



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director – Place

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	30 November 2021
Subject:	Planning for Strategic Infrastructure in Greater Lincolnshire

Summary:
This report invites Members of this Committee to consider and debate the agenda of Planning for Strategic Infrastructure for Greater Lincolnshire.

Actions Required:
The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- 1) agree to the priorities for officers to develop an up-to-date evidence base on infrastructure matters; and
- 2) if relevant, suggest additional or alternative priorities.

1. Background

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is working collaboratively in its strategic planning role with other Authorities in Greater Lincolnshire and key stakeholders, including the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), to understand and articulate infrastructure needs and opportunities to provide a stronger position for funding opportunities. The Authorities have sought to promote their collective readiness for infrastructure funding opportunities, primarily by responding to “calls” via Government, through preparation of relevant evidence and documentation. Example opportunities from Central Government would be its current Levelling Up agenda.

At a local level, each District Council in the country is required to prepare a Local Plan for its area and maintain relevant evidence on strategic planning matters. Local Plans will usually be accompanied by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) or a similar document with proposals for infrastructure to underpin growth within the Plan area. IDPs provide a detailed and usually costed assessment of the necessary investment required to support sustainable growth. County Councils are statutory consultees for all Local Plans within their area and for neighbouring areas too.

LCC would consider Local Plans (including supporting documentation) and respond to relevant consultations accordingly. Particularly because of responsibilities in, for example, services such as transport and education, LCC has taken a keen interest in Local Plans and IDPs for the seven Lincolnshire districts. In some circumstances, LCC has also provided resources and officer time to carry out certain Local Plan evidence and to develop relevant policy solutions. There are four Local Plan areas in Lincolnshire itself: City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey have joined (with LCC) to create a statutory committee in Central Lincolnshire; Boston and South Holland (with LCC) formed a similar committee in South East Lincolnshire; East Lindsey and South Kesteven maintain their own statutory responsibility to prepare Local Plans. LCC also takes an interest in neighbouring Local Plans, including those for the three areas now in Greater Lincolnshire: North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Rutland.

Councils at both district and county level, since December 2020, have also been required to produce annual Infrastructure Funding Statements (IFS). These documents include information on developer contributions: Community Infrastructure Levy, Planning Obligations (Section 106) and, optionally, Highways Agreements (Section 38 and Section 278). The second LCC IFS, subject to Executive approval of the draft format and contents, will be published soon after 7th December 2021. The seven district IFS documents will be prepared by them to similar timetables.

In 2016, the Greater Lincolnshire Leadership Board was established, constituted of the Leaders of each Local Authority in Greater Lincolnshire. Also in 2016, the Authorities agreed to work together on some policy and evidence matters, including preparing documentation around planning for strategic (major) infrastructure projects to facilitate development. The main document to be drafted here was called the Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan (SIDP). This has been revisited on an ad hoc basis, with both a 2019 SIDP and 2021 SIDP.

The SIDP has been an opportunity to bring together some of the strategic context of:

- Local Plans, including a synopsis of their ambitions,
- Collective delivery against Local Plan targets,
- The approaches of (trans-)regional documents, most notably the Greater Lincolnshire Plan for Growth,
- others such documents ranging from strategies from Midlands Connect to Town Masterplan.

However, more is anticipated in regard to setting this strategic context in future SIDP documents (further detail below at conclusions).

In agreeing the 2021 SIDP, partners (through the Leadership Board and elsewhere) have stated an objective to annually review the SIDP to, for example, inform Spending Review “ask”.

The 2021 SIDP process went further than others in providing a detailed, locally developed and accessible database of evidence on infrastructure projects. The “nuts and bolts” of SIDP documents have previously been projects volunteered by partners via detailed pro formas but until 2021, these were assessed, recorded, and managed by external consultants. The Core Evidence from the SIDP is a list of proposals, projects, and programmes with an evidence-based suggestion for prioritisation. Equally this evidence provides total outputs on outputs including potential housing units and potential full-time equivalent jobs that could generated. However, with locally accessible database, stakeholders using a few clicks could, for example, ‘sort’ that data by a particular output, such as housing units, or ‘filter’ to a certain part of the Greater Lincolnshire geography.

Once the 2021 SIDP evidence was produced, Greater Lincolnshire Authorities agreed to prepare an Infrastructure Summary to highlight projects and programmes within the 2021 SIDP. The Infrastructure Summary also links the SIDP further to from the National Infrastructure Strategy to the Greater Lincolnshire Plan for Growth and several between. The Infrastructure Summary (as attached) also includes concise place-based statement on each of the ‘spatial corridors’ first considered in the Greater Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy.

2. Conclusion

In 2022 and working on this agenda, officers aim to ensure Greater Lincolnshire is in the best possible place to respond positively to any infrastructure funding opportunities that arise. The proposed 2022 Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan (SIDP) and the anticipated suite of related documentation, evidence and programme management processes will become clearer throughout the year. However, the culmination will be a pipeline of proposals, programmes and projects that is even better positioned than previous years. Officers, with other organisations, are concluding a gap analysis process (taking stock) following the work in 2021 and previous years. The gap analysis has already identified:

- thematic gaps to be addressed by further research, evidence or engagement.
- needs to be step-change in inclusively and proactively engaging partners, particularly recognizable because of the challenging working practices (remote working) in 2020 and 2021
- is a clear need for greater openness and sensitivity to longer-term programmes and projects so that they can be assessed more fairly against more short-term clearly defined proposals – the latter will have clearer benefits (outputs or outcomes) than the former, likewise for delivery considerations such as attention to risk management – so this has skewed results of previous years.

In short, officer’s approach will aim establish a comprehensive pipeline of relevant shovel-ready projects and a range of longer-term projects or programmes with strong strategic fit. LCC officers will aim to promotes all Greater Lincolnshire Authorities and organisations capacity, capability and agility to respond positively to future funding opportunities.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not applicable.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Greater Lincolnshire Infrastructure Summary

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
The Green Book (HM Treasury)	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-government/the-green-book-2020
"The Blue Book" - Guide To Developing The Project Business Case	Project Business Case 2018

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