



Report To:	Full Council
Date:	19 th May 2025
Subject:	South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Performance Report
Purpose:	Six monthly update on Partnership performance
Key Decision:	No
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Anne Dorrian, Leader of the Council
Report Of:	(A
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 on 16th September 2024.

Recommendations

- To note progress of the Alignment and Delivery Plan (section 2)
- To note the Performance Framework 2025/26 (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

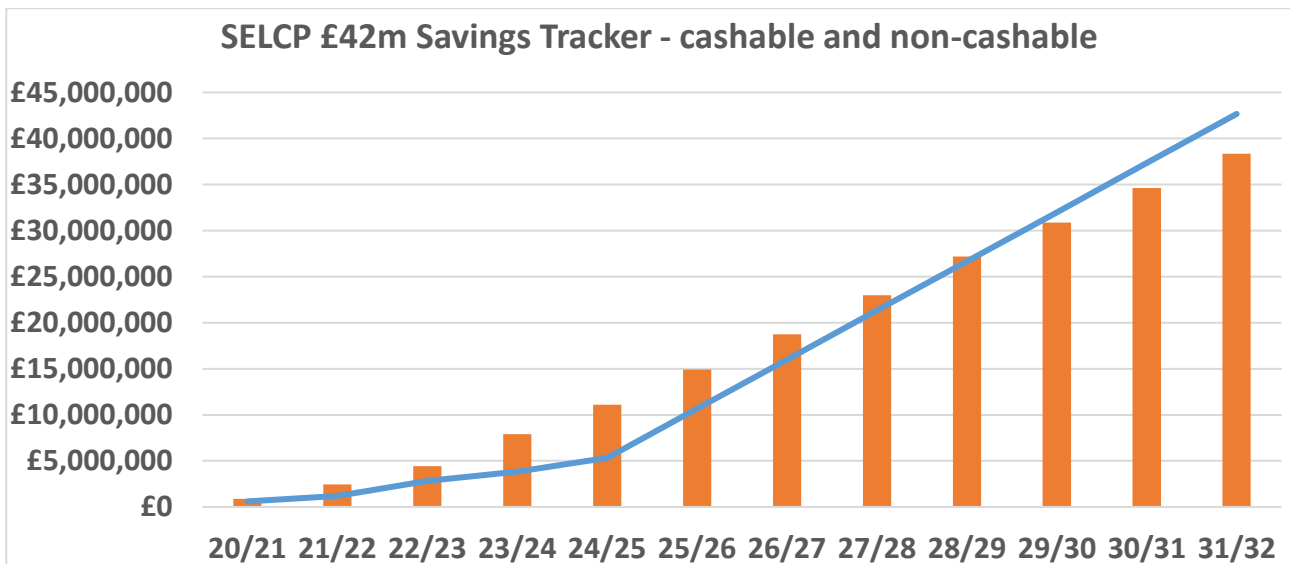
- 1.1 The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council) launched on 1st October 2021.
- 1.2 This report sets out the progress of the Partnership since the last update in September 2024.

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 All of the activities in the ADP for 2024/25 have either been completed, removed as no longer relevant or moved to the 2025/26 Delivery 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.
- 2.3 The ADP for 2025/26 has been approved alongside budget setting and published online at: [Alignment and Delivery Plan 2025-2026](#)
- 2.4 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	£17,704,882	£13,766,960	£22,234,304	£53,706,146
2023/24	£7,386,953	£24,368,636	£13,455,393	£45,210,982
2024/25	£45,911,553	£129,866,883	£34,059,107	£214,449,789
TOTAL	£96,598,705	£221,789,226	£80,446,697	£403,446,874

- 2.5 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 the end of March 2025).



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	£7,913,591
	24/25	£5,334,000	£11,105,001
	25/26	£10,668,000	£14,935,060
	26/27	£16,002,000	£18,757,340
	27/28	£21,335,000	£22,977,840
	28/29	£26,669,000	£27,205,926
	29/30	£32,003,000	£30,885,273
	30/31	£37,337,000	£34,619,780
	31/32	£42,671,000	£38,354,287

2.6 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 2028/29. Additional efficiencies for future years will be added as they are identified through matters such as contract reviews and service reviews.

