



Report To:	Full Council
Date:	18 th May 2026
Subject:	South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Performance Report and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
Purpose:	Partnership performance update and MOA review
Key Decision:	No
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Dale Broughton, Leader of the Council
Report Of:	James Gilbert, Service Director – Corporate Services
Report Author:	Richard Baldwin, Strategic Performance Analyst
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 in Autumn 2025.

Recommendations

1. That the content of this report in respect of the progress of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership be noted; and
2. That subject to agreement by the other Partnership Councils, Council approves the updated Memorandum of Agreement for the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (Appendix A) and delegates authority to Executive Director (Programme Delivery) for Boston to sign the revised Agreement on behalf of this Council. The new Agreement, upon signing, will replace the previous Agreement.

Reasons for Recommendations

- To monitor and report on the progress of the Partnership.
- To update the Memorandum of Agreement to reflect the Partnership is now embedded and in response to feedback from the Partnership Scrutiny undertaken in 2024.

Other Options Considered

- To not update the Memorandum of Agreement – discounted. A review and updating of the Agreement were considered necessary following the 2024 annual Partnership scrutiny.

1. Background

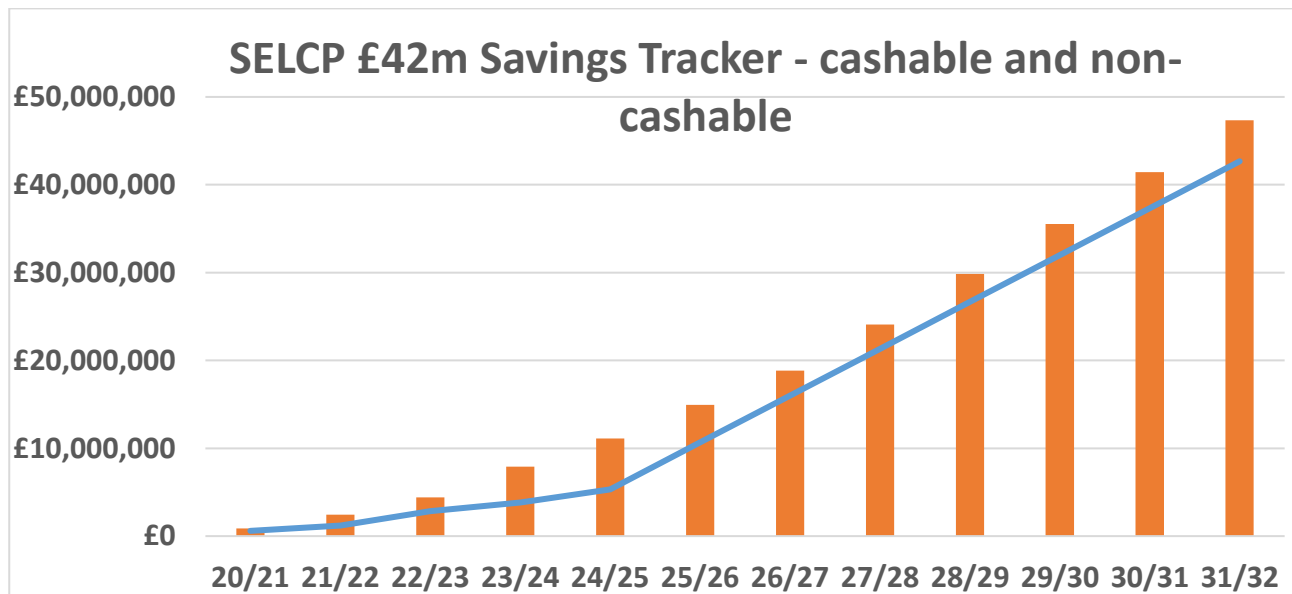
- 1.1 The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council) launched on 1st October 2021.
- 1.2 This report sets out the progress of the Partnership since the last update in Autumn 2025.

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 For the year 2025/26, of the 102 activities in the ADP for the year, 81% were completed, or on track if a multi-year action. Delivery is being managed by Service Directors and corporate monitoring.

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	£20,680,797	£28,505,595	£3,581,838	£52,432,508
2025/26	£2,811,466	£25,833,400	£7,402,429	£36,465,294
TOTAL	£74,179,415	£146,261,338	£57,371,856	£277,894,888

- 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. Recent grant awards cover a range of initiatives, including funding for Pride in Place, Extended Producer Responsibility and Household Support Fund.
- 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 the end of March 2026).



- 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 £47,333,486. Additional efficiencies for future years will be added as they are identified through matters such as contract reviews and service reviews.

