



REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	8 May 2024
SUBJECT:	Growth and Prosperity Plan for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
PURPOSE:	To recommend to Council the Growth and Prosperity Plan for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
KEY DECISION:	<i>No</i>
PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:	Cllr Adam Grist, Portfolio Holder Cllr Steve Kirk, Portfolio Holder
REPORT OF:	Lydia Rusling, Assistant Director for Economic Growth Phil Norman, Assistant Director for Strategic Planning Matthew Hogan, Assistant Director for Strategic Growth & Development
REPORT AUTHOR:	Lydia Rusling, Assistant Director for Economic Growth
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

In January 2024, Councillors approved a Sub-Regional Strategy for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, replacing the existing corporate strategies for each local Council. The strategy identified specific priorities including the commitment to stimulate growth and enhance our places. As one of the four core priorities, the development of a **Growth and Prosperity Plan** will reflect the vision and priorities of the sub-regional strategy.

The South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has secured Government funding and attracted investment across three local authority areas – East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland. The Growth and Prosperity Plan will compliment and deliver the ambition of the sub-regional strategy, demonstrating the Partnership’s commitment to a place-based approach to enable and deliver growth. It will focus on positive society-wide benefits of economic growth to improve the quality of life for our communities.

This proposed Growth and Prosperity Plan sets out principles and priorities for the Partnership to support a prosperous, productive and creative economy. The Plan has been considered at all member briefings and has been refined based on feedback received from members, the evidence base and consultation with stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Executive Board recommends the Growth and Prosperity Plan at Appendix A to Council, subject to any final consultation feedback as agreed with the relevant portfolio holders.
2. The Executive Board recommends to Council that the Growth and Prosperity Plan becomes a line of inquiry in the Partnership's Annual Scrutiny, complementing the sub-regional strategy process.
3. Specifically for East Lindsey District Council, to support the development of a Locality Plan and investment into Market Towns, Parish's and Villages.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Growth and Prosperity Plan will reflect the vision and priorities of the 24/25 – 28/29 Sub-Regional Strategy and align strategic priorities across the Councils to further support the benefits of collaborative working. A single Growth and Prosperity Plan for the Partnership will demonstrate to external partners our alignment and collective focus on a prosperous, productive and creative economy. This will be particularly helpful when engaging with partners and businesses, Government and funders, and leveraging further investment into the sub-region.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No nothing. It has already been agreed by Councillors, through the priorities of the sub-regional strategy, that a Growth and Prosperity Plan should be developed. Therefore, this option is not recommended.

1. BACKGROUND

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

1.2 Each Council supported the development of a sub-regional strategy to replace existing corporate strategies at each Council. The new sub-regional strategy was approved at the beginning of 2024 and builds on the Partnership business case, identifying the priorities for the Partnership going forward and the outcomes that should be expected for the sub-region. The strategy has informed the Partnership Annual Delivery Plan, shaped the Partnership's Performance Monitoring Framework and has guided the development of the Growth and Prosperity Plan.

2. REPORT

2.1 Growth and Prosperity is a core priority for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership. The Growth and Prosperity Plan has been developed from the principles of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Business Case and the vision and priorities of the 24/25 – 28/29 Sub-Regional Strategy.

2.2 Reflecting the sub-regional strategy, we are committed to work with partners and stakeholders to stimulate growth and enhance our places and the environment by attracting investment, engaging with our communities and supporting businesses.

2.3 The Plan captures the commitment to deliver the Government funded programmes, ensuring both their outputs and outcomes support the growth and prosperity of the sub-region. Informed through our

activity and funding, we have a deep understanding of our places across the Partnership geography, which has been reflected in the Plan’s Economic Context.

2.4 Principles of collaboration, enabling, delivery, place-based, sustainable, coordinated and evidence-led are reflected in the Plan. These principles are for the Partnership as a whole, to enable a proactive and supportive environment for growth with cooperation and coordination across directorates.

2.5 The Plan aims to take a forward looking and future-proof approach, whilst reflecting strategic policy influences of “Levelling Up”, along with the LEP Economic Statement, Industrial Strategy and Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework (SIDF) owned by ALL Lincolnshire Councils.

2.6 The proposed strategic priorities identified in the Plan include:

- **Vibrant Town Centres and Regeneration**
- **Supporting Priority Sectors and Businesses**
- **Supporting Skills, Learning and Employment Opportunities**
- **Enabling Growth and Housing**
- **Attracting Investment**

Each of these strategic priorities are aligned to the issues and opportunities for each Council area.

2.7 A Theory of Change is proposed to ensure interventions address the issues and provide measurable outputs and wider outcomes and impact for our sub-region.

2.8 The Growth and Prosperity Plan will compliment and deliver the ambition of the sub-regional strategy, therefore six-monthly updates on progress via existing partnership performance reporting, with links to Performance Management Framework and Annual Delivery Plans will support delivery and a framework for monitoring.

