

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

REPORT NO: EDTC0077

DATE: 9th March 2009

TITLE:	Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014	
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Yes	
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	March 2008	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision	
COUNCIL AIMS/ PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Economic Development Portfolio Holder – Councillor Frances Cartwright	
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Good for Business Quality Living Customer First Quality Organization	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and appended to the report:	Full impact assessment required:
Equality and Diversity	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder	Yes	No
Risk	Yes	No
Climate Change	Yes	No
Health and Safety	Yes	No
Data Quality	Yes	No
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	East Midlands Development Agency – Regional Economic Strategy Lincolnshire Assembly – Lincolnshire Local Area Agreement Lincolnshire Economic Strategy Cabinet Paper – Draft Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014; 1 st December 2008	

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014 for South Kesteven District Council. The Strategy includes a basic evaluation of the 2005-2008 Economic Development Strategy. An Action Plan will follow that will be agreed by Cabinet.

2. RECOMMENDATION

This report recommends that Cabinet: -

1. Notes and considers the consultee responses to the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014 and the responses made by the Service Manager (Economic Development) to these submissions.
2. Approves the Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014 for South Kesteven District Council subject to changes to be made as a result of the responses made to the consultation
3. Instructs the Service Manager for Economic Development to make any final changes in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development before distributing to partners.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

The Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014 has been developed with the Economic development working group and presented to the Communities Policy Development Group. The strategy has been worked on with Lincolnshire County Council Head of Policy and aligns with the Local Area Agreements, the Community Strategy, the Local Development Framework, the Sub National Review, and the Lincolnshire Economic Strategy.

The Strategy evaluates the 2005-2008 Economic Development Strategy and shows what South Kesteven District Council did well, and what we learnt from. The focused priorities required from this strategy are: -

- The inward investment challenge "attracting inward investment"
- The productivity challenge "improving our local output"
- The entrepreneurship challenge "growing our own business"
- The knowledge and technology challenge "increasing our knowledge economy"
- The skills challenge "diversifying our skills"

The strategy draws synergies with other local, regional strategies and will provide an action plan that informs of projects and initiatives that South Kesteven District Council can undertake with partners to improve our local economy. Measuring the impact is also included comparing against previous years on indicators and proposing indicators and outcomes for the next five years.

On the 1st December 2008 Cabinet instructed the Service Manager (Economic Development) to progress to consultation with Stakeholders. Those sent the

Draft Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014 included:

- All South Kesteven District Council Members
- All Service Managers and Corporate Heads at South Kesteven District Council
- Lincolnshire County Council Economic Development Team The East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) Policy Unit
- The Welland SSP
- Lincolnshire Enterprise
- Primary Care Trust
- Police
- Local Strategic Partnership
- Town Councils
- Grantham Business Club
- Federation of Small Businesses
- British Waterways
- English Partnerships
- Grantham College
- Stamford College
- Lincolnshire County Council Education Team
- Stamford Chamber of Trade & Commerce
- Bourne Business Club
- Deepings Business Club
- Chairs of Town Centre Management Partnerships (Grantham, Stamford, Bourne & the Deepings)
- Welland Enterprise Agency
- Total Networking
- Logic
- Business Link East Midlands
- All Neighbouring Local Authority Economic Development Managers & Portfolio Holders for Economic Development (Rutland, South Holland, North Kesteven, Lincoln City, Boston, East Lindsey and West Lindsey)

A summary of responses is attached as appendix 1 with a response to each by the Service Manager (Economic Development).

The Communities Policy Development Group and the sub working group for Economic Development Policy have reviewed the document and subsequent 'consultee responses' and would recommend with the proposed changes. The PDG also made the following recommendation as a point of clarification: -

That the overall employment rates (as on page 15 of the report) be recorded as a percentage of the employable population (16 – 65 year olds) instead of as a percentage of the whole population.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED

South Kesteven District Council requires an Economic Development Strategy, there are no other options to consider.

5. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

There are potential significant capital and revenue implications for the Authority should the strategy action plan be adopted in its entirety. If approved careful consideration will need to be given to any proposed schemes under the strategy and each capital scheme will need to be scored in accordance with the capital scoring process. The timing of the proposals will also need to be carefully considered in order to ensure the delivery of the schemes from both a financial and capacity perspective.

6. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

The draft strategy was presented to Cabinet at its meeting on the 1st December 2008 to approve the draft for consultation. Consultation has now taken place as detailed in the report. Amendments to the draft have not been made following consultation. Cabinet are being asked to note the responses and give delegated authority to the service manager to make the amendments proposed arising from the consultation in consultation with the portfolio holder.

Cabinet is required to approve the strategy as a matter of local choice.

7. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

No comments

8. CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Following the formal consultation process the following changes to the Strategy are proposed as points of clarification (these are noted as such in the consultation response document):

- 1) That the text on 'state of the economy' be removed and bullet points be added in giving key headlines, this would allow annual updates reducing the likelihood that the strategy will be time banked for five years.
- 2) That the text on the Welland SSP be removed due to their closure in April 2009.
- 3) That the Strategy does not focus on any one specific standard industry classification of business.
- 4) That further demographic data be added in on demographic, deprivation and changing patterns of employment are added in to the strategy

Other elements of the consultation responses are subject to discussion and approval of Cabinet. The Service Manager will distribute the Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014 when completed and agreed with the Portfolio Holder. A further Action Plan will be developed over the next 6-8 weeks for the Portfolio Holder/Cabinet to endorse in May 2009.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Mr Neil Cuttall
Service Manager (Economic Development & Town Centre Management)
n.cuttell@southkesteven.gov.uk

INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT PRO FORMA

Section: Economic Development & Town Centre Management Services		Names of those undertaking assessment: Neil Cuttall Paul Stokes Susie McCohan
Name of Policy to be assessed: Economic Development Strategy 2009-2014	Date of Assessment: 17/11/2008	Is this a new or existing policy?: Existing Policy
<p>1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy: As per page 13 of the Strategy, there are five key priority aims of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Productivity Challenge 'improving our local outputs' b) The Entrepreneurship Challenge 'growing our local businesses' c) The Knowledge and Technology Challenge 'increasing our knowledge economy' d) The Skills Challenge 'diversifying our skills' e) The Inward Investment Challenge 'attracting inward investment' 		
<p>2. What are the key performance indicators? The key indicators are identified on page 16 of the strategy</p>		
<p>3. Who will be affected by this policy? This policy will affect anyone that works, lives or visits the district. It will affect the work of key partners that South Kesteven partners with as well as other internal sections and departments at South Kesteven District Council. Specifically the policy will work with Town Centre Management Partnerships, Businesses, and Business Clubs and Organizations.</p>		
<p>4. Who is intended to benefit from this policy and in what way? This policy will affect anyone that works, lives or visits the district. More specifically it works with growing businesses, inward investors, developers, the deprived according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation, and the employed and unemployed.</p>		
<p>5. Are there any other organisations involved in the delivery of the service? The strategy highlights all of the partners involved with the delivery of the strategy. These include Lincolnshire County Council, the East Midlands Development Agency and local enterprise agencies and business clubs.</p>		
<p>6. What outcomes are required from this policy and for whom? The outcomes of the policy are set out on page 17 of the strategy.</p>		
<p>7. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) International, National and Regional economies could change priorities b) Provision of services / Priority setting within SKDC c) Resource delivery (deficiency / efficiency) d) The Economic Development audit / and improvement plan 2009 		
<p>8. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy? Residents, Town Centre Management Partnerships, Visitors, Local Businesses, inward investors</p>		
<p>9. Who implements the policy, and who is responsible for the policy? South Kesteven District Council implements the policy. However this policy can only be achieved by working with the identified stakeholders as set out in the Strategy.</p>		