2.7 Council is being asked to note the progress of the Alignment and Delivery Plans as well as the progress in securing external funding and achieving the efficiency target for the Partnership.

3. Performance Framework 2025/26

3.1 The outline Performance Framework was agreed at the outset of the Partnership, creating a common suite of performance measures across the Partnership. This does not replace performance reporting within the sovereign councils but is in addition to it with a specific focus on Partnership performance.

3.2 The performance measures have been reviewed for 2025/26 and set out in the Framework at Appendix A. It is recommended to continue with the current suite of measures wherever possible to allow us to build up trend reporting over time. Measures may be adjusted in-year should circumstances change.

3.3 Council is being asked to note the Performance Framework for 2025/26.

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	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	Economic Development
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 (Economic Development):

4.2.1. Supporting Skills, Learning and Employment Opportunities:

- During 2024/25, our UKSPF-funded 'People and Skills' programme has directly supported 600 residents to gain new qualifications, licences or skill, 178 residents to move from economic inactivity to employment, and 400 residents to gain basic digital, ESOL or maths skills.
- Engaged Zest Theatres to work and inspire young people – outcome were statements from young people about their ambitions and barriers to achieving them, alongside solutions on behaviours and exhibited them as

banners in Spalding, Skegness and Boston with young people invited to review the collective group of comments and reflecting and commenting on what they had played back. The banners remained on display for many weeks afterwards in our heritage locations.

- The Mayflower – Boston Town Deal’s flagship project – has achieved significant progress on site, led by Boston College to facilitate lifelong learning and improved access to skills and learning and due to handover July 2025.
- The Skegness Towns Fund project – the Learning Campus – which has also commenced construction and due to complete in August.
- The Campus for Future Living has finished fit out and practical completion was imminently due with a formal Opening due in April/ May.

4.2.2. Vibrant Town Centres and Regeneration:

- Having established a new Spalding Town Board to facilitate new funding opportunities we have worked with all 3 Town Boards across the partnership to accommodate both Town Boards and the new Neighbourhood Boards to manage and create emerging Neighbourhood plans to receive £20m each over the next 10 years. We submitted to MHCLG the town centre areas and boards specifically for Spalding, Skegness and Boston.
- We continue to provide significant support to both Town Boards – Boston and the Connected Coast (alongside its 2 sub-groups Mablethorpe and Skegness) – which oversee the delivery of 20 Towns Fund projects and support additional funding and investment. There remains only 12 months of that programme to manage, and focus is on ensuring successful completion of the active programmes, ensuring all funds are allocated and can deliver fully, looking at evaluation of outcomes and benefits, and establishing lessons learned.
- Looking to finalise the DCMS approval of a project variation for the Cultural Development Fund programme in Skegness to deliver a Culture House offer.
- Through our UKSPF funded Communities and Place work, including the hugely successful ‘GrassRoots’ community investment scheme, we have either created or improved over 150 community facilities
- The Business Improvement District (BID) for Spalding has now been established with a board and employed BID manager in place.
- A new town centre business group for Boston has been meeting following its establishment, with support from Boston Borough Council and the Federation of Small Businesses.
- The National Lottery funded Spalding Reconnected project has concluded for Spalding, leading to new wayfinding, a river arts trail and a new heritage strategy designed to help position the town for future strategic investment into heritage.
- 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, the PE21 project, Spilsby Sessions House and Alford Manor House.

