North Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership

The North Kesteven Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2018

100 Flourishing Communities



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Forewords

Introduction from the chairman and vice-chairman of the Local Strategic Partnership

We are delighted to present you with the North Kesteven Sustainable Community Strategy.

This Strategy represents the Local Strategic Partnership's vision for the next ten years; the challenges it faces; and the priorities for action that we, as a Partnership, have identified.

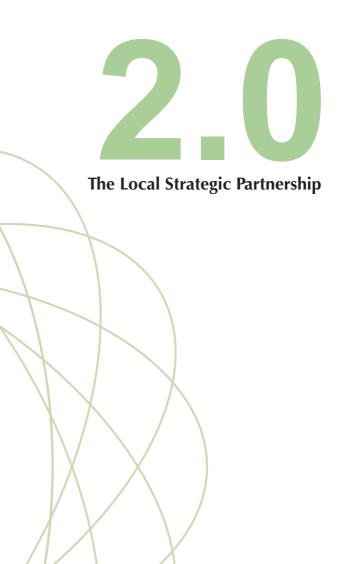
The publication of our new Sustainable Community Strategy marks an important point in the development of partnership working across North Kesteven; it reinforces the alignment of the District Council's and the LSP's visions and priorities, and strengthens our position as a Partnership to work together for the benefit of the residents of North Kesteven.

The Strategy highlights the fact that going forward, the challenges faced by the District are 'partnership challenges', requiring integrated approaches to delivery. They are challenges that no single agency can tackle but require co-ordinated partnership delivery.

We are committed to our roles as chairman and vice-chairman of the LSP and hope that you will support us to achieve our aim of making North Kesteven an even better place to live, work and visit!

Herman Kok Lindum Group Ltd Chairman NKLSP **Councillor Mrs Marion Brighton, OBE** Leader, North Kesteven District Council Vice- Chairman NKLSP

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The Local Strategic Partnership

Our Vision

North Kesteven's Sustainable Community Strategy has been developed with one District wide vision: 100 flourishing communities.

A flourishing community can be described as a sustainable community where people want to live and work; now and in the future. Flourishing communities meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, live within their resources and contribute to a high quality of life. They are active, safe and inclusive, well planned, well built and run, well connected, thriving and they offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.



We aim to achieve our vision by addressing two main objectives:

- Working in partnership to improve the quality of life, economic performance and environmental sustainability of North Kesteven; and
- 2. Inspiring community participation in the delivery of public services and the achievement of community aspirations.

The Role of the Local Strategic Partnership



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The North Kesteven's Local Strategic Partnership (NKLSP), is the body responsible for developing the Sustainable Community Strategy for the District. NKLSP is made up of a variety of individuals, businesses and agencies from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors all working together with a shared aim: to make North Kesteven an even better place to live, work and visit! By these agencies and the community working together as a partnership, we have a far greater chance of responding to the needs of our communities in a way that wouldn't otherwise be possible.



The Local Area Agreement

The Countywide Local Area Agreement, (LAA) is a three year agreement that sets out the priorities for Lincolnshire and will be the principal action plan for the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy. The LSP, along with many other partners in the District, has a statutory duty to have regard to the targets within the Local Area Agreement. It is, therefore, essential that there is clear alignment between the Countywide Strategy, our own Strategy, and the LAA. To ensure this, a shortened version of our Strategy will form one section of the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy.



