

Executive Summary

1825

Support

Summary:

The five points are very useful and to the point - they are the five priorities I would call out if I was drafting this report. Paragraph 6 is a bit of a challenge for me - it feels like a loose statement without much substance an aspiration rather than a strategy.

Attachments: None

2018

Support

Summary:

We have no additional comments to make on the executive summary

Attachments: None

2160

Object

Summary:

The strategy does not set out a vision. It is not ambitious. A vision is where we want the area to be in the future and what we need do to achieve it. The current vision is a statement of the current local economic situation. The vision needs to state the economic development improvement sought at the end of the term of the strategy, such as "we want South Kesteven to be a prosperous area, where productivity is high, people have opportunities for employment and improved skills, opening new pathways to qualifications, careers and individual's progression. An area where starting and building a business is nurtured, increased investment is achieved, infrastructure is developed for growth and our community has a bright future"

Attachments: None

2161

Object

Summary:

There are no key performance indicators to measure success, for instance how do we know the strategy, action plan and programmes and projects have been successful. Further for reflection should a review of the 2016-2021 be undertaken as part of the strategy? Is the strategy rehashing the same projects? Has an evaluation and appraisal been undertaken on the 2016 version?

Attachments: None

2170

Object

Summary:

3) There is nothing stated on key issues such as;

F) Nothing on social mobility.

Attachments: None

2176

Object

Summary:

How will the Council know the strategy has been successful in 2028? Was the 2016 one successful? Will members receive annual updates on the action plan? Or the portfolio holder monthly?

Attachments: None

2178

Object

Summary:

Finally is the consultation meaningful? Can this strategy be changed for the better through consultation or is it approved, and this is simply seeking validation from the community?

Attachments: None

02 The Local Economy

1619

Object

Summary:

Skills profile is not a strength in the manufacturing industry. We have a severe lack of skilled workers certainly within Grantham and also an aging work force.

I disagree connectivity is a strength... yes if you are talking about commuting to London but inter village and town connectivity barely exists. Ask a 16 year old how they might get to and from a work placement or apprenticeship without being able to drive and in most cases they couldn't rely on public transport.

Business base... what does this mean? buzz word?

Attachments: None

1826

Support

Summary:

SWOT analysis is good, but please try to be more specific on the productivity challenge. Is it skills or is it the lack of major manufacturers in the District. The ONS data on productivity by sector could be matched against sectors in SK to see if it is skills build or attraction of other industry sectors (or a combination of the two) should be the strategy.

Attachments: None

2017

Support

Summary:

Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce are fully committed to collaborating with SKDC to support the businesses of the district

Attachments: None

2019

Support

Summary:

There is no reference to cross border working with neighbouring local authorities. LCC have recently convened senior officer discussions on future ways of working across the Greater Lincolnshire authorities and it would be good to understand if this is something SKDC will be looking to do during the lifetime of this strategy?

Attachments: None

03 South Kesteven

1827

Support

Summary:

No comments on this section

Attachments: None

2020

Support

Summary:

Comments provided against each area of strategic focus

Attachments: None

What we will do

1828

Support

Summary:

Capability build with newsletters, webinars etc are great. Please leverage local organisations that have the appropriate reach (Chamber of Commerce, FSB etc) as they have the necessary networks already to reach the target audience.

Clean growth is vital to the prosperity of the region so great to see that on the agenda - How can SKDC make it easy for local organisations to tap into sustainable solutions without long application processes or mining unsustainable debt.

Attachments: None

1980

Support

Summary:

Identify skills gaps in local area and work with organisations/businesses to provide skills training to help promote skills development, employment, self employed and new businesses as well as creating sustainable local economic opportunities.

Attachments: None

2021

Support

Summary:

It would be helpful to reference the respective roles of the SK towns and countryside put forward in the SK Local Plan

No clear indication that SK will continue to support the Growth Hub in order to deliver the front end revenue/advisory capacity to businesses and therefore this potentially leaves a gap within the strategy.

A strong reliance on UKSPF as a mechanism for engagement and delivery of business support. With SPF funding ending in March 2025 it would be good to see what other levers are in place for the remainder of the strategy's lifespan.

