

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF: The Leader of the Council  
 REPORT NO.: POI30

DATE: 22 January 2009

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>PROGRESS ON DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT</b>
<b>FORWARD PLAN ITEM:</b>	No
<b>DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:</b>	N/A

<b>KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:</b>	Policy Framework Proposal	
<b>COUNCIL AIMS/ PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:</b>	Cllr Linda Neal	
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY:</b>	ALL	
<b>CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:</b>	YES	
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:</b>	This report is publicly available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website: <a href="http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk">www.southkesteven.gov.uk</a>	
<b>INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>Carried out and appended to report?</b>  N/A	<b>Full impact assessment required?</b>
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Annual Review of Priorities Full Council 4 September 2008 Lincolnshire Local Area Agreement 2008-11	

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report provides an update for members on the progress being made by the Lincolnshire Assembly to develop a new county wide Sustainable Community Strategy and the timetable set for its agreement.

It sets out the proposed themes of the strategy; a draft South Kesteven chapter produced for the South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership and illustrates how the Council's recently agreed priorities and the Lincolnshire Local Area Agreement will both help contribute to its delivery.

The new national method of assessing local public services called the 'Comprehensive Area Assessment' comes into being from April 2009 and this will test the effectiveness of how all the councils in Lincolnshire and the organizations they work with help improve the overall quality of life for the people who live and work in the county.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

**(i) Council notes the proposed timetable for developing the new Lincolnshire wide Sustainable Community Strategy**

**(ii) That the Leader reports any views or suggestions that the Council agrees to make on the proposed themes and outcomes to the Lincolnshire Sustainable Community Strategy Board at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January.**

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

The draft Sustainable Community Strategy is due to be considered by the Lincolnshire Sustainable Community Strategy Board on 27<sup>th</sup> January prior to its adoption by the County Council on 13<sup>th</sup> February. South Kesteven District Council is represented in the Strategy Board by the Leader of the Council.

Following the 13<sup>th</sup> February additional chapters for each district area will be added (once they have been agreed by their own Local Strategic Partnership) prior to publication at the end of March.

This will allow the following opportunities for members to comment and contribute to the strategy:

1. Full Council 22 January – discussion on overall themes, high level outcomes and draft South Kesteven chapter

2. Communities Policy Development Group 29 January – consideration of draft South Kesteven chapter with any recommendations to Cabinet on 9 February.
3. South Kesteven LSP Executive 13 February considers any recommendations from Cabinet and other partners and agree South Kesteven chapter.
4. Full Council 2 March – formally adopts South Kesteven chapter and the council's priority plans which will contribute to the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and assist in meeting the agreed targets for South Kesteven set out in the Local Area Agreement.

### **Sustainable Community Strategy Vision and Outcomes**

A Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) seeks to set out long term vision for an area firmly based on an assessment of local needs. Lincolnshire's SCS looks at the type of county Lincolnshire may be in 2030.

A SCS needs to be based on an assessment of local need, this has been informed by work carried out by the Lincolnshire Research Observatory and through various public consultation exercises, the two 'Big Sky Big County surveys' and the new national 'Place Survey'.

Lincolnshire's vision is to become a '***place where everyone can find and enjoy the lifestyle that suits them best***'. A set of priority themes shown below have been proposed along with some high level outcomes to drive the work of partners.

The Local Area Agreement (LAA), which is a three yearly set of improvement targets agreed between the county council (with its partners including the district councils, police and health services) and central government then helps drive what may be realistically achieved in the medium term to help achieve the 2030 vision and outcomes.

The vision and the lifestyles that people enjoy will come from the following priority themes:

- **Vibrant communities where people enjoy life**
- **Opportunities for good health**
- **One of the healthiest and most sustainable economies in Europe**
- **Good connections between people, services, communities and places**
- **Rich diverse environments, heritage and cultures that residents and visitors enjoy**

These will be supported by a theme that focuses on ensuring that we develop '**innovative and dynamic organisations** working together for Lincolnshire'.

There is a good fit between these county wide themes and the revised set of local priorities that the Council agreed in September 2008 that it wished to focus on (Quality Organisation, Healthy Living, Good for Business and Customer First). The detailed Priority Plans currently being finalised which will be reported to the Council on 3 March will illustrate these links.

The type of outcomes that each of these themes is seeking to achieve is shown in appendix 1.

While the Lincolnshire Assembly is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the whole of the county, South Kesteven has its own LSP which will play a role in ensuring that locally partner organisations contribute to delivering both the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. The South Kesteven LSP will not be producing its own local SCS but will work within the county wide strategy; it has developed a smaller set of three complementary priorities, Healthy Living, Sustainable Growth and Community Cohesion to focus on over the next few years. These are set out in the draft district chapter attached in appendix 2.

