



| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report To: | Council |
| Date: | 2 nd October 2024 |
| Subject: | South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Performance Report |
| Purpose: | Six monthly update on Partnership performance |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Portfolio Holder: | Councillor Nick Worth, Leader of the Council |
| Report Of: | James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate |
| Report Author: | Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager - Insights & Transformation |
| Ward(s) Affected: | All |
| Exempt Report: | No |

Summary

This report sets out the progress of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership since the last update: 29th February 2024.

Recommendations

- To note progress of the Alignment and Delivery Plan 2024/25 (section 2)
- To note the Peer Challenge update (section 3)
- To note the updates from the Priority Partnerships (section 4)
- To note the Partnership Scrutiny update (section 5)

Reasons for Recommendations

To monitor and report on the progress of the Partnership as previously agreed.

Other Options Considered

None as this is the approach previously agreed.

1. Background

- 1.1 The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council) launched on 1st October 2021.
- 1.2 This report sets out the progress of the Partnership since the last update in March 2024.

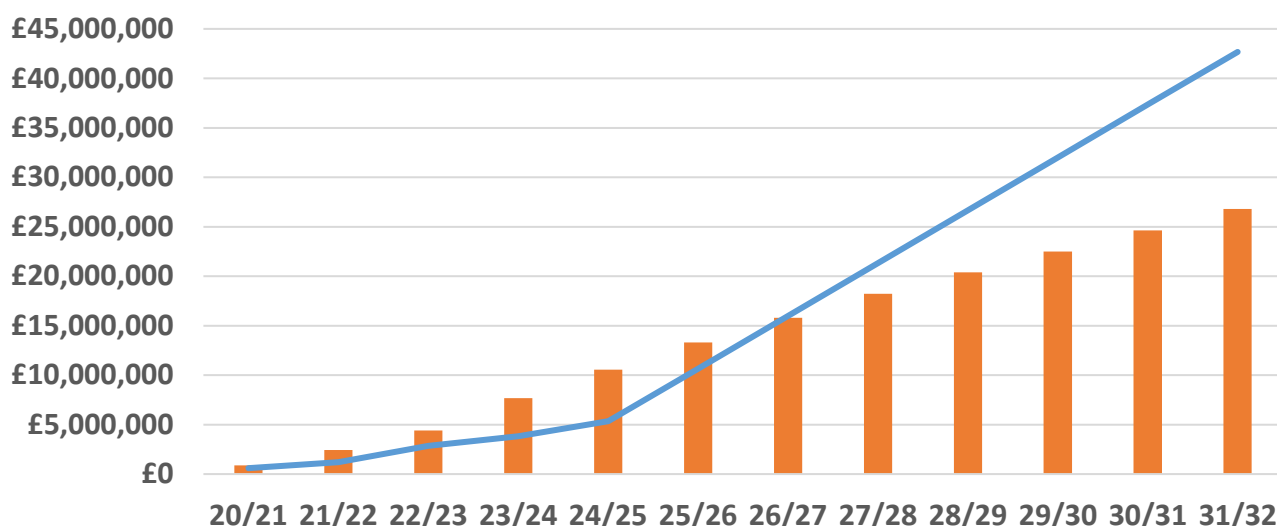
2. Alignment and Delivery Plan (ADP)

- 2.1 Progress of Alignment and Delivery Plan activity is being monitored by Joint Strategy Board to support the Partnership in delivering on its priorities, as well as sovereign Council ambitions.
- 2.2 Of the 122 activities in the ADP for the year, 74% are already complete or on plan. Delivery is being managed and reported by Assistant Directors. Where an action is off-plan in terms of delivery, mitigations are put in place. Work is underway to draft the plan for 2025/26.
- 2.3 A key element of the plan is securing external funding. The table below sets out external funding secured since August 2020 by sovereign Council and in total for the Partnership.

| Funding secured since August 2020 | BBC | ELDC | SHDC | COMBINED |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2020/21 | £22,200,000 | £48,718,578 | £8,300,000 | £79,218,578 |
| 2021/22 | £3,395,318 | £5,068,169 | £2,397,892 | £10,861,379 |
| 2022/23 | £17,653,782 | £13,766,960 | £22,234,304 | £53,655,046 |
| 2023/24 | £7,386,953 | £24,368,636 | £13,455,393 | £45,210,982 |
| 2024/25 | £7,960,404 | £2,872,658 | £1,121,638 | £11,954,700 |
| TOTAL | £58,596,456 | £94,795,001 | £47,509,228 | £200,900,685 |

- 2.4 The Partnership Business Case identified that £42m in financial efficiencies could be derived from the 3 Councils working together. The graph shows the financial efficiencies - both cashable and non-cashable - that have been identified so far (to August 2024).

