REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	1st November, 2023
SUBJECT:	Sub-regional Strategy for the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
PURPOSE:	To recommend to Council the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Sub-regional Strategy
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Craig Leyland – Leader of the Council
REPORT OF:	James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate
REPORT AUTHOR:	Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights and Transformation
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

When the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership formed, the Business Case identified opportunities for greater alignment and closer working on a range of strategic issues that are common for each Council area within the sub-region.

Each of the Councils existing Corporate Strategies are reaching the end of their life, or are due for review, and Councillors previously approved (via the Annual Delivery Plan) the development of a Sub-regional Strategy to replace the existing Corporate Strategies.

As well as identifying the sub-regional strategic priorities going forward, the proposed Strategy (Appendix A) also identifies specific priorities where these are a matter of importance to one sovereign Council within the Partnership.

Moving to a single Sub-regional Strategy further cements the positive joint working between the three Councils and positions the Partnership well for the future.

The Strategy has been considered via each Councils' sovereign scrutiny processes and has been refined based on feedback received from Members and public consultation with residents and stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Executive Board recommends the Sub-regional Strategy at Appendix A to Council, subject to any final consultation feedback as agreed by the portfolio holder.

- That the Executive Board recommends to Council that the Sub-regional Strategy becomes a line of inquiry in the Partnership's Annual Scrutiny.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The opportunity to align strategic priorities across the Councils through a single Sub-regional Strategy provides a Partnership platform to further realise the benefits of collaborative working.

Having the single Strategy would demonstrate to external partners our alignment in key areas and collective focus on addressing the issues of strategic importance to our sub-region. This will be particularly helpful when engaging with Government and funders.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing. It has already been agreed by Councillors, via the Annual Delivery Plan, that a Sub-regional Strategy for the Partnership should be developed. As such, this option was discounted.

1. REPORT

1.1 The Partnership Business Case identifies the issues of common importance and the opportunities that would be secured through the formation of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

1.2 Since the Partnership formed in 2021 the Councils have achieved a significant amount together – including external funding, financial efficiencies/savings, shared service opportunities and greater engagement with strategic partners. The collective voice of the Partnership has resulted in greater influence for our Councils with external partners at a regional and national level.

1.3 In the approved 23/24 Partnership Annual Delivery Plan, each Partnership Council supported the development of a Sub-regional Strategy. The Sub-regional Strategy would replace existing Corporate Strategies at each Council, which are either approaching the end of their life or are due for review.

1.4 The proposed Sub-regional Strategy – at Appendix A – builds on the Partnership business case and identifies the priorities for the Partnership going forward and the outcomes that should be expected for the sub-region. The strategy, if approved, would guide the activities that are brought forward in the Partnership Annual Delivery Plan in future years and shape the Partnership's Performance Monitoring Framework.

1.5   It is suggested that the Sub-regional Strategy and its delivery becomes a line of inquiry in the Annual Scrutiny Review of the Partnership. Progress reports would also be provided to the Partnership's Joint Strategy Board and to Council via the six monthly Partnership update reports.

2.   EVIDENCE BASE/CONSULTATION

2.1.   Engagement sessions have been held with Councillors and Corporate Management Team in August and September to feed in to the early draft structure and content.

2.2.   We have looked at the previous priorities and plans, the Indices of Deprivation, data from the Partnership business case, the latest census data, the Lincolnshire Digital Health Toolkit ranking digital exclusion, the Levelling Up White Paper data and Office of Local Government (OFLOG) data to form the evidence base.

2.3.   A first draft of the structure and indicative content of the document is attached at Appendix A.

2.4.   The proposed priorities are:
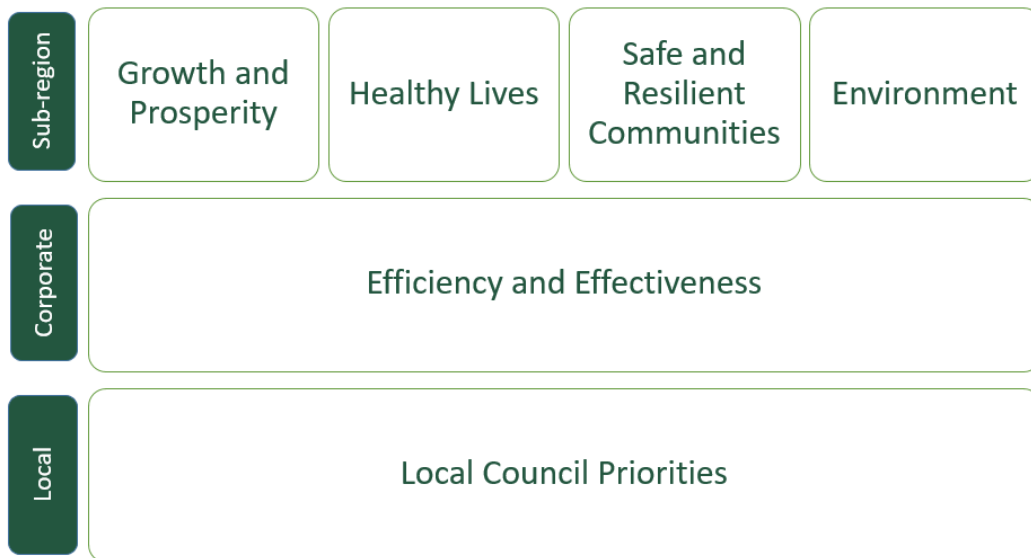
2.5.   Public and stakeholder consultation is underway to test the proposed priorities and outcomes. This includes consultation with businesses and with town and parish councils and with the wider workforce. The findings of external consultation so far is attached at Appendix B, with delegation to the Leader as portfolio holder to agree any changes in response to consultation feedback received after Executive Board.