4.2.3. Supporting Priority Sectors:

- We have received funding from Arts Council England to establish a Cultural Compact in East Lindsey which will be used to establish a formal network of arts and culture producers and artists/deliverers to bring them together to collectively support in the delivery of arts and events as a culture across the communities.
- The second S&ELCP Culture Conference is planned to be held at South Holland Community Centre as part of the third year NPO programme to bring together the creative and heritage sectors together. The NPO was deliver many events across the year spending over £1m on multiple events across the whole partnership.
- The Place team continue their priorities of town centre regeneration and Tourism and have supported the following highlights: the Lincolnshire County Show, Boston Brilliance; Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival; Ayscoughfee Enlightenment; alongside multiple Teenage Markets to name but a few.
- Through our partnership with the Lincolnshire-based UK Fresh Produce Network, the University of Lincoln and Boston College, we have supported significant investment to support the growth of our agri-food sector. This includes opening new international market connections for inward investment opportunities, lobbying for (and securing) investment in infrastructure to support the agri-food sector, and providing direct business support to enable growth.

4.2.4. Enabling Growth and Housing and Attracting Investment:

- Our 'Supporting Local Business' theme of UKSPF, which is anchored in our Grants4Growth and Advice4Growth business support programme, has supported the creation of 300 new jobs and assisted over 900 businesses. Of the 340 individual businesses supported through our Grants4Growth and Advice4Growth programme, 68% have said the support provided has improved their productivity, 64% have enhanced their resilience, and 60% have launched new and improved processes.
- Section 5 of the Spalding Western Relief Road has achieved practical completion, following extensive partnership working across district, county council, landowners and Homes England to support the delivery of infrastructure which will support future housing and economic growth. The project was supported by £20m in funding secured by South Holland District Council in 2017. Similar infrastructure investments on the A16, arising from partnership working across both tiers of local government to lobby and secure funding, have also completed.
- A number of major businesses have been supported with relocation to enable their expansion, including Parkinson Harness (Kirton) and AJS (Holbeach).

- Engaged Urban Foresight as consultants to report on Boston 400 and opportunities to create partnerships to deliver a programme of events to support the town's celebration of 400 years since the Mayflower set sail to create Boston Massachusetts.
- We regularly meet with 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 across all 3 authorities.

4.3. Healthy Lives Priority Partnership:

- 4.3.1. S&ELCP Healthy Living Board (HLB) is now well established and creating local opportunities, governance and a platform for partnerships with health, community and third sector to improve the quality of life for residents.
- 4.3.2. S&ELCP HLB have considered and responded to the joint scrutiny recommendations on remit, purpose and priorities and updates have been taken to each council's scrutiny committees.
- 4.3.3. The joint scrutiny concluded that the role of the HLB in health and wellbeing was non-statutory and non-clinical, but Council services and partnerships we engage in give us both great understanding of our communities and opportunities to influence better health outcomes.
- 4.3.4. S&ELCP joint scrutiny panel recommended increased work on prevention to prevent poor health, reduce risk of exclusion and reduce pressure on local services.
- 4.3.5. Helping resident access information, service and support helps prevent isolation, poverty and poor wellbeing - in the last year S&ELCP HLB have overseen a successful community-based digital inclusion project with local charity Lincs Digital. This project has been supported locally by our Primary Care Networks and reached people at risk of exclusion and poor health to access services.
- 4.3.6. HLB have continued to oversee delivery of the Household Support Fund; reducing financial hardship which can exacerbate poor physical and mental health.
- 4.3.7. HLB have also given Sport England the confidence and assurance to invest locally – currently in development phase, all 3 Council areas have been selected to be part of Sport England's Place Expansion programme which is a significant opportunity to strengthen community resilience and increase physical activity.

4.4. Safer Communities Priority Partnership

- 4.4.1. There have been three meetings of the South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (SELCSP) since the last update.

4.4.2. October 2024:

- The group received a presentation from Kingdom LA Support Ltd about the work they do across the partnership to tackle environmental crime. This led to a discussion about whether Kingdom could cover the Public Spaces Protection Order areas in respect of alcohol restrictions (in Boston & South Holland), which was agreed as an area to consider.
- The Community Engagement Officer at Boston Borough Council gave a verbal presentation of the work she has been doing to engage with diverse communities in hot-spot areas and promote integration and community cohesion.
- The Chair of the group provided an update on the action to explore the Purple Flag scheme. It was agreed that whilst there is general support for the initiative, the recommendation is to refer it to the Town Boards to see if it were something they would like to pursue.
- An outline was provided on the proposed approach to undertaking a strategic review of the partnership's priorities as the strategy runs to March 2025.
- Routine information was presented to the group in relation to activity undertaken by the Community Safety Teams across the partnership area during quarter 1 of 2024-25 with comparisons to previous years.