S&ELCP £42m Savings Tracker - cashable and non-cashable



| SAVINGS PROFILE – CASHABLE AND NON-CASHABLE | | | |
|---|-------|-------------|-------------|
| | | TARGET | TOTAL |
| ALLIANCE | 20/21 | £600,000 | £872,415 |
| SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP | 21/22 | £1,200,000 | £2,440,787 |
| | 22/23 | £2,838,000 | £4,420,112 |
| | 23/24 | £3,833,000 | £7,659,198 |
| | 24/25 | £5,334,000 | £10,547,928 |
| | 25/26 | £10,668,000 | £13,305,461 |
| | 26/27 | £16,002,000 | £15,805,640 |
| | 27/28 | £21,335,000 | £18,231,310 |
| | 28/29 | £26,669,000 | £20,394,230 |
| | 29/30 | £32,003,000 | £22,488,897 |
| | 30/31 | £37,337,000 | £24,638,724 |
| | 31/32 | £42,671,000 | £26,788,551 |

- 2.5 The blue line on the graph shows the target in the Partnership’s Business Case. The orange bars show where the Partnership is against that target. This shows that the Partnership is already on track to achieve the efficiency savings up to 2025/26. Additional efficiencies for future years will be added as they are identified through matters such as contract reviews and service reviews.
- 2.6 Council is being asked to note the progress of the Alignment and Delivery Plan 2024/25 as well as the progress in securing external funding and achieving the efficiency target for the Partnership.

3. Peer Challenge Update

- 3.1. The Partnership LGA Peer Challenge took place in October 2022. The Peers' findings and feedback were reported to Council and fed into the Partnership's delivery plans.
- 3.2. The Peers carried out a follow up visit on 28th September 2023 to explore progress to date against each of the original recommendations. In their follow up, Peers noted the significant amount of progress that had been made to deliver on their 2022 recommendations.
- 3.3. The LGA Peer Challenge is an important part of the Government's Best Value Framework, so in addition to the Partnership Challenge, it is best practice to also have Corporate Peer Challenges for each of the Councils.
- 3.4. An LGA Corporate Peer Challenge was undertaken in July 2023 at South Holland District Council. The follow-up visit is taking place in September 2024. Of the 19 recommendations, 18 are already complete or on plan. Where a recommendation is off-plan in terms of delivery, mitigations are in place.
- 3.5. An LGA Corporate Peer Challenge was undertaken in May 2024 at Boston Borough Council. Of the 28 recommendations, 26 are already complete or on plan. Where a recommendation is off-plan in terms of delivery, mitigations are in place. The follow-up visit will take place around May 2025.
- 3.6. An LGA Corporate Peer Challenge is planned at East Lindsey District Council from 12th to 15th November 2024.
- 3.7. The sovereign Council Peer Challenges also provide an opportunity for learning for the wider-Partnership Councils.
- 3.8. Council is being asked to note the Peer Challenge update.

4. Priority Partnerships Update

- 4.1. A number of key Partnerships have been established as mechanisms for delivering the strategic priorities of the Partnership are set out in the table below:

| Priority Partnership | Subject areas | Potential Sub-regional partners | Initial priorities | DCX/Director lead |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------------|
| Growth and Prosperity Priority Partnership | Skills, Training/Education, Business Support Employment, Utilities, Economic Development, Transport Infrastructure, Flood Risk | Education providers, Lincolnshire County Council, Utility companies, Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce, Greater Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership, Department for Work and Pensions, Environment Agency. | Transport infrastructure; Skills Development; Inward investment | Growth |

| Priority Partnership | Subject areas | Potential Sub-regional partners | Initial priorities | DCX/Director lead |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|
| Healthy Lives Priority Partnership | Leisure, Culture, Wellbeing, Housing and Homelessness, Access to Health Services, Health Inequalities. | Deputy Chief Executive (Communities), Lincolnshire CCG, NHS, Mental Health Services, Leisure providers, Housing providers. | Access to health services; Obesity | Communities |
| Safer Communities Priority Partnership | Crime and Disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour, Licensing | Deputy Chief Executive (Communities), Lincolnshire Police, Probation Service. | Fear of crime; Anti-social behaviour; Domestic abuse | Communities |
| Environment Priority Partnership | Climate Change, Biodiversity, Air Quality, Open Spaces, Waste and Recycling, Environmental Crime | Deputy Chief Executive (Communities), Natural England, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire County Council, Environment Agency. | Environmental Bill; Climate Change Agenda | Communities |

4.2. Growth and Prosperity Priority Partnership:

4.2.1. The Growth and Prosperity Partnership has focused on the adoption of a new Growth and Prosperity Plan, which has been supported across all three Councils following consultation with officers and all members.