<p>10. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on different racial groups? If yes, please explain. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p> <p>No the policy does not differentially impact on any racial group</p>
<p>11. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on men and women? If yes, please explain. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p> <p>No the policy does not differentially impact on men or women</p>
<p>12. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on disabled people? If yes, please explain. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p> <p>No the policy does not differentially impact on disabled people</p>
<p>13. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on the grounds of sexual orientation? If yes, please explain. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p> <p>No the policy does not differentially impact on any grounds of sexual orientation</p>
<p>14. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on the grounds of age? If yes, please explain. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p> <p>No the policy does not differentially impact on grounds of age</p>
<p>15. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on the grounds of religious belief? If yes, please explain. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p> <p>No the policy does not differentially impact on grounds for religious belief</p>
<p>16. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on any other groups of people eg those with dependants/caring responsibilities, those with an offending past, those with learning difficulties, transgendered or transsexual people. If yes, please explain. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p> <p>No the policy does not differentially impact on any other groups of people.</p>
<p>17. Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service eg language, physical access?</p> <p>The policy document itself could be made available in other languages, through language line.</p>
<p>18. Where do you think improvements could be made?</p> <p>The policy document could be made available in brail, large print, different languages or spoken word.</p>
<p>19. Are there any unmet needs or requirements that can be identified that affect specific groups. If yes, please give details.</p> <p>The rural population was identified; however on reviewing many of the projects and initiatives they are not excluded and many projects are of positive impact to the rural areas.</p>
<p>20. Is there a complaints system?</p>

The policy does not have a complaints procedure, however South Kesteven District Council has a corporate complaints procedure
<p>21. Do we monitor complaints by race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religious belief?</p> <p>The corporate complaints system can monitor to this level.</p>
<p>22. Do we have feedback from managers or frontline staff?</p> <p>As part of the consultation phase the strategy was sent to Service Managers and Corporate Heads. The Economic Development Service Manager also attended some other services team meetings to discuss the strategy.</p>
<p>23. Is there any feedback from voluntary/community organisations?</p> <p>As part of the consultation phase the strategy was sent out to other community organizations including Town Centre Management Partnerships for comment.</p>
<p>24. Is there any research or models of practice that may inform our view?</p> <p>The Strategy was completed after reviewing other neighbouring authorities economic development strategies and KPIs. The KPIs were developed alongside the Chief Economic Development Officers Society KPI framework and Local Area Agreement Framework. The Service Plans for financial years 2006/7 and 2007/8 highlight the cost per head for the service against neighbouring authorities and authorities of similar size, for which SKDC come out in the median range.</p>
<p>25. Could the differential impact identified in 8 – 16 amount to there being unlawful discrimination in respect of this policy?</p> <p>No</p>
<p>26. Could the differential impact identified in 8-16 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy?</p> <p>No</p>
<p>27. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason?</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<p>28. Should the policy proceed to a full impact assessment?</p> <p>No</p>
<p>29. Date on which Full assessment to be completed by</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Signed (Lead Officer):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date: ...17.11.2008.....</p>

Crime and Disorder

There are a number of impacts under the section 17, and the Crime and Disorder act regarding certain identified project within the Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan. These will have to be considered when initiating each individual project as part of the project planning processes.

Risk

A risk assessment will be completed for each individual project identified within the Economic Development Action Plan.

Climate Change

There are limited environmental and climate change impacts within the strategy, however certain projects could identify opportunities within their design or construction that will be beneficial to reduce their carbon footprint or have environmental benefits for the communities within South Kesteven.

Health & Safety

There are no Health and Safety impacts with regard to the strategy, however certain projects within the strategy will require a health and safety assessment before commencement.

Data Quality

This report contains statistics that have been gathered from a number of areas. Principally the National Office of Statistics, but also from the BERR and CACI data sets. The evidence gathered also includes information from the Lincolnshire Research Organization.