North Kesteven Planning Framework

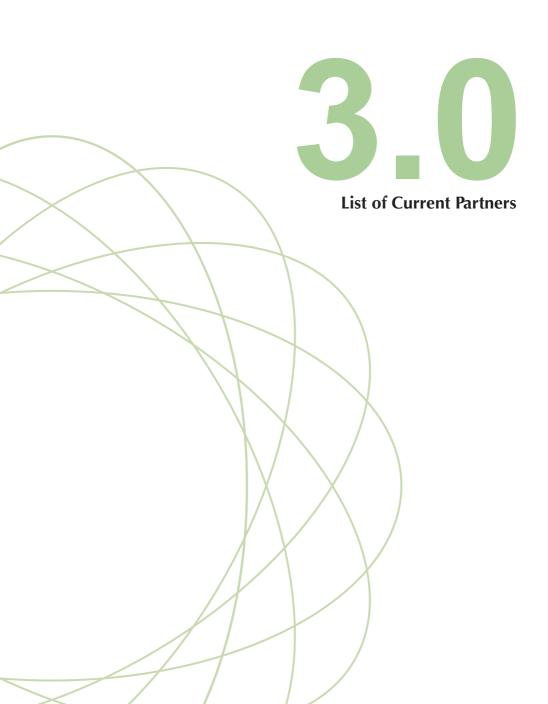
Lincolnshire Sustainable Community Strategy

Local Area Agreement

North Kesteven Sustainable Community Strategy

North Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group





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List of Current Partners

Age Concern Kesteven	Job Centre Plus
artsNK	Leisure Connection Ltd
Business Link East Midlands	Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Chartered Institute of Building	Lincoln Job Centre
Children's Links	Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils
Community Lincs	Lincolnshire Central Schools Sports Partnership
Community Rail Partnership	Lincolnshire Community Foundation
Environment Agency	Lincolnshire Co-op
English Heritage	Lincolnshire County Council
Federation of Small Business	Lincolnshire Enterprise
Government Office East Midlands	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
Groundwork Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Health and Safety Executive	Lincolnshire Police
Help the Aged	Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust
Hill Holt Wood Ltd	Lincolnshire Research Observatory

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Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership	North Kesteven District Council
Lincolnshire and Rutland Learning and Skills Council	Share the Care
Lincolnshire Sports Partnership	Sleaford CAB
Lincolnshire Tourism	Sleaford Chamber of Commerce
Lincolnshire Waterway Partnership	Sleaford and District Practice Based Commissioning Cluster
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Sleaford Foyer
Lindum Group Ltd	Sleaford Medical Group
Local Children's Partnership	Sustrans
National Farmers Union	Voluntary Centre Services North Kesteven
Natural England	

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The Sustainable Community Strategy for North Kesteven

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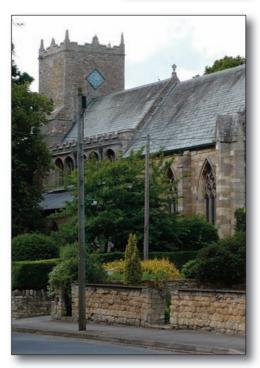
The Sustainable Community Strategy for North Kesteven



The Sustainable Community Strategy is an essential part of the District's development process as it provides a framework for action in North Kesteven and represents a long term vision of how to ensure that our District continues to develop and improve, ensuring a better quality of life for everyone.

The Sustainable Community Strategy gives communities the opportunity to express their views, needs and local priorities and helps all organisations in the District to align their work. This will include large corporate bodies like the District and County Councils; Lincolnshire Police; Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue: as well as voluntary organisations and groups like community associations and sports clubs. By identifying challenges and actions that we all agree on, we can be sure that we are all contributing to common goals; helping us to work together rather than in isolation.

The Strategy is based on the main outcomes of the ShapeNK consultation which was carried out in the autumn of 2007.



The main drive behind the consultation was the recognition that our District will experience massive change in the next 20 years and to enable our residents and businesses to have a say in what would happen.

The ShapeNK consultation was the basis for establishing a single framework of priorities for the District with alignment of LSP and District Council priorities within a new Sustainable Community Strategy – 'One District...One Vision'.

The ShapeNK consultation identified five key themes for the District which are:

- Community Wellbeing
- Managing Change
- A Vibrant Economy
- A Sustainable Future; and
- Better Transport.

The Sustainable Community Strategy was informed and developed by:

- Reviewing the existing Community Strategy;
- Reviewing consultation exercises, including ShapeNK;
- Aligning with the emerging Local Development Framework;
- Reviewing partner's plans and strategies; and
- Feedback and discussions with partners.