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	£14,925,731
	26/27	£16,002,000	£18,832,186
	27/28	£21,335,000	£24,096,400
	28/29	£26,669,000	£29,840,230
	29/30	£32,003,000	£35,526,566
	30/31	£37,337,000	£41,421,180
	31/32	£42,671,000	£47,333,486

2.6 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 Priority Partnerships Update

3.1 A number of key Partnerships are established as mechanisms for delivering the strategic priorities of the Partnership are set out in the table below:

Priority Partnership	Subject areas	Sub-regional partners	Initial priorities	Lead
Growth and Prosperity Priority Partnership	Skills, Training/Education, Business Support Employment, Utilities, Economic Development, Transport Infrastructure, Flood Risk	Executive Director of Economic Development, 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.	Executive Director of 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	Executive Director of Communities, Lincolnshire Police, Probation Service.	Fear of crime; Anti-social behaviour; Domestic abuse	Communities
Environment Priority Partnership	Climate Change, Biodiversity, Air Quality, Transport Emissions, Water Resources, Carbon Reduction, Alternative Energy, Sustainability	Executive Director of Communities, Natural England, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire County Council, Environment Agency.	Climate Change Agenda, Carbon foot printing, Asset carbon reduction, Sustainable businesses, Biodiversity and Habitat management	Communities

3.2 Growth and Prosperity Priority Partnership (Economic Development):

3.2.1 Boston Town Deal's flagship project, The Mayflower learning centre, was officially opened by Boston College in March 2026. The project has been designed to tackle skills gaps and support Boston's economic revitalisation and provide inclusive education within a community hub environment for local students, businesses and voluntary services.

- 3.2.2 This investment has been complemented in Skegness, with the completion of a new £14million TEC College in September 2025. The new campus is making a significant impact on the local community by providing accessible education opportunities in critical areas such as construction, engineering, hospitality, tourism, digital skills training, and adult learning and was officially opened in January 2026.
- 3.2.3 Our UKSPF-funded 'People and Skills' programme has delivered investment in a number of priority initiatives.
- 3.2.4 Steadfast Connect2Grow - Supporting the continuation of the successful 'Connect2Grow' project offered by Steadfast Training in Boston and South Holland, specifically targeting those in the community who are economically inactive with support in terms of employability skills, an accredited or industry-recognised qualification or a guaranteed interview with an employer.
- 3.2.5 Boston College – Restart, Reskill, Upskill. A continuation of Boston College's Restart, Reskill, Upskill project delivered across the SELCP area. Targeted at supporting those who are economically inactive to receive both a qualification and a guaranteed interview with a local employer.
- 3.2.6 Heritage Lincolnshire Heritage Skills – Continuing support for Heritage Lincolnshire to hold heritage skills sessions for learners interested in learning shortage 'in demand' historic environment skills and exploring careers in the sector. The is supporting the development of a Sub-Regional Heritage Skills strategy in concert with Historic England.
- 3.2.7 University of Lincoln – Higher Level Engineering Skills. Continuing the successful project targeted at supporting learners of all ages to undertake short accredited courses and insight days in the food and agricultural sector, as well as exploring career opportunities in the sector and AI/robotics skills for local residents.
- 3.2.8 The SELCP-led Future Fest was held at Peter Paine Centre in Boston. Attracting young people from schools across the SELCP area, including a large number of businesses from the sub-region, the event showcased local career opportunities to young people.

3.3 Healthy Lives Priority Partnership

- 3.3.1 The Healthy Living Board (HLB) continues to provide strategic oversight and a collaborative partnership forum to address health inequalities and improve health outcomes across South and East Lincolnshire. Partners from local government, health, and the voluntary and community sector are working collectively to align activity, share intelligence and target resources effectively.
- 3.3.2 HLB have recently reviewed Terms of Reference & membership to ensure wider representation and reflection of current partnership work across the 3 Councils. New members include representatives from Public Health, Primary Care Networks & NHS Neighbourhood Leads.

- 3.3.3 East Lindsey District Council's Portfolio holder for Partnerships is now attending the Lincolnshire Health & Wellbeing board on behalf of Lincolnshire District Councils. This will ensure place-based partnership and local needs are considered in the development of NHS Neighbourhood Health Plans.
- 3.3.4 Sport England Place Partnership programme with Active Lincolnshire continues to evolve, with local stakeholder and community engagement and 'theory of change' developed to identify local priorities. Bids will be submitted to Sport England for each Council area over the next 6 months, with funding intended to 'facilitate and enable' physical activity across the system.
- 3.3.5 Healthy Communities Team now in place following service review. The new SELCP team will work across 3 key strands – Health inequalities, Ageing Well & Prevention & Resilience (including financial and digital inclusion) and can be contacted at healthycommunities@e-lindsey.gov.uk
- 3.3.6 There are 2 ongoing Leisure Centre refurbishment projects, one in Boston and one in South Holland, which will have a significant benefit once completed, progress is reported through the Major projects working group. There was a new Agency Agreement starting on the 1st April with Parkwood, which currently incorporates the South Holland exiting/temporary facilities as well as the PRSA in Boston, the GMLC/refurbished Boston Leisure Centre is also coming on line this December. ELDC Leisure facilities will follow suit from October 27.