Attachments: None

2032

Support

Summary:

Supportive of the Local Economic Forum Approach.

It would be useful to see future planning and an acknowledgement that UKSPF will likely change in 2025 and how the council might approach those changes.

More broadly, there is minimal recognition of wider programmes or strategy. It would be good to see more recognition of alignment with existing programmes that are led by other organisations such as GLLEP, Lincolnshire CC, Midlands Engine or other district councils (Eg the GLDSN is a GLLEP product)

Attachments: None

2171

Object

Summary:

3) There is nothing stated on key issues such as;

G) Minimal info on working with the Chamber, FSB, LCC, Enterprise Agencies to create a one stop shop for business advice and support

Attachments: None

What we will do

1620

Object

Summary:

Skills development is all well and good and I should know as for the last 5 years I have been at the coal face of this. Yes we need more skilled workers but we also need the businesses to grow and attract new start ups into the area. This requires investment in infrastructure... like industrial units, incubation hubs etc.

Attachments: None

1829

Support

Summary:

Fully support this plan

Attachments: None

1986

Object

Summary:

Stamford employment opportunities need to be developed in order to enhance the local employment opportunities for residents as well as increase the apprenticeship / training routes for younger residents. Exeter Fields site is currently designated for employment/ industry development. This site should be targeted for employment/ industry use in this economic development strategy

skills development amongst the residents of Stamford should be targeted and supported. local employment opportunities is an essential aspect of this development of Human Resources.

Attachments: None

2022

Support

Summary:

The skills section of the strategy looks good – great that SK have a skills profile in place as well as plans to upskill residents so they are able to take advantage of future jobs growth.

We welcome the fact LCC is included in the action plan and look forward to assisting with the alignment of skills provision to meet local need.

A point on the strategy as a whole - It would be helpful to understand what SKDC considers its key sectors to be.

Attachments: None

2034

Support

Summary:

Point of clarity: Careers and Enterprise Company are mentioned as stakeholders; this should be Careers Hub. The CEC is a national organisation with no local reps. It would be better to say Greater Lincolnshire LEP, including the Careers Hub - which is where the function is delivered locally.

The Local Skills Improvement Plan (national policy delivered locally by FSB to connect employers) could be referenced as a source, as could the Local Skills Report, a skills analysis and report produced by the LEP under mandate from the DfE which shows the broader skills need.

Otherwise approve.

Attachments: None

2164

Object

Summary:

There is nothing stated on key issues such as;
A) The street markets as an economic driver.

Attachments: None

2174

Object

Summary:

There is nothing stated on the use of powers for devolution from a new mayoral combined authority. The devolution of the adult education budget (AEB) will give new opportunities to reinvest grant into local skills needs. I.e. if you need more "engineers" in Grantham the current national budget can be repurposed locally to encourage the local college to provide this with additional and extra grant rather than the curriculum set out in London at the DfE. The Council are recommended to push for this as Grantham College will get more investment and it will yield improved economic growth. Imagine being able to set the courses for the local industry needs rather than having it subscribed in London!

Attachments: None

What we will do

1621

Object

Summary:

Unlock land and stalled development sites....

i have been banging on about this for around 5 years. i dont see any new industrial spaces going up anywhere?

Attachments: None

1830

Support

Summary:

All great plans, I would like to see that all initiatives called out are assessed as having a positive environmental impact. For example - shovel ready projects could be encouraged to take into consideration whole life carbon impact (ie PAS 2080).

I would like to see how travel planning could be applied to the plan so that those in rural areas do not feel isolated and also how alternative travel methods (ie cycling) could be encouraged without causing bottlenecks that could negatively impact local retailers.

Attachments: None

1987

Object

Summary:

increased housing in and around the curtilage of Stamford will not on its own increase economic development. Exeter fields site and St Martin's Park both need to be developed to increase employment opportunities with Stamford. Monarch Park/QuarryFarm and Stamford North developments will create an unsustainable increase in car movements across the town as well as movements onto the strategic road network. this is not conducive to economic sustainability and the "green agenda"

Attachments: None

2023

Support

Summary:

From a planning policy perspective there is nothing in the strategy which is contentious or is contrary to other SKDC and LCC Policy.