Alignment with Partner's Plans and Strategies

A key part of developing a new Strategy involves reviewing existing partner's strategies and plans to ensure that the Strategy corresponds to their priorities. Intelligence used to inform the Strategy was taken from the following sources:

- Lincolnshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- Lincolnshire's Local Area Agreement;
- Lincolnshire's Sustainable Community Strategy;
- Director of Public Health's Annual Report;
- Ipsos MORI: ASB People, Place and Perception;
- The Census Atlas 2005;
- Ipsos MORI: Crime and Public Perception; and
- Sport England's Active People Survey.



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Relation to the Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a new form of development plan for the District and will address all the issues that influence an individual's experience of being in the District. It is, therefore, important that the LDF and the Sustainable Community Strategy are aligned ensuring that the District develops in line with community aspirations. Key components of the LDF have been taken into account when developing the Sustainable Community Strategy, these include:

- The Regional Spatial Strategy;
- Infrastructure needs;
- · Increased partnership working;
- · Employment sites;
- Further education (post age 16) needs;
- · Housing needs; and
- Development of Lincoln South East Quadrant.





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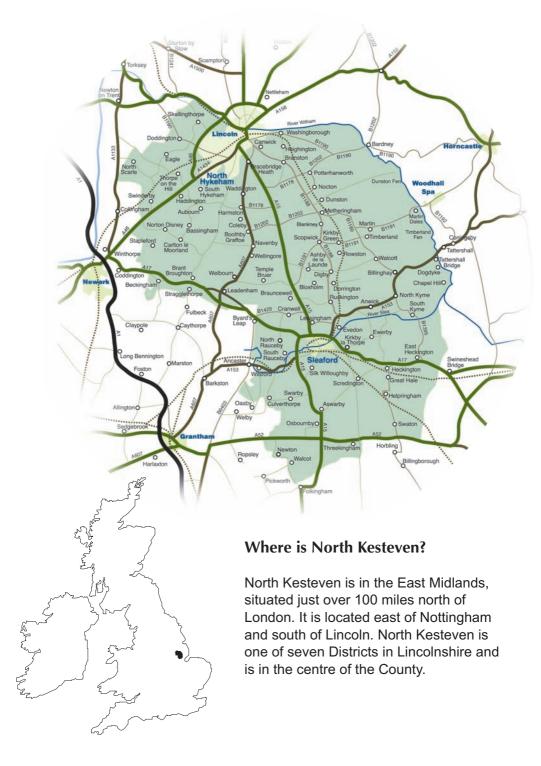
Introducing North Kesteven



The North Kesteven District is situated at the heart of Lincolnshire and is considered by many to be one of the most pleasant places to live in the East Midlands. As a predominantly rural district, North Kesteven provides visitors and residents with several easily accessible areas of green space to enjoy, including two renowned Nature Reserves and a carefully managed network of guided walks. The District has a rich aviation heritage, being home to the Royal Air Force, and offers a wide variety of cultural and tourism experiences; and leisure and countryside activities that provide visitors with the opportunity to experience rural Lincolnshire at its very best.

North Kesteven is proud of its farming roots and has a thriving local food industry with a wide selection of its hotels and restaurants offering Tastes of Lincolnshire, locally grown produce.





A Profile of North Kesteven



What does North Kesteven look like?

North Kesteven is a predominantly rural area, with a growing population currently standing at 104,800. It covers an area of 356 square miles, of which 94% is classified as green space. The District is characterised by around 100 small communities, with more than 80% of the population living in rural settlements or a market town. The remaining 20% are categorised as an urban population. North Kesteven is the sixth fastest growing District in the Country.

In broad terms, the age profile of the District is similar to the national average. The 2006 population projections (ONS) show 16.9% of the population is aged 15 and under, 57.7% of the population is aged 20-65 and 19.1% of the population is aged 65 or over. However, these figures mask significant differences within finer age bands. The proportion of 20 to 34-year-olds is lower than the national average.



55-year-olds and older are overrepresented in comparison to the national figures and population projections indicate that the number of people aged 50 and over could increase by 62.2% by 2029.

New residents have been encouraged to move to the area to take advantage of the District's rural location; quality of life; low crime rates; relatively low house prices; good quality education; and local heritage. This is reflected in research, which has shown 84% of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live and 90% of residents feel their area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together.