4.2.2. The strategic priorities have already been shaping delivery and include:

4.2.3. **Supporting Skills, Learning and Employment Opportunities:** Hosted Future FEST 2024 in July – careers event to bring together secondary schools and education and training providers with employers and businesses; Worked with our partners, TEC Partnership, to support the promotion of Colleges Week and raise the profile of the Skegness Towns Fund project – the Learning Campus – which has also commenced construction. The Mayflower – Boston Town Deal’s flagship project – also started on site, led by Boston College to facilitate lifelong learning and improved access to skills and learning. The £1.85m People and Skills theme of UK Shared Prosperity is now underway with innovative projects delivering access to training, ranging from ‘skills bootcamps’ for those with long term exclusion from the employment market, the development of niche and specialist skills relating to heritage preservation, and innovative new projects to support self-employed carers on the coast.

4.2.4. **Vibrant Town Centres and Regeneration:** Establishment of a new Spalding Town Board to facilitate new funding opportunities. Significant support for two Town Boards – Boston and the Connected Coast – which oversee the delivery of 20 Towns Fund projects and support additional funding and investment. The Campus for Future Living - the flagship Mablethorpe Town Deal project – attracted a visit from the NHS National AHP Lead and NHS England and ACIS was announced as partner and head lease operator. All three town boards have been supported to develop a Long Term Plan for Towns – to support

funding from Government for town centre regeneration. A 'Meet the Professionals' event was held to promote the £8m Wolds Culture and Heritage Programme. Supported Government civil servants in the development of a package of regeneration projects announced in May. Continued delivery for Spalding Connected with support from National Lottery Heritage Funding. DCMS approval of a project variation for the Cultural Development Fund programme in Skegness. Establishment of a Business Improvement District for Spalding, following a positive ballot in favour during July. A new town centre business group for Boston has been established, with support from Boston Borough Council and the Federation of Small Businesses. Extensive work is progressing on the design and delivery of all three 'Levelling Up Fund' projects across the partnership, including the South Holland Health and Wellbeing Hub and the PE21 project.

4.2.5. **Supporting Priority Sectors:** The first S&ELCP Culture Conference was held to launch our second year NPO programme and to bring together the creative and heritage sectors together. The NPO was also featured at the University of Lincoln's Decoding Greater Lincolnshire event. The Place team have promoted the area at the Lincolnshire County Show, Heckington Show and supported Heritage Open Days. A very successful food festival was held in partnership with St Botolph's and Boston College, raising the profile of the area's food, farming and logistics sectors. New manufacturing space has been launched to market on the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone, in partnership with Stirlin Developments. UKSPF funding has supported the employment of a Partnership Manager for the FEZ, who started in May and is tasked with leading business and community engagement in the project. UKSPF funding is also supporting the further expansion of the UK Fresh Produce Network; a locally-established business network of food production and logistics companies, who are delivering sectoral development support on behalf of the agri-food and logistics cluster in across Boston and South Holland.

4.2.6. **Enabling Growth and Housing and Attracting Investment:** Our profile as the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership was significantly raised through our presence and promotion at UKREiiF, the UK's real estate, investment and infrastructure forum. The Partnership showcased its investment and development opportunities and further raised the profile through speaker slots. Officers are now engaged in a number of follow-up discussions with investors who are keen to explore investment opportunities in the partnership area, ranging from retail, logistics, energy and housing. Hosted Boston 400 meeting MHCLG, Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Community Lottery Fund, Visit England and Destination Lincolnshire to go through the opportunities for investment, funding and activity. The distribution of UK Shared Prosperity Fund is progressing well with regular promotion of businesses engaging with the support and grants available through Grants4Growth. The Lincolnshire Community Foundation's Community Grants Programme (GRASSroots) has been successfully distributing grant aid across Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland, supporting rural communities and parish and town councils. The partnership-wide Grants4Growth and Advice4Growth has supported a wide range of businesses, with 337 businesses enrolments to date (including £1.4m in grant support provided to unlock £2.7m in additional match investment to support their growth). Positive

engagement with landowners and agencies such as Homes England on a number of key housing and employment sites continues to progress positively.