The strategy doesn't however reference the Local Transport Plan, which isn't an issue in itself but there may be some benefit in referencing the Transport strategies specifically developed for the SKDC area. There are currently strategies for Grantham and Stamford in draft form awaiting adoption. They promote economic growth and list specific interventions to aide eco growth.

Attachments: None

2035

Support

Summary:

Support the actions. However the strategy could reference wider documents such as the Local Transport Plan and Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework

Attachments: None

2165

Object

Summary:

3) There is nothing stated on key issues such as;

B) Public property, estates and corporate property. Will the Council utilise its assets for economic growth? Or go into any joint Ventures for property development?

Attachments: None

2166

Object

Summary:

3) There is nothing stated on key issues such as;

C) The changing nature of the high street and variances in our towns. I.e. Stamford is more economically prosperous with higher incomes and GVA. This means more independents retailers and hospitality, with more disposable income. This makes it a more resilient town.

Attachments: None

2168

Object

Summary:

3) There is nothing stated on key issues such as;

E) Nothing stated on land interventions... I.e. would the Council (who can borrow cheaper) undertake commercial development as done in market Deeping in 2009? I.e. build units secure rent, create business and jobs and increase the business rates pool for the area generating additional income for the Council? Or build new incubators or managed workspace?

Attachments: None

What we will do

1988

Support

Summary:

Support economic development and business expansion is only going to be achieved by the use of Exeter Fields site in Stamford for industrial use. Stamford needs employment opportunities within the town Exeter Fields is the designated site and needs SKDC support

I should on NO account be used for housing. there is an over development of housing in Stamford already planned

Attachments: None

2024

Support

Summary:

We would wish to highlight the LCC comments on the 2024 Draft Local Plan where a major topic of ours was the need for infrastructure, particularly highways and transport infrastructure, for major site allocations.

Clearly there are some key opportunities in the green transition, business base , regeneration opportunities, skills development, digital economy, and Agriculture/Food production amongst a number of others. LCC believe to capitalise on these will require supportive and engaged stakeholder support and collaboration.

Sector based focus is key and aligns with Government and DBT strategies. The LCC II team can support in regard to Largescale business engagement.

Attachments: None

2031

Object

Summary:

I live in Stamford and on numerous occasions in the past there have been calls to encourage more employment opportunities for the town especially with it's transportation links, ie proximity to the A1, near the A14,the train service to Cambridge.

Why then does SKDC agree to change of use for land from employment to houses (yet more houses), ie the old Blackstones site behind Morrisons, the land by the A1 on Exeter Fields?

What is happening at St Martin's Park? This was to include employment units, but it is just sitting there and an eye-sore.

Attachments: None

2036

Support

Summary:

It would be useful here to understand the sectoral mix of businesses that the council identifies as potentially land here - or steer towards those that SK has a competitive advantage in. This could help shape the support offer - and would also align with the current approach favoured by the government.

Attachments: None

2167

Object

Summary:

3) There is nothing stated on key issues such as;

D) Nothing on business rates and the tool that the 151 officer can undertake with discretionary rate relief to support economic development since the 2011 localism act gave the powers. Further nothing stated on the fact that between 40-50% of all retail units will be under the rateable value and therefore receive 100% rate relief.

Attachments: None

2172

Object

Summary:

3) There is nothing stated on key issues such as;

H) The use of SPF in 2025 onward for business support

There is minimal on Inward Investment, and working with government on attracting investment or working with the EU, China British Business Council or India Business Council on joint working

Attachments: None

2173

Object

Summary:

There is nothing stated on working with developers on land within the boundary of the new bypass.... I.e. new commercial development?

Attachments: None

What we will do

1981

Support

Summary:

Introduce a green travel plan that would enable tourists and residents in the area to visit the many cultural heritage sites without having to use a car - providing opportunity for local economy growth, access to art and heritage that many don't currently have and reducing carbon footprint.

Attachments: None

2025**Support****Summary:**

Importance of digital skills for Visitor Economy businesses – not everyone in the Visitor Economy has realised this and there is a need for more training.