#### **4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED**

Although the Lincolnshire County Council is the body that will adopt the Lincolnshire Sustainable Community Strategy, its success depends on the input from many organisations including South Kesteven District Council. Consequently it was felt inadvisable not to bring the outline content before members.

#### **5. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER**

Any financial implications arising from the Council's contribution to the Sustainable Community Strategy will be met from existing budget provisions.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER**

The Local Government Act 2000 makes the provision of a sustainable community strategy a statutory obligation. As such the strategy delivery has been included in the Forward Plan as a policy framework

document. Whilst this Council will not be required to adopt the strategy in its entirety, Council should approve the South Kesteven Chapter.

**7. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER**

None

**9. CONCLUSION/SUMMARY**

The Sustainable Community Strategy is a key building block of the council's performance management framework and there is a good fit between the Council's own priorities and those proposed for the new Lincolnshire SCS.

**10. CONTACT OFFICER**

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## Appendix 1

### Lincolnshire SCS Proposed Vision, Themes and High Level Outcomes

Imagine **Lincolnshire** in 2030 ...

Ours is a Big County, with Big Skies that has a Big Future because **Lincolnshire is the place where everyone can find and enjoy the lifestyle that suits them best.** Those great lifestyles come from:

- Vibrant communities where people enjoy life
- Opportunities for good health
- One of the healthiest and most sustainable economies in Europe
- Good connections between people, services, communities and places
- Rich diverse environments, heritage and cultures that residents and visitors enjoy

Supported by organisations working together for Lincolnshire

Imagine Lincolnshire's **Communities** in 2030 ...

Lincolnshire has many **vibrant communities where people enjoy life.**

Our population comes from many backgrounds and these **people get on well and respect each other.**

**Everyone feels safe** in the places where they live and visit.

There are enough **homes in good condition that are affordable and suit people's needs.**

People's **local environments are well cared for.**

There are **opportunities for social, recreational, sporting and cultural activities.**

**People influence, contribute to and take part in their communities.**

**People have choices about their lives and are treated with dignity.**

Imagine Lincolnshire's **Health** in 2030 ...

Lincolnshire has continued to grow, with more people of all ages and health moving to our county and more living longer. Everyone, whatever their background or age, has **opportunities for good health**.

**More people enjoy good health for longer.**

**The gap between most and least healthy people has reduced.**

Local **people are actively involved in their own and other people's health and wellbeing**. They have **access to information and self-help**

**High quality services delivered in communities support good health and wellbeing** where it is safe and feasible to do so

**Residents are physically active**

**Healthy food is affordable for everyone**

**Services are commissioned or delivered jointly if necessary**

**Services are tailored for individuals** and deliver measurable improvements.

**More choices in the type of support** are improving independence, including technological solutions, and reducing the need for people to travel or move home to meet their health and wellbeing needs.

There is **real understanding of needs**, beliefs, values and behaviours of the populations being served.



## **Imagine Lincolnshire's economy in 2030 ...**

Historic Lincolnshire has **one of the healthiest and most sustainable economies in Europe.**

**Clusters of economic excellence** in agriculture, food manufacturing, power engineering, leisure and creative industries are critical to the world's economy after the recession.

These clusters are part of a much **more diverse economy** supported by **high quality training for skills.**

Our **top 30 UK university** leads on research and transferring knowledge into the county.

## **Imagine Lincolnshire's 'connections' in 2030 ...**

Lincolnshire is one of the largest counties but with few large towns and many small communities so it is vital that there are **good connections between people, services, communities and places.**

There is **convenient access to services.** Increasingly, people are able to access these from their homes and local communities rather than travel farther away.

**Widespread use of digital technology** improves lives and life chances.

When people travel, they use a **safe, well managed transport network.**

## **Imagine Lincolnshire's Environment in 2030 ...**

Ours is a huge and varied county ranging:

From the Cathedral to the Coastline....

From the Fens to the Waterways.....

From the City to the Market Towns....

From the Wolds to the Wetlands ....

**Lincolnshire's rich diverse environments, heritage and cultures are recognised and enjoyed by all.**

Lincolnshire has been shaped by man for thousands of years. We are continuing to do so by **balancing the needs of people, our heritage, the economy and nature.**

We have **embraced the challenges of climate change.** Our innovative solutions balance the needs of traditional strengths like food production and manufacturing with our natural and man-made environments.

**Residents and visitors enjoy our heritage and environmental attractions.**

Alongside our flourishing economy, the **countryside, coastline and towns are much richer in biodiversity** than in 2000.

## **Imagine Lincolnshire's organisations in 2030 ...**

Our community strategy has set many challenges. We are making the best use of our resources by **working together for Lincolnshire** across public, private and voluntary sectors.