4.3. Healthy Lives Priority Partnership:

4.3.1 South & East Lincolnshire Partnership Healthy Living Board (established July 2022) continues to provide a sub-regional platform for health, local government and third sector organisations to come together to reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes. Key highlights:

4.3.3 **Age Friendly Communities:** South Holland is now part of the UK network of Age Friendly Communities and a new S&ELCP Age Friendly Communities network established to develop local baseline assessment and review barriers and needs of older residents to living long, fulfilled and healthy lives. This work has been strengthened by ELDC's strategic partnership with the national Centre of Ageing Better and resources, experience and learning can now be shared across S&ELCP.

4.3.4 **Good Homes Alliance:** pilot of new countywide service soon to go live which aims to:

- Provide advice and support to residents to help them to maintain and improve their homes;
- Liaise with relevant organisations to resolve housing condition issues for residents;
- Help residents to access any available funding; and
- Co-ordinate a holistic response to issues facing residents

4.3.5 **Cost of Living Support:** HLB continue to oversee 'cost of living' support and play key role in Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership activity to help resident manage household budgets, reduce debt and maximise income. S&ELCP have administered a further £666,063.51 Household Support Fund round 5 since May 2024 and continue to monitor changes to welfare policy and resources to help households at risk of financial hardship this winter.

4.3.6 **Digital Inclusion:** HLB are working on developing a Lincolnshire digital inclusion strategy. UKSPF funding has enabled roll out of successful community based digital inclusion sessions across S&ELCP councils, with residents able to access help to get online, access training and skills and improve the digital confidence. HLB are working with the local DWP ahead of managed migration of residents onto Universal Credit, an online only benefit and this will form part of the local offer this autumn.

4.3.7 **S&ELCP Joint Scrutiny:** following a comprehensive review of the HLB and local partnerships the panel have concluded that "although this is not a statutory area for district and borough councils, we nevertheless have an enormous amount of 'soft influence' particularly now we are a Partnership. It is important for residents of all 3 Councils that the partnership uses its influence to continue to work closely with external partners to facilitate opportunities and provision for Health and Wellbeing, focusing on the identified priorities for residents."

4.3.8 S&ELCP Joint Scrutiny panel have put forward a number of recommendations for consideration as the Healthy Living Action Plan continues to develop and evolve which have now been reviewed and accepted by scrutiny committees in each Council:

- To make better use of green spaces to maximise opportunities for residents and visitors to be active;
- To review green open space in our communities and explore ways of using it better by working in partnership;
- To develop opportunities to positively influence internal / corporate decision making;
- Community engagement at all levels to increase the trust and confidence of residents;
- To ensure equality of access for people from diverse backgrounds, for example those with disabilities, both hidden and visible, or language barriers;
- Bring together current discussions and approaches around community development, the role of leisure and culture and future collaboration;
- Further develop District Councils preventative approach;
- More active promotion of local services in each area of the Partnership;
- To review progress in 6 months with the Healthy Living Board and report back to members via an all-member briefing session.

4.4. Safer Communities Priority Partnership

4.4.1 There has been one meeting of the South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership since the last update, which was held on 13th June 2024.

4.4.2 There was a presentation by Lincolnshire Police on County Lines to raise awareness of what it is and how it is being tackled.

4.4.3 The Safer Communities Business Manager gave a summary of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Annual Report and Annual General Meeting. There was a discussion about the proposed formal merger of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership. District Councils will be consulted about this in due course.

4.4.4 The current action plan (2024-25) was included on the agenda.

- An update was received in relation to scoping work undertaken to examine the evidence base for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Skegness in relation to alcohol restrictions. The data does not currently support this, but it was agreed to review periodically and look at what other tools and powers could be used to address the specific issues.
- There was a discussion about the Purple Flag aspirations. It has been agreed that a position statement will be presented at the next meeting in October 2024.

4.4.5 Routine information was presented to the group in relation to activity undertaken by the Community Safety Teams across the partnership area during 2023-24. Future reports will include trend data.

- 4.4.6 The group received a presentation on the Long-Term Plan for Towns, outlining the scope of the work and timeline. The Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer have been involved in this project and it presents some good opportunities for community safety initiatives across the partnership area.
- 4.4.7 The Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership presented their annual report outlining that a lot has been achieved but there is still work to do as 48 people were killed and 378 seriously injured on Lincolnshire roads during 2023.
- 4.4.8 An additional meeting of the partnership is being planned for August 2024 to offer an opportunity for partners to be consulted on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan which is currently being drafted.