Being a largely rural district NK enjoys generally good environmental quality. River water quality supports good quality fisheries although, in common with much of Eastern England, high levels of nutrients can give rise to eutrophic conditions during warm, dry summers. Periods of below average rainfall can give rise to low groundwater levels and river flows. If prolonged this may restrict the water available for the spray irrigation of crops and river flows. particularly the River Slea, can be severely reduced affecting the aesthetic appearance. Climate change predicts wetter winters and drier summers. This reinforces the need to restrict inappropriate development in flood plains and to encourage water efficiency initiatives.



Infrastructure and Transport



The District is serviced by the A17 and A15 providing easy access to the A1, the A46 and the motorway network offering access to destinations throughout the UK. London is just over an hour away with the Intercity high speed rail line that links Kings Cross to Edinburgh accessible from Newark or Grantham. In addition, a new Intercity link connecting Lincoln to London is scheduled for completion by 2009. The nearest airports are East Midlands, Robin Hood (at Doncaster) and Humberside (near Kingston upon Hull).

North Kesteven is a very sparsely populated District. Residents and visitors alike have to find the means of moving around the District in order to work, shop or enjoy leisure pursuits. 70% of people in employment travel to work by car and only 5% by public transport, compared to 63% and 14% respectively in England and Wales. The District's workforce travels, on average, 10.4 miles, compared to a national average of 8.3 miles.



Car ownership is particularly significant for residents in the District with 85% of all households in the District having at least one car.

North Kesteven has a relatively poor public transport service with occasional or nonexistent bus and rail services in many parts of the District; inadequate road infrastructure to accommodate the increasing number of cars; traffic congestion in certain areas of the District and, in particular; inadequate and unsafe cycling routes.



Deprivation



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Nationally, North Kesteven is in the top 20% of the least deprived local authority areas in England. The District is the least deprived District in Lincolnshire, and has shown the most marked improvement, in terms of becoming less deprived, since 2004. However, there are still small pockets of deprivation towards the south of the District with the most deprived area in the District being ranked 10,580 out of the 32,482 in England.



Crime



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North Kesteven's crime levels are lower than the national average and statistically, it is the safest place to live in Lincolnshire . The low levels of crime are a key factor for residents in making North Kesteven a good place to live. However, in comparison to the actual statistics for criminal activity, the fear of crime and perceptions of levels of crime are considerably higher.



Health



Overall, the health indicators of residents in North Kesteven are better than the East Midlands and the England averages. They are significantly better than England in areas such as: feeling 'in poor health'; adults who smoke; children in poverty; and homelessness. However, residents are significantly worse than the England average when it comes to road injuries and deaths and also the number of obese adults. Life expectancy is currently 78.1 years for males and 82.7 years for females. This is above the UK average of 77.0 and 81.3 respectively.

An enhancement of existing healthcare provision is required in some parts of the District, to take into account the increased need, which is in part due to in-migration, and also the projected rise in population. This is particularly in light of the growing, ageing population.

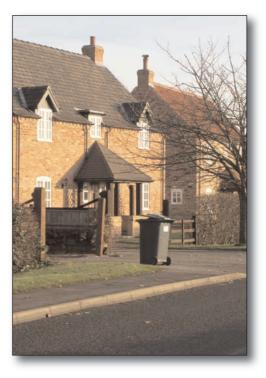


Housing



The District offers a wide variety of accommodation in different settings. North Kesteven remains a relatively inexpensive place to buy property with the average house cost being £177,414 (£160,939 for Lincolnshire) compared to £219,262 for the United Kingdom. However, the national increase in house prices is now a real challenge for those on average incomes. During April to June 2008 the average District house price increased by 3.7% when compared to the previous quarter (Land Registry, 2008).

There is a significant ongoing need to provide affordable housing to meet the needs of an increasing and changing population in North Kesteven. In particular, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment identified the requirement for an additional 854 affordable houses in the District per year.