2.6.   The feedback from the scrutiny process is set out here:

Committee	Feedback	Response to feedback
South Holland District Council Joint Policy Development and Performance Monitoring Panel: 11th October 2023	South Holland District Council local priorities should cover all areas, not only Spalding	Wording amended to reflect this in Appendix A.
	Levelling Up mission statements are ambitious, particularly in relation to reaching the standards of London for local public transport connectivity	The wording is from the Government's white paper but this is noted.
	Add the number of parishes to the South Holland slide in line with Boston and East Lindsey	Added to Appendix A.
	Importance of transport, connectivity and the digital strategy	Noted.
Boston Borough Council Joint Corporate and Community & Environment and Performance Committee: 12th October 2023	Consider the wording of the vision – is it something that can be visualised?	For consideration by Cabinet.
	Town centre is broader than just the Market Place	Reflected in the draft Town Centre Strategy.
	PE21 project	For Cabinet to consider including specific reference to PE21 in the local priorities.
	Levelling Up mission statements are wishful thinking	The wording is from the Government's white paper. It is important to include this in the strategy to be able to link to future funding bids but context has been added to make this clearer in Appendix A.
	Review the wording in the local slides for consistency in terms of 1st/3rd person and content e.g. mention of parishes. Also, review the wording on the 'Monitoring and Review' page.	The wording has been reviewed and updated in Appendix A.
	Consider adding the local priority around community engagement back in – "Develop a mechanism to engage with local communities to shape future service delivery"	For consideration by Cabinet. This will also be picked up in the Annual Delivery Plan for 24/25.
	Consider adding in reference to increased CCTV capability.	For consideration by Cabinet to add to the local priority around community safety.

Committee	Feedback	Response to feedback
East Lindsey District Council Overview Committee, 17th October 2023	The vision needs more work to demonstrate how the strategy knits the partnership together	For consideration by Exec Board.
	It would benefit from a longer term view, for example to 2050, to identify the very serious problems that need to be tackled such as climate change and our long term ambitions	Climate change is covered in the environment priority but there is opportunity to add a page towards the end of the strategy to set out that longer term vision. We will work on that.
	Review the local slide for East Lindsey and improve the wording, in particular naming the towns	Additional wording adding; for review also by Executive Board.
	Ensure town and parish councils have the opportunity to respond to the consultation	All town and parish councils have been contacted and the consultation deadline will be extended to ensure that all meetings can take place. All those who have responded so far have indicated that meetings will take place in October and November so in advance of Council in December. A clean link to the consultation has been re-sent.
	Consider specific mention of health inequalities in relation to the growth in number of caravans in the area	For Executive Board to consider adding to local priorities.

3. CONCLUSION

The adoption of a Sub-regional Strategy for the Partnership is a positive next step and will further increase the influence of the Partnership and its collective ambition for the communities it serves.

A single Sub-regional Strategy is a natural next step for the Partnership.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

As set out in the report.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

As set out in the report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This Strategy would set the sub-regional priorities for the Partnership; and includes any sovereign Council specific priorities alongside.

STAFFING

None

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The Strategy will shape future service delivery and work programmes, which will feed through the annual budget at each Council or the wider decision-making process, as required.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

As set out in Section 2 of the report.

REPUTATION

The move to a single Sub-regional Strategy would be positive for the reputation of the Partnership, particularly with external partners/funders.

CONTRACTS

There are no contract implications arising directly from this report.

CRIME AND DISORDER

There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.   However, crime and disorder is a priority in the proposed Sub-regional Strategy.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.   However, health and wellbeing is a priority in the proposed Sub-regional Strategy.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no Climate Change and Environmental implications arising directly from this report. However, Climate Change and Environmental matters are a priority in the proposed Sub-regional Strategy.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Research and Development	By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
Local Leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX A	Sub-regional Strategy
APPENDIX B	Consultation findings

BACKGROUND PAPERS	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
Document title	**Where the document can be viewed**
Partnership Business Case	www.selcp.co.uk
Partnership Annual Delivery Plan	www.selcp.co.uk

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT	
Name of body	**Date**
Overview Committee	17th October 2023

REPORT APPROVAL	
Report author:	Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights and Transformation
Signed off by:	James Gilbert – Assistant Director - Corporate
Approved for publication:	Councillor Craig Leyland – Leader of the Council