4.5. Environment Priority Partnership

- 4.5.1. The South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN) / Environment Priority Partnership last met in June 2024 and their next meeting is scheduled for September. SELCAN are also attending Members Day in September and have prepared a presentation to share with elected members.
- 4.5.2. The webinar series is now complete, and the webinar recordings are available to view on the website. The Communications Plan has been updated for 2024 and the Business and Marketing, Education and Community Engagement sub-groups have also developed a questionnaire with input from the wider group, which is now live. SELCAN materials including business cards and pop-up banners have also been developed for use at events.
- 4.5.3. This group are now exploring opportunities to engage with education providers as well as looking at a project that would seek to introduce a carbon charter scheme as their next priority proposal.
- 4.5.4. The Transport sub-group are moving forward with their parcel collection point proposal, having started to engage with Parish Councils to get a sense of the level of interest in the scheme, and are now starting to pin down the logistics and looking at what the next steps should be in relation to this, including finalising the provider.
- 4.5.5. The Energy & Renewables sub-group are looking at taking forward a new priority proposal around promoting and supporting innovation and uptake of new and emerging low carbon technologies. This will potentially include looking to provide small scale equipment that enables businesses to monitor and improve their energy efficiency.
- 4.5.6. The Nature Based Solutions, Water, Resilience & Adaptation, Built Environment & Agriculture and Food sub-groups recently held a joint meeting and welcomed guest speaker Hannah Dale who talked to the groups about rewilding and restoration of natural habitats, and in particular the reintroduction of beavers at Wild Wrendale from a natural flood management perspective. This was arranged with a view to the groups jointly developing a piece of work around natural flood management and good agricultural practise that supports soil health and habitats.

4.5.7. The Nature Based Solutions sub-group have completed case studies for Doddington & Boothby and the Agriculture & Food sub-group also recently attended the Boston Food Festival with a view to promoting SELCAN and community food projects.

4.6. Council is being asked to note the updates from the Priority Partnerships.

5. Partnership Scrutiny Update

5.1. On forming the Partnership, Councils committed to undertake an annual scrutiny of the Partnership's progress as identified in the approved business case.

5.2. The final report of the Joint Scrutiny of the Partnership 2023 was presented to Council and to Joint Strategy Board with four recommendations around ICT, Communication, Capacity and Alignment. All actions are complete or on plan.

5.3. In September the Partnership commenced its third Joint Scrutiny of the Partnership with a report to come forward for consideration later in the year.

6. Conclusion

6.1. Significant progress continues to be made by the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership. This report sets out this progress to date as part of the six-monthly cycle of reporting.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

This report updates on the progress of the Partnership to date.

Corporate Priorities

The formation of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership supports the corporate priorities of the sovereign Councils in the Sub-Regional Strategy. This is reflected in the agreed Delivery Plans and performance measures.

Staffing

No implications specific to staffing in this report.

Workforce Capacity Implications

No implications specific to workforce capacity in this report.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The constitutional and legal arrangements for the successful implementation of Partnership have been approved by all three partner Councils.

Data Protection

No implications specific to data protection in this report.

Financial

No implications specific to finances in this report.

Risk Management

No implications specific to risk management in this report.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

None specific to this report.

Reputation

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has established a positive reputation through the progress it has achieved to date as contained in the main body of the report.

Contracts

No implications specific to contracts in this report.

Crime and Disorder

Section 4 of this report sets out details of the Safer Communities Priority Partnership.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

No implications specific to this report.

Health and Wellbeing

Section 4 of this report sets out details of the Healthy Lives Priority Partnership.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Section 4 of this report sets out details of the Environment Priority Partnership.

Acronyms

ADP: Alignment and Delivery Plan
AHP: Allied Health Professionals
ASB: Anti-Social Behaviour
DCMS: Department for Culture, Media and Sport
DWP: Department for Work and Pensions
EA: Environment Agency
FEZ: Food Enterprise Zone
HLB: Healthy Living Board
LCC: Lincolnshire County Council

LEP: Local Enterprise Partnership
LGA: Local Government Association
LUF: Levelling Up Fund
MHCLG: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
NPO: National Portfolio
PSPO: Public Spaces Protection Order
SELCAN: South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network
S&ELCP: South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
SLT: Senior Leadership Team
UKREiiF: UK Real Estate, investment and infrastructure Forum
UKSPF: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Appendices

None

Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

| Document title | Where the document can be viewed |
|-----------------------|--|
| S&ELCP Business Case | www.selcp.co.uk/ourpartnership |

Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body. This is being reported directly to Council to engage all Members.

Report Approval

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Report author: | Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights & Transformation suzanne.rolfe@boston.gov.uk |
| Signed off by: | James Gilbert, Assistant Director – Corporate james.gilbert@e-lindsey.gov.uk |
| Approved for publication: | Councillor Nick Worth, Leader of the Council nickworth@sholland.gov.uk |