3.4 Safer Communities Priority Partnership

- 3.4.1 There has been one meeting of the South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership since the last update, this was held in February 2026.
- 3.4.2 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue gave a presentation on the work of the Arson Task Force and their 'FireStoppers' campaign which is promoted for anonymous reporting. Partners were encouraged to help promote this to the public.
- 3.4.3 Boston's Community Safety Officers delivered an overview of their activity, highlighting over 750 hours of patrols, multiple ASB interventions, and strong partnership work with police and the CCTV team.
- 3.4.4 Updates were provided on two of the projects within the action plan:
- Fear of Crime Task & Finish Group: Initial actions underway including new "See it, Report it, Change it" comms approach and expanded reporting guidance.
 - Skegness Place Based Project: Hotspot area identified; engagement and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) workstreams established; strong links with Caravan Park Watch. Next steps - Deep dive on Skegness hotspot data; establish community reference group.
- 3.4.5 The group were updated that the Community Safety Strategy has been refreshed and the action plan reorganised and expanded for the year ahead.

3.4.6 An update was provided on the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership. Preparations are underway for the abolition of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3.5 Environment Priority Partnership/SELCAN

3.5.2 An advert has also been developed by the network to promote SELCAN to potential new members and the network are also working with a PHD student on a research project around Regenerative Futures.

3.5.3 The Nature Based Solutions sub-group are working towards the Nature Challenge for Schools and have been reviewing their delivery plan as well as the newly adopted tree and hedgerow strategy to see where potential links are and opportunities to support community objectives.

3.5.4 The Built Environment, Agriculture & Food sub-group have been developing web content around eating seasonal and local food and are looking at attending the Lincs Food Partnership Food Summit which is themed around resilience.

3.5.5 The Transport & Energy sub-group have continued delivery of their cycle project to community groups, bike hubs, residents, and education settings throughout the year, and have now got sign-ups for all 300 of the packs we had made up. Members recently attended events including Boston College Road Safety Day where one of our members gave students a visibility demonstration and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School's Environment & Sustainability week. The group are also now exploring the potential to roll out a second phase of the project as take-up has been very good and seems to be growing, with the YMCA having also shown an interest in receiving packs.

3.5.6 The Business, Marketing Education sub-group have been working towards the delivery of the Sustainability Stars project, which provides subsidised sustainability training to businesses in the sub-region.

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

4 Local Government Reorganisation

4.5 The Councils are collectively working with other Councils in Greater Lincolnshire to undertake early preparatory work to lay the foundations for Local Government Reorganisation.

4.6 Work is being undertaken, led by Chief Executives, in respect of legal/governance, HR, ICT/data, finance and assets.

4.7 It is likely the Government's chosen model for Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire will be known before the summer Parliamentary recess.

4.8 At the present time, indications suggest that Reorganisation will still take place in early 2028.

5 Partnership Memorandum of Agreement

5.5 In late September 2021, prior to the inception of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, each partner Council signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to underpin the arrangements in which the Councils would work together to support one another.

5.6 In 2024, the Partnership Councils joint scrutiny report made the following recommendation as previously reported to Council.

Review the MOA for the Partnership to ensure it remains relevant and builds in flexibility to allow the Partnership to develop (for example to improve the way the annual partnership scrutiny works).

Appendix A presents a revised MOA with the key changes as follows:

Key changes	Rationale
Amendments to the Terms of Reference for Joint Strategy Board to remove the need for their approval on Partnership service reviews. Sign off would be via Stakeholder Board and relevant Portfolio Holders (plus sovereign Council governance).	Most major service reviews are now completed and changes in the future are likely to be light touch. Given Joint Strategy Board meets twice-yearly this builds in greater flexibility.
Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel. Change to Terms of Reference for this advisory Panel.	Would meet for Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer employment matters only. Previously it also covered the tier below.
Partnership Performance Reports to Council to move from six monthly to annually.	To reflect the Partnership is now well embedded.
Flexibility around Partnership scrutiny	Feedback was that the previous MOA was too ridged (for example, included the requirement for an annual scrutiny of the Partnership). The revised MOA provides the ability for the Councils to jointly agree a programme of scrutiny focused on the issues they consider most relevant.
Termination and withdrawal period extended from 12 to 18 months	Whilst potentially a moot point due to Local Government Reorganisation, this is amended in recognition that the extent of the shared working between the Councils would require a longer period to un-do.
New clause at 10.8 to reflect Local Government Reorganisation.	Should the Councils cease to exist as legal entities, this clause makes clear the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership will also cease to exist and this agreement will expire.

6 Conclusion

6.1 Significant progress continues to be made by the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

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 3 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 3 of this report sets out details of the Healthy Lives Priority Partnership.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Section 3 of this report sets out details of the Environment Priority Partnership.

Acronyms

ADP: Alignment and Delivery Plan

CCG: Clinical Commissioning Group

EA: Environment Agency

HLB: Healthy Living Board

LCC: Lincolnshire County Council

LGA: Local Government Association

LGR: Local Government Reorganisation

MOA: Memorandum of Agreement

SELCAN: South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network

SELCP: South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

SELCSP: South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership

SLP: Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

SLT: Senior Leadership Team

UKSPF: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Appendices

Appendix A – Revised Memorandum of Agreement

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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