

SEL Local Plan Strategy and Policies Document

1.0 Vision Statement

- 1.1 By 2031 South East Lincolnshire will be recognised as one of the Country's most important food growing and processing areas. It will be recognised through commitments to investment in improved coastal defences and the building of the Boston flood barrier; protecting the quality of the agricultural land, reducing the probability of flooding and establishing greater confidence for home owners and investors.
- 1.2 The provision of a rail freight interchange and supporting employment land allocations will open up opportunities to diversify and expand the food production sector, establish clusters of related business growth that bring new technologies and provide improved employment opportunities for both unskilled and skilled workers.
- 1.3 The establishment of the rail freight interchange and supporting employment land allocations will change current patterns of industrial and agriculture related road traffic allowing more efficient use of the existing network for all road users. Further improvements to the highway network and accessibility to services will be brought about through; the provision of a relief road for Spalding (which will alleviate traffic congestion and reduce delays at level crossings), and the establishment of a distributor road for Boston (which will reduce the impact of industrial and port related traffic within Boston). Greater efficiencies in the use of the highway network will bring forward opportunities for improvements to public transport services, cycle routes and safer access to services for all.
- 1.4 The development needs of South East Lincolnshire will be met throughout the plan area according to the established hierarchy of settlements and principles of sustainable development as supported by the local population. The established sub-regional centres of Boston and Spalding will accommodate the majority of new housing. The larger towns and villages will also support new residential growth in proportion to their infrastructure capacities, community needs and the supporting role they provide to smaller settlements.
- 1.5 New development throughout the plan area will enhance its location through good design and will have a positive impact upon neighbouring land uses, buildings, ecology and the landscape. The potential impacts of flooding will be minimised through the design of buildings, infrastructure and the use of land.
- 1.6 In twenty years time the economy of South East Lincolnshire will have grown and diversified within, and facilitated by, the environmental capacity of the Plan area. A network of attractions and services for tourists and visitors will have developed based upon the area's rich heritage, social history and its natural and rural character. The navigable rivers and fenland waterways will have been enhanced and greater access will be enjoyed by all to these and the coastal areas of the Wash. The community will also benefit through this access and settlements will become better known for their heritage, landmark buildings and visitor attractions.

2.0 Objectives

2.1 The objectives set out here correspond to the paragraphs above

2.2 Paragraph 1.1

- Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land
- Ensure through partnership working and lobbying that long term plans for the maintenance and improvement of coastal flood defences, at least to current standards, are effectively funded and that competitive and affordable insurance cover is available to all.
- Ensure that the Boston flood barrier is provided and that it reduces the probability of tidal flooding

2.3 Paragraph 1.2

- Encourage new business locations to cluster and take advantage of the rail freight interchange leading to greater efficiencies in business growth and technological advances, maximising the opportunities for renewable energy use and recycling and minimising impacts upon existing infrastructure
- Encourage training and education to complement and respond to new technologies in business growth and provide an improved employment offer in the area

2.4 Paragraph 1.3

- Work with the local highways authority and rail freight operators to ensure that the optimum efficiencies are realised in the use of the highways network through the provision of the rail freight interchange
- To provide a by-pass for Spalding and to provide a framework for the delivery of a distributor road for Boston
- Work with the local transport planners and public transport providers in extending services to improve access for the community to services and jobs
- Improve and extend the highways network for all users and, in particular, pedestrians and cyclists, to improve access to everyday facilities and amenities more safely
- Improve poor air quality emanating from highway use

2.5 Paragraph 1.4

- Provide strategic locations for new housing provision within and around the sub-regional centres of Boston and Spalding
- Indicate how the main towns and villages may accommodate additional housing growth to meet community aspirations that is within their infrastructure capacity
- Provide for employment, commercial, retail, leisure education and healthcare within Boston and Spalding
- Protect and improve existing community facilities and amenities in all settlements

2.6 Paragraph 1.5

- Protect and enhance the rural character of the area, its landscape and ecology by the promotion of good design and refusal of developments that are considered to be detrimental
- Ensure that new development relates to existing land uses and buildings positively
- Promote the efficient use of energy generation and consumption within the design of development
- Improve flood risk mitigation through the design of new infrastructure (roads etc.) and through strategic land use (e.g. flood water storage areas)
- Ensure overall betterment in mitigating for flood risk in all development according to the consequences or probability of the flood risk
- Work with the Lead Local Flood Risk Authority and other responsible bodies on managing flood risk

2.7 Paragraph 1.6

- Promote the creation of visitor attractions and enhanced amenity throughout the plan area based upon its historical associations, built heritage, social history and its natural and rural character
- Ensure that natural habitats are protected and enhanced
- Ensure that historical assets are protected and enhanced
- Enhance and extend the navigable waterways of the plan area and encourage marina developments
- Promote the provision of, and access to, amenity open space, woodland and environmental assets at the local and strategic scale (e.g. community areas within settlements or habitat reserves on the Wash)