4.4.3. February 2025:

- The regional lead for Operation Jigsaw gave a presentation about the scheme which exists to help Local Authority regulators of Private Sector Housing to work together to raise standards for tenants in the sector.
- The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) business manager gave an update on the outcome of their strategic needs assessment and the move away from broad priority themes to a more place-based and project focussed approach to delivery.
- The remainder of the meeting focussed on the local strategic review. The Community Safety Partnership Officer presented a range of information to assist in identifying the areas of focus for the next three years. A discussion then followed with suggestions identified. It was agreed that a further meeting was required to finalise the discussions.

4.4.4. April 2025:

- A shorter meeting was held with the sole focus of considering a summary paper of the discussions from the previous meeting with identified areas of focus:
- Continue to address Anti-Social Behaviour across the partnership area through effective partnership working at both the local and county level.
- Examine the processes and tools currently used for dealing with neighbour disputes and assess whether there are areas of improvement to prevent escalation and manage people's expectations.
- Undertake further analysis and research on fear of crime/perceptions to gain a better understanding of the factors which affect it.
- Work with the SLP to support a place-based approach to project delivery.

- In addition it was agreed that:
 - The Chair of the SELCSP approaches the three Towns Boards to improve links between them and the Community Safety Partnership to support mutual areas of work.
 - Information from the quarterly Neighbourhood Policing Team's priority setting is communicated to the SELCSP to keep a watching brief on any issues which may require additional support/engagement from partners.

4.5. Environment Priority Partnership/SELCAN

- 4.5.1. The South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN)/Environment Priority Partnership last met in March 2025 where they elected a new Vice Chair, and their next meeting is scheduled for June. At their end of year meeting in December three proposals were presented to the Core Steering Group and are now being taken forward.
- 4.5.2. The Nature Based solutions & Water, Resilience and Adaptation sub-group are developing a Nature Challenge for Schools.
- 4.5.3. The Transport & Energy and Renewables sub-group are developing a cycling proposal which includes a cycle pack and launch events to encourage take-up of cycling, improve awareness around safe cycling, and linking with the cycle hubs, which can offer free refurbished bikes and repairs.
- 4.5.4. The Marketing, Education & Community Engagement sub-group are developing a Carbon Award scheme which comprises a package of support and subsidised training for businesses, as well as an awards event.
- 4.5.5. Members have developed a monthly spotlight calendar for the website and social media channels, which highlights environmental campaign topics such as Energy Savers Week and are also developing ideas for activities & engaging content for our Lincolnshire Show stand.

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. In September 2024, the Partnership commenced its third Joint Scrutiny of the Partnership. The final report included 7 recommendations around service reviews, partnership risks, delivery plans, MOA, LGR, lobbying, financial resilience, alignment and staffing.
- 5.3. All recommendations are on track and reported monthly to Leadership Team.

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

BID: Business Improvement District

CCG: Clinical Commissioning Group

DCMS: Department for Culture, Media and Sport

DWP: Department for Work and Pensions

EA: Environment Agency

ESOL: English for Speakers of Other Languages

FEZ: Food Enterprise Zone

HLB: Healthy Living Board

LCC: Lincolnshire County Council

LEP: Local Enterprise Partnership

LGA: Local Government Association

LGR: Local Government Reorganisation

LUF: Levelling Up Fund

MHCLG: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

MOA: Memorandum of Agreement

NPO: National Portfolio

PSPO: Public Spaces Protection Order

SELCAN: South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network

S&ELCP: South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

SELCSP: South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership

SLP: Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

SLT: Senior Leadership Team

UKREiiF: UK Real Estate, investment and infrastructure Forum

UKSPF: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Appendices

Appendix A: Performance Management Framework 2025/26

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

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