Education



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There is a wide choice of excellent local educational facilities including primary schools, secondary schools and opportunities for accessing further education. There are highly respected colleges of: Art; Agriculture; and Bishop Grosseteste University College nearby. The University of Lincoln is located just outside the District, with a further eight universities within an hours travelling time.



Economy and Employment



North Kesteven is above the England average for education, skills and training. The pre-dominant types of industry in which people work are: public administration, education and health (28.1%); distribution, hotels and restaurants (24.6%); manufacturing (13.5%) and construction (8.9%).

Historically, the area has been heavily dependant on agriculture and related industries, but in line with the national picture, this sector has been in decline. The gross average weekly earnings in 2007 were £414.00 compared to £405.90 for Lincolnshire and £459.00 for Great Britain.

In order to raise average weekly earnings, attracting new businesses into the District will be crucial. Campaigns targeted at sectors such as engineering, professional services, environmental technologies and the knowledge sector will seek to attract companies with a reputation for paying above average salaries. In terms of scale, attracting small to medium enterprises employing up to 50 people is realistic.



Leisure, Culture, Heritage and the Arts



North Kesteven has much to offer residents and visitors including: a Stepping Out network of guided walks; the hub National Centre for Craft and Design; community theatres; heritage trails; nature reserves; and aviation heritage with Lincolnshire being renowned as the 'Home of the Royal Air Force' and as 'Bomber County'.

The District offers a multitude of outdoor and sporting activities with four leisure complexes at Sleaford and North Hykeham; excellent golfing and angling facilities; and a host of other private and public sporting facilities available for all ages.

Sport England's Active People Survey (2006) which measures adult participation in sport and active recreation in a local area stated that over 65% of leisure facility customers in North Kesteven were satisfied with local sports provision.



The survey also identified that in North Kesteven only 20% of males and 22% of females participate in sport and active recreation, at moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes on 3 or more days a week, this is in line with the national average of 21%. This equates to 36% of 16 to 34 year olds; 22% of 35 to 54 year olds and just 12% of the over 55s.

One of the challenges faced by the District is how to ensure residents health and wellbeing is improved, and with this in mind we are striving to raise participation levels within sport and physical activity by 1% year on year and widen access to opportunities for sport and physical activity.





Our Sustainable Community Strategy

Our new Sustainable Community Strategy focuses on five key themes and each of the themes has between four and seven challenges areas that underlie our vision. These, and their relevant actions, are as follows: BLANK

Community Wellbeing



To promote the wellbeing, safety, and health of North Kesteven's 100 Flourishing Communities, maintaining local services, supporting vulnerable people, and promoting respect.

Challenge 1

Improving Health – focused on increasing physical activity levels and reducing obesity:

Action areas:

- · Address health inequalities;
- · Improve local access to healthcare;
- Promote physical activity, engagement in sport, arts and leisure activities; and
- Promote healthy eating.

Challenge 2

Engaging Children and Young People – with an emphasis on participation in positive activities and local democracy to promote respect:

Action areas:

- Develop and implement a Youth Strategy for North Kesteven;
- Develop a District Youth Council, and a Local Democracy Programme;
- Provide support for Children and Young People into adulthood;
- Implement specific projects identified in the Youth Strategy related to sport, arts and culture; and
- Improve access to services for Young People aged 16-24 by signposting opportunities.

Supporting Older People and other Vulnerable People – with a focus on integrated service delivery to provide holistic and better targeted services to support independent living and promoting equality and diversity:

Action areas:

- Develop an Older Persons Strategy through the Older Persons Forum;
- Support independent living for older people and vulnerable groups, including care services through the Supporting People Programme; and
- Promote the development of a thriving third sector including social enterprises; as the basis for extending opportunity and day to day contact, for encouraging an active older population, and to promote access to services.

Challenge 4

Delivering Housing Solutions – with an emphasis on delivering housing solutions for vulnerable people:

Action areas:

- Improve tenant participation in Housing Services;
- Review District Council housing priorities;
- Develop and improve the Housing Officer Vulnerability Service; and
- Reduce increasing levels of homelessness in North Kesteven.