2.9 An annual review of actions with oversight by a Growth & Prosperity Board is also proposed.

3. CONSULTATION

Informal Cabinet and Executive briefings at all 3 Councils:	November – December 2023
Stakeholder Board:	Monday 4th December 2023
Growth and Planning team away day:	22nd February 2024
1st All member briefing:	Monday 26th February 2024
2nd All member briefing:	Tuesday 26th March 2024

3.1 Member briefings demonstrated broad support for the principles and objectives contained within the plan. The draft Growth and Prosperity Plan was shared with all members on 23 February, ahead of the member briefings.

3.2 Following the Council’s adoption of the Plan, the Council’s communication team will support with both internal and external communications, whilst the Growth team will continue to utilise the Plan to engage with the team, the wider partnership and external partners through the establishment of the proposed Growth & Prosperity Board. The Board will also support the monitoring of delivery.

4. LOCALITY PLAN FOR EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

4.1 For East Lindsey District Council, further consultation has taken place with the Portfolio Holders for Coastal Economy and Market Towns and Rural Economy and the Leader. This has instigated a programme of work that will support the Growth and Prosperity Plan, developing governance and delivery for East Lindsey.

4.2 It was determined that ELDC required a specific response to capture all actions (past and into the future) for the locality. There was a desire to provide a focus in the first instance on the Market Towns, Parish's and Villages (MTP&V) whilst progressing a more expansive piece of work to ensure full coverage in line with the intentions of the Growth and Prosperity Plan.

4.3 The investment into market towns and parishes will build on previous work, including the Vital and Viable Programme and other Council areas. It will have oversight by a Locality Growth Board, to be established.

4.4 It is proposed that the East Lindsey Locality Growth Board will include the following representation:

Councillor Representation:

- Cllr Craig Leyland – ELDC Leader
- Cllr Steve Kirk – Portfolio Holder for Coastal Economy
- Cllr Adam Grist - Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and Rural Economy
- Cllr Tom Ashton – Portfolio Holder for Planning
- Representative from Town/Parish Councils x 2

Officer Support:

- Lydia Rusling – Assistant Director, Economic Growth
- Matthew Hogan, Assistant Director for Strategic Growth & Development
- Emily Spicer – Assistant Director, Well Being and Community Leadership
- Phil Norman – Strategic Planning Lead
- John Leach – Deputy Chief Executive (Communities)

4.5 The work programme will incorporate a framework for action planning and an overview of past work in ELDC. Economic and Community Well-Being /Community Leadership will support a Divisional Action Planning meeting and ensure members aspirations for investment in Market Towns is captured.

4.6 The development of a £9 million investment programme for Market Towns, Parish's and Villages will be delivered during 2024/2025. The focus is proposed to be on the following six thematic areas:

1. Civic Pride
2. Health and Security
3. Community Assets and Community Development*
4. Culture and Heritage
5. Regeneration and Business Support
6. Employment

** This will focus on a Community Loan facility, to be aligned with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Rural Prosperity Fund Programmes (REPF) – see separate report from Matthew Hogan.*

4.7 The Civic Pride initiative will be led by the Neighbourhood Services Division, Health and Security will be led by the Well-Being and Community Leadership Division, Assets and Community Development will be led by the Assets Team supported by the Well-Being and Community Leadership Division, Culture and Heritage will be led by the Leisure and Culture Division working with the Economic Growth Division, Regeneration and Business Support will be led by the Economic Growth Division and the Employment strand will be led by the Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Division.

4.8 Each Assistant Director will be tasked with developing their strand of the funding programme, including relevant criteria to utilise the assigned funding in line with the Council's financial and legal regulations etc.

4.9 The programme will run during 2024/25 and should be considered with any carry over for future years. Each strand of the programme will have its own specific timeline agreed with the Leader and relevant Portfolio Holders.

CONCLUSION

The adoption of a Growth and Prosperity Plan for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is a positive step in further increasing the influence of the Partnership and its collective ambition for the communities it serves.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

As set out in the report.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S 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 arising from this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report.

DATA PROTECTION

None arising from this report.

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 arising from this report.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

As set out in section 3 of this 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

None arising from this report.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None arising from this report.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None arising from this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report.

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.

ACRONYMS

None.

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
<i>APPENDIX A</i>	<i>Draft Growth and Prosperity Plan</i>
<i>APPENDIX B</i>	<i>Growth and Prosperity Plan Evidence Base – TO FOLLOW</i>

BACKGROUND PAPERS	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Partnership Sub-Regional Strategy	www.SELCP.co.uk

REPORT APPROVAL	
Report author:	Lydia Rusling, Lydia.Rusling@e-lindsey.gov.uk
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