study will eventually feed into masterplanning and LDF activity. Emerging national indicators will enable comparative benchmarking in due course. The masterplan, and other Category A Action plans will create a positive climate for developing the visitor economy of the town.

Stamford

Stamford Vision have identified five clear priorities for the partnership, which align closely with District aspirations; the Stamford Gateway project, Traffic relief, Local Development Framework, the Welland Quarter regeneration project and car parking. These emerging issues can be embodied within the Stamford Action Area Plan

proposed as an LDF-policy document, which will be prepared in close co-operation with Stamford Vision. Ongoing work appears to confirm the viability and feasibility of the Welland Quarter regeneration project, and this project is shortly to progress to a masterplanning and policy development phase. Proposals for a development-led Eastern Relief Road tabled by the Chamber of Trade warrant detailed appraisal as part of the LDF process. Existing Category A action plans, and close working with Stamford Vision's Marketing Group will ensure the development of the towns visitor economy.

Bourne

The implementation of the Bourne Core Area redevelopment project (a mixed use, retail focussed scheme) is central to enhancing the viability and vitality of the town centre. The Bourne Town Centre Action Plan published in 2000 is in need of review and roll forward, to reflect projects completed and emerging issues. In view of the car parking implications arising from the core area redevelopment, and the potential for a decked car park on the Burghley Centre car park, it is expedient to review car park provision and management concurrently with the delivery of the core area.

Deepings

The immediate focus in the Deepings is to develop the recently re-formed partnership and to enable it to develop a clear set of priorities and a robust action plan. Subject to these issues being addressed, there is a compelling argument to support a part-time town centre co-ordinator (funded through SSP support and planning gain funds) to deliver an agreed action plan and to develop a strong representative business organisation in the town.

Business Improvement Districts (BID's)

Established TCMP's and their supporting business clubs/organisations represent the ideal fora to develop Business Improvement Districts. With appropriate District Council support these organisations should be encouraged and supported to develop BID's. It is proposed that such support should initially be directed towards a BID pilot project in Grantham