Challenge 5

Promoting Respect; Reducing Anti-social Behaviour and Crime:

Action areas:

- Promote respect in the District by developing the NK Respect Action Plan to improve cohesion, reduce fear of crime and build community engagement;
- Make communities safer; and
- Reduce business crime.

Promoting Local Distinctiveness – respecting local identity and distinctiveness:

Action area:

Produce the Local Development Framework for North Kesteven

Challenge 7

Engaging Communities – through partnership and participation:

- Parish Partnership initiative;
- Support people to become engaged in community life and consider volunteering opportunities; and
- Establish a consultation and communication strategy to implement actions.



Managing Change



To encourage sustainable communities, with a focus on affordable housing, local services and local infrastructure.

Challenge 1

To provide affordable housing to meet the needs of an increasing and changing population:

Action areas:

- Increase the number of Registered Social Landlord Partners for the Council to maximize housing allocation grants from the Housing Corporation; and
- Ensue that the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document is fully delivered.

Challenge 2

To facilitate continued improvements in the infrastructure to support local development plans:

Action areas:

- Explore with the Utilities companies infrastructure requirements to facilitate developments;
- Work with local established communities to explore protecting and developing local services; and
- Road infrastructure to support potential housing development.

Challenge 3

Facilitate and provide innovative and high quality housing:

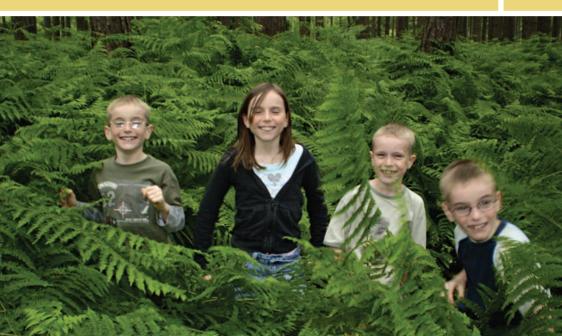
Action areas:

- · Meet the Decent Homes Standard for all Council properties;
- Work in partnership with Private Landlords to improve the standard of housing;
- Establish key stakeholder groups to assist in improvement and delivery;
- Develop a strategy to support new housing to reduce the impact on Climate Change, e.g. the Straw House initiative; and
- Bringing empty homes back into use to meet housing needs.

Challenge 4

Develop and maximise the use of open spaces, leisure and recreation facilities to meet the needs of the increasing and changing population, and that of new settlements:

- Explore the potential of developing a Country Park linking Country and City;
- Undertake an assessment of all play, open spaces and leisure facilities to inform future planning requirements; and
- Conserve and enhance local biodiversity and the local landscape.



A Sustainable Future



To minimise waste, maximise energy efficiency and promote sustainable development.

Challenge 1

Demonstrate clear community leadership in tackling the sustainability agenda:

Action areas:

- Continued delivery of the SustainNK programme to look at how we live, work and do business in North Kesteven and minimise our environmental impact;
- · Partners to reduce carbon emissions in their own organisations;
- To influence the strategies and policies of organisations within and outside the North Kesteven boundary; and
- Encourage Partners to adopt policies designed to reduce carbon emissions.

Challenge 2

Ensure that all residents and businesses are aware of, and take an active interest in, mitigating the effects of climate change:

Action areas:

- Develop a promotional campaign for residents and businesses in the District; and
- Create opportunities for businesses and residents to become more self-sufficient.

Make a real difference by reducing the carbon footprint of the District and in doing so, achieve the targets set by Parliaments in the UK and Europe:

Action areas:

- · Work to influence travel patterns to reduce carbon emissions;
- · Engaging communities within their local environment;
- · Promote further waste minimisation activities in the District;
- · Introduce energy efficiency measures within Partners' buildings;
- · Actively promote and encourage local sourcing of products; and
- Support residents to reduce home energy useage.

Challenge 4

Protect the District from the impact of severe weather patterns:

- Reduce the risk of property flooding and restrict inappropriate development in medium and high probability flood risk areas;
- Adapt to climate change by building sustainable buildings including flood and drought resilience; and
- Encourage water efficiency in business, agriculture and the home.



