

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Corporate Head, Sustainable Communities

REPORT NO: CHSC0022

DATE: 22 February 2010

TITLE:	Grantham Growth Point: Single Conversation Local Investment Plan	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr Frances Cartwright, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Holder	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Teena Twelves, Corporate Head Sustainable Communities	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below:	Full impact assessment Required:
Equality and Diversity		
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the joint Local Investment Plan as the basis for a future investment agreement which will provide a detailed financial plan for delivery of the Grantham Growth Point project.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT/DECISION REQUIRED

Members are asked to consider the attached draft Local Investment Plan (LIP) for submission to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) as the basis for developing a local investment agreement between the HCA and the Grantham Growth Point Strategic Board.

The document will be used to inform, engage and help co-ordinate service planning, investment and activities in and around Grantham across a range of organisations.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

The LIP for Grantham has been prepared to provide the necessary strong direction to focus engagement between local and national government through the single conversation approach. The document will enable the production over the next year of the local investment agreement that will include specific details of the HCA interventions and worked up project

appraisals.

Grantham is the pilot area in Lincolnshire and the Peterborough Partial Housing Market Area for developing the Single Conversation approach; this document and the work that flows will be used in further developing the Single Conversation approach across the wider local sub-region.

The document also sets out a vision and plans for Grantham including both growth and regeneration. In particular:

- To begin to tell Grantham's ambitions consistently and holistically to the range of Public and Private sector organisations that can contribute Grantham's development – to influence their investment plans
- To provide core information about Grantham's planned growth which can be used in a range of ways to let current and future communities know about changes proposed and invite their views and involvement in shaping change
- To co-ordinate delivery of the agreed Vision for development and regeneration of Grantham – taking account of long, medium and short term timeframes

By engaging local partners in a 'Single Conversation' on all aspects of housing and regeneration, the HCA aims to connect local ambition with national targets. Through this approach, HCA agree and secure delivery at local level in support of national objectives. By working in an open and transparent way with local authorities and others the HCA aim to become local government's best delivery partner, able to secure more and reach better outcomes for each place.

'Single Conversation' refers to comprehensive coverage – taking into account the full range of housing, infrastructure, regeneration and community activities required in an area. In implementing the Single Conversation the emphasis is on the priorities for a local area – and whilst they are set out in local plans and captured in this document, it is accepted that this is an ongoing, evolving and dynamic process. There will always be an element of negotiation and adjustment but, at the core of the approach is working towards shared visions and objectives for places.

The Grantham Local Investment Plan covers both the Spatial Vision for Grantham – from the broad Grantham context and areas which are the focus of development or regeneration – to the themes through which change will be delivered: Housing, Economy and Employment, Transport, Environment and local services.

This first strategy and plan set out a "work in progress" position – we recognise and capture further work that needs to be done in planning, shaping and delivering high quality development – there is a strong commitment to continue to move forward on all fronts.

This plan also sits within the developing context of the Lincolnshire Sustainable Communities Strategy. Both County and District authorities are planning their priorities and ways of working in the context of shared objectives, more joined up planning to delivery them and closer working to achieve outcomes.

A full copy of the latest draft LIP is attached for information purposes. Officers will continue to engage with the HCA in order to update and refine the document before it is used to inform a Local Investment Agreement between the HCA and the Growth Point partners.

The LIP reinforces the existing funding priorities for the Grantham Growth Point and does not create any additional financial commitments for the Growth Point partners, as the plan has been drawn up in line with the District and County Council's agreed capital programmes. As the investment agreement is developed following on from the investment plan, the partners will seek further HCA funding towards the capital and revenue costs of delivering the priority

Growth Point projects. The next funding round will apply to the three year period 2011/12 to 2013/14 and will replace the Growth Point funding which will cease with effect from 01 April 2011.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

An alternative option would be to not sign up to the Local Investment Plan. However it is not felt that this would be an appropriate way forward, as engagement in the pilot phase of the Single Conversation has offered an opportunity to promote the Grantham Growth Point which would otherwise be missed.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The LIP reinforces the existing funding priorities for the Grantham Growth Point and does not create any additional financial commitments for the Growth Point partners, as the plan has been drawn up in line with the District and County Council's agreed capital programmes.

The LIP will be used to inform production of an investment agreement to seek further additional capital and revenue funding from central government via the HCA to support the priority projects of the Growth Point.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION (INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND DATA QUALITY)

There is a risk that the investment plan and investment agreement will not result in sufficient resources being delivered for the Growth Point projects.

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The investment plan provides an overarching strategy within which future proposals for the development of Grantham will be assessed and considered. The individual projects and proposals will be subject to full public consultation and impact assessment through the planning process.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from the report.

9. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

The Local Investment Plan brings together the key strategic direction points in respect of the delivery of the Grantham Growth project. The resources required to deliver elements of the LIP are within existing budgetary frameworks by the respective partners. The LIP will also be used to formulate a investment agreement in order to identify and secure future funding necessary to deliver the priority projects of the Growth Point.

10. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

The proposed investment plan is a joint submission by this Council and Lincolnshire County Council. Both councils jointly manage the Grantham Growth project. The proposed plan will enable joint working between the various agencies involved in the project.

11. APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Grantham Growth Local Investment Plan