Nature Tourism is a strength and has previously been under-sold. This includes walking, cycling, nature reserves, bird watching etc

Reference needed to safe, off-road cycle paths – where these have been provided, particularly when they allow access to the countryside or connect visitor attractions, they have proved very popular and brought considerable economic benefits.

The Lincolnshire Green Tourism Toolkit and associated training is important for helping visitor economy businesses to green their offer

Attachments: None

2037**Support****Summary:**

Pleased to see support for the STEAM model locally.

Some support required within the sector to raise digital skills relating to the visitor economy and for businesses to be aware of the benefits of this. It is critical for the survival of the sector in coming years.

Fully support the sustainable tourism approach - is there more that can be said about the high quality green space within South Kesteven and how these can be linked. There are some world class examples within the area that link heritage to green space.

Attachments: None

Area of focus 1: Business and Job Creation and Employment Safeguarding**2026****Support****Summary:**

A general comment on all action plans within the strategy: LCC recognise these are all very operational plans and would welcome the opportunity to provide officer support in the delivery of the identified actions.

Attachments: None

2038**Support****Summary:**

Actions could align to strategic fit and identify more partner organisations who may be operating within that space.

Attachments: None

2177

Object

Summary:

The action plan is not SMART. It does not state what the intended impacts will be. I.e. the "so what?" question. By example, if the Council sets up a forum and has officers attend it, what are we buying through attendance? Would it not be better to use officer time to undertake a project that a forum suggests? The action plan needs to show the resource ask, I.e. how much will it cost or need? AND what attending and facilitating all the forums, workshops and groups will achieve.

Attachments: None

Area of focus 2: Skills Development

2027

Support

Summary:

A general comment on all action plans within the strategy: LCC recognise these are all very operational plans and would welcome the opportunity to provide officer support in the delivery of the identified actions.

Attachments: None

Area of focus 3: Inclusive Growth and Regeneration

1989

Support

Summary:

3.1. 3.5. 3.8. this can be achieved by the development of Exeter Fields site in Stamford

the Exeter Fields site must be used in order to create employment within Stamford

Attachments: None

2028

Support

Summary:

A general comment on all action plans within the strategy: LCC recognise these are all very operational plans and would welcome the opportunity to provide officer support in the delivery of the identified actions.

Attachments: None

2039

Support

Summary:

As previous comment - some of the strategy into action into outcomes here are slightly unclear or are highly operational responses to a wider challenge. Which is where wider partners may have parts of the solution to sit alongside the specific actions identified.

Attachments: None

Area of focus 4: Inward Investment

2029

Support

Summary:

A general comment on all action plans within the strategy: LCC recognise these are all very operational plans and would welcome the opportunity to provide officer support in the delivery of the identified actions.

Attachments: None

2040

Support

Summary:

Similar again.

In 4.2 for example, it would be helpful for the team to liaise with the LCC Inward Investment team as key stakeholders - particularly with the strategic sector orientated prospectus' that have been produced. It would just help alignment.

Attachments: None

Area of focus 5 Enhancing South Kesteven's tourism and visitor economy offer

1990

Support

Summary:

5.4. 5.9 Stamford needs the support of SKDC to enhance its heritage offer to tourists and visitors and needs support to develop sustainable tourism within the town.

Attachments: None

2030

Support

Summary:

A general comment on all action plans within the strategy: LCC recognise these are all very operational plans and would welcome the opportunity to provide officer support in the delivery of the identified actions.

Attachments: None

2175

Object

Summary:

There is a focus on STEAM data for tourism. However, if you read this and cross reference with ONS data and take out "all retail" from the data set the value of tourism as a percentage is less than 2% of the economy. Manufacturing, real estate, logistics, health services, finance are all sectors with 10% or higher values EACH for the economy. The tourism sector is valuable as a number and perception i.e. £250m to the economy etc BUT if manufacturing and logistics is 4 times this... then where is the focus on sectoral growth or agglomeration economy growth that is the pure economic development and will have greater economic benefit to the area? i.e. tourism is important, but the numbers are far, FAR higher for the other sectors stated? Interventions and support in those sectors will yield a higher crop and better local economic development. Tourism jobs are notoriously difficult to increase productivity in.

Attachments: None