A Vibrant Economy



To encourage economic development, support business growth, and develop tourism.

Challenge 1 To facilitate inward investment:

Action area:

· Develop major business opportunities in the area

Challenge 2

To develop a sustainable planning framework that supports continued economic and social growth:

Action area:

- Develop the Local Development Framework Core Strategy; and
- · Revise the Statement of Community Involvement.

Challenge 3

To improve opportunities for local businesses and Young People to develop skills:

Action areas:

- To further develop the opportunities for local Apprenticeship Schemes;
- · Support new business set ups to ensure success; and
- Identify skill development programmes to support small local businesses.

Develop and explore opportunities to maximise the tourism offer:

Action areas:

- · Increased visitor numbers to the District; and
- Improve the secondary spend opportunities at key venues to enhance visitor spend.

Challenge 5

Create a strong and diverse local economy:

- · Create awareness of the opportunities for rural diversification;
- Encourage a diverse economy to facilitate local regeneration; and
- Support local business start-ups and expansions.



Better Transport



To promote cost effective transport options and the development of cycling and walking initiatives.

Challenge 1

Reduce the need for residents to travel within or outside of the District:

Action areas:

- Develop sustainable communities;
- Encourage residents to walk and cycle as an alternative to the car;
- Develop more outreach operations such as leisure facilities and community access points; and
- Promote the use of alternative transport options to all residents.

Challenge 2

To improve the choice of sustainable transport facilities for residents and visitors within the District:

Action area:

 Campaign for a better choice of transport facilities within the District

Challenge 3

To provide more cost effective means of travelling around the District:

Action areas:

 Encourage more local Community Transport Schemes within the District;

- Ensure that all eligible residents are aware of and take advantage of concessionary travel facilities available in the District;
- Explore less conventional means of transport for residents; and
- Explore ways of subsidising public transport costs within the District.

To ease the congestion caused by increased travel within the District, and reduce the number of speeding motorists:

- Work with partners to provide suitable "Park and Ride/Stride" schemes in the District;
- Reduce the impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles through villages using minor roads;
- Work with partners in order to control the speed of traffic in the District;
- Influence regional and sub-regional transport strategies and policies to provide improved bus and rail infrastructure; and
- Enforce less on-street parking and more off-street parking.







Implementing, Reviewing and Monitoring our Sustainable Community Strategy

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Implementing our Sustainable Community Strategy

The Local Strategic Partnership will take the lead role in implementing the Sustainable Community Strategy. Action groups, consisting of members of the LSP and representatives of the wider community have been established for each of the Strategy's five themes and these groups meet quarterly.

A Priority Development Plan has been written for each of the five themes detailing actions that need to be carried out in order to overcome the challenges identified. The Priority Development Plans are living documents and as such will change and develop as issues emerge and themes are tackled. It is the role of each of the five theme groups to oversee the implementation of the actions; monitor progress against the actions; and provide reports back to the wider Partnership.



Reviewing and Monitoring our Sustainable Community Strategy

The Sustainable Community Strategy will be reviewed every three years. By reviewing the Strategy and refining the Priority Development Plans for each of the themes, we can ensure that as new issues develop we are able to incorporate them within the plans. This allows us as a District to be flexible and able to adapt to our changing, local needs.

A comprehensive review of progress made with the Strategy will be included in the District Council's Annual Monitoring Report that the Local Authority is charged with compiling and distributing to Government Office East Midlands.

The LSP will progress the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy through the implementation of the Priority Development Plans and will inform stakeholders on progress through:

- · Local media;
- Partner and LSP publications;
- · The LSP and partner websites;
- Parish Clusters; and
- Annual stakeholder's events.



Further Information

The LSP is an open and inclusive Partnership. Anyone who lives or works in North Kesteven can become involved with the work of the Partnership directly, or support the actions of the Sustainable Community Strategy within their own community.

For further information on becoming a member of the North Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership, or supporting the actions within the Strategy in your community, please contact the Community Partnerships Manager on 01529 414155

or visit our website: www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/lsp

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