We have developed **creative and innovative approaches** to those challenges.

These are **focused on people and** based on knowledge gained by **involving people and communities**.

All this makes sure we are **spending money wisely** so Lincolnshire gets the best possible value for money.

## Appendix 2

### **Draft South Kesteven Chapter**

### **Lincolnshire Sustainable Community Strategy**

#### **Introducing South Kesteven**

South Kesteven is a district in south west Lincolnshire with a population of approximately 131,000. Two-thirds of people live in one of the four traditional market towns of Grantham, Bourne, Stamford and The Deepings. The remaining third live in one of over 80 villages. It is one of the biggest districts in the UK, covering an area of 365 square miles.

**This presents us with a particular challenge of how best to serve the needs of our densely populated towns and our sparsely populated, widely-spread rural communities?**

Our population is also **growing** and becoming increasingly diverse. South Kesteven is one of the fastest-growing rural districts in England, with the change in population growth in the last ten years being twice the rate of increase for the rest of England and Wales. It is also home to around 3,100 businesses and has a lower unemployment rate than the UK average.

It is a beautiful area of rural England with a number of nationally-renowned visitor attractions. Large areas are classified as sites of special scientific interest and the town of Stamford was recently voted one of the top ten places to live by the Daily Telegraph. With excellent communication links – London just over an hour away by train – and easy links by road to north, south, east and west via the A1 and A52, South Kesteven is a fantastic place to live, work or visit.

#### **Our Vision**

To shape the future of South Kesteven together with our partners and residents to develop a place where people really matter by maintaining and improving the towns, villages and countryside of the district to create self-supporting, inclusive, sustainable communities which are safe, healthy and desirable places in which to live and work.

#### **Our Priorities**

Our vision and priorities take full account of spatial and environmental issues and are fully aligned with the planning objectives set out in the Local Development framework. They complement the themes of the Lincolnshire

Sustainable Community Strategy. In establishing these priorities the South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership used a range of consultation documents and results collected by a selection of partners including: the district and county councils, the Primary Care Trust, Police, Community Lincs and the Community Safety Partnership. The results of this research gave us three distinct strategic priorities for the district:

## **Sustainable Growth**

Sustainable Growth is viewed not only in terms of the built environment but also with the natural environment of our district in mind. By both of these environments working in harmony we will build sustainable communities in which people want to live and work, now and in the future. Only by developing this balance will we meet the diverse needs of our residents, improving quality of life and offering opportunities which bring communities together. We don't just want to build housing – we want to build the communities who live and work in South Kesteven.

Our main objectives for Sustainable Growth are:

- to support Grantham Growth Point
- to support Bourne Core Area
- to support the development of affordable housing across our district
- to ensure that our natural environment is sustainable
- to develop community transport schemes to prevent isolation of our vulnerable residents
- to promote opportunities for formal and informal education
- to ensure opportunities for employment

## **Healthy Living**

The health of the population of South Kesteven is 'good' when compared to the rest of the country. There are comparatively lower levels of coronary heart disease, strokes, cancers, infant mortality and teenage pregnancy. However, there are variations in health and illness within the district in terms of life expectancy, ill-health and long-term illness and such variations are often reflected in the deprivation scores for individual wards across the district. The PCT has identified Harrowby, Earlesfield and St Wulfram's wards as areas of concern. The two key inequalities across South Kesteven have been identified as obesity and alcohol misuse and we aim to tackle these through projects promoting healthy lifestyles focusing on 'prevention' ahead of 'cure'.

To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in South Kesteven we intend to:

- reduce obesity

- address alcohol misuse
- enhance and maintain health services in line with the growing population
- maximise use of leisure to help prevent ill health

## **Community Cohesion**

South Kesteven has seen significant population change in the last five years. The area has the largest number of young people (under 19) compared to the other districts in Lincolnshire and this age group is now estimated to comprise 24% of the district's total population (up from 22% in 2001). The number of older people continues to increase with some 11,300 people now over 74 living in the community (8.6% of the population compared to 7.8% in 2001). And our ethnic minority population has increased from 3.4% to 5.8% - last updated August 08 (*Office for National Statistics – Neighbourhood Statistics – Resident Population Estimates by Ethnic Group*) with migrant workers coming into the district from eastern Europe and Portugal predominantly. Community cohesion seeks to address a number of issues arising from these changes in our population such as increased tolerance between different groups of people in the community, as well as equality of service for older people and people with disabilities. In short, achieving community cohesion means working together to build a strong, safe, inclusive South Kesteven.

In order to make sure that South Kesteven is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area we will:

- develop community pride
- celebrate cultural diversity
- improve local neighbourhoods
- develop safer communities

Although these priorities are shown as independent of each other we will seek, wherever possible, to link and support the delivery of projects and commissions.