South Kesteven District Chapter  
Lincolnshire Sustainable Community Strategy

Introducing South Kesteven

South Kesteven is located in the south west corner of Lincolnshire and covers 365 square miles. There are 4 main towns: Grantham, Stamford, Bourne, and the Deepings and over 80 villages. The population is growing rapidly and the district offers a desirable location and attractive prices for commuters to Peterborough and London. The local district council and police administrative headquarters are based in Grantham and there is also substantial new housing development underway in Grantham.

Demographic Context

The area was one of the fastest growing districts in the UK between 1991 and 2001. The population of the area is estimated by the Office for National Statistics to be 131,100 for mid 2007. This is an increase of over six thousand since the Census 2001. Historically, between the Census’ 1991 and 2001 there was a 14% increase in population, compared to 4% for the East Midlands and 2.5% nationally. The gender split in 2001 was 49% male and 51% female. Grantham town is the largest of the settlements with approximately 15,718 households. Stamford is next largest with approximately 8,901, Bourne with approximately 6,017 and the Deepings with approximately 5,535, leaving almost 21,500 households spread over the rest of the 350 sq miles of the district.

Economy

Grantham has had a long association with the engineering industry, and the manufacturing base in all areas continues to expand and diversify along with food processing, cold storage, distribution, agriculture, local government and the NHS, tourism and the service sectors. The unemployment rate for South Kesteven is 2.7% (Jan 2009) as compared to 3.3% for the East Midlands. The employment rate (2008) is 79.7% as compared to 75.8% for East Midlands. Much of the employment within the district, however, has historically been low paid with low skill levels and the average incomes are distorted by very high incomes of those commuting out of the district. There are excellent high achieving schools in the district with 5 secondary schools achieving a 90%+ pass rate for 5 GCSE A*-C grades in 2007 and 64.5% of all people have qualifications of NVQ2 or above. The area is attracting people of the middle age groups, including families with young children rather than older residents.

The number of VAT registered businesses as at the beginning of 2008 was 5,015 which is an increase on the previous year of 4.37% and indeed has increased year on year for the past ten years or more. An analysis of the NNDR list indicated in Mar 2008 that there are 1009 industrial units, 556 office units and 1579 retail units (of which 344 are recorded as being vacant). Some of the main employers in the district are in the public sector (including education), manufacturing and food processing businesses.

Spatial Profile

The area lies approximately 100 miles from London, which is just an hour away by train from Grantham and within easy reach of Nottingham, Lincoln
and Peterborough by road and rail. The district is skirted to the west by the A1 with the A15, A16 and A52 main road connections to other parts of Lincolnshire and the East Midlands. Whilst there are bus services between the major settlements and the many rural villages, the frequency of the services leaves the population heavily reliant on their cars for transport. In addition, East Midlands airport and Doncaster Sheffield airport are just over one hour’s drive away.

**Vision**

**South Kesteven by 2030**

A successful area supported by excellent social and transport infrastructure. Grantham will have developed as a key economic centre not only in Lincolnshire but also sub regionally. Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings will have equally developed their distinctive market town roles. Rural communities will have remained viable by achieving development that supports their needs. All of this will have been achieved in ways which ensures a good quality of life, health and well being for everyone as well as celebrating the distinctiveness of the district’s countryside and heritage.

**Our Priorities**

Our vision and priorities take full account of spatial and environmental issues and are fully aligned with the planning objectives set out in the Local Development framework. In establishing the priorities which shape South Kesteven we used a range of consultation documents and results collected by a selection of the partners of the LSP including: SKDC, LCC, PCT, Lincolnshire Police, Community Lincs and the Community Safety Partnership. The results of this research gave us three distinct strategic priorities for the district:

**Sustainable Growth** - There are a number of major development plans within the district:

**Grantham Growth Point** – In 2006 Grantham was confirmed as a new Growth Point area with the potential to deliver new homes and many more jobs over the next twenty years. Since then the district and county councils along with key partners have developed a strong vision for the town to deliver a true step change and transform it into a better place to live, visit and invest. The aim is to build upon Grantham’s principal assets namely its location, excellent transport links, environment and its people. Growth Point status will allow major housing expansion and the chance to enhance the town centre, but will also allow the population to expand from 38,000 in 15,000 households to 50,000 in 21,000 households. This will be delivered together with significant local infrastructure improvements including more shopping facilities, better roads, local transport, new green linkages and public realm projects.

The vision for Grantham Growth is “To promote ambitious but balanced growth within Grantham, making it one of the regions most aspirational locations to live, to work, and to visit.” The Grantham Growth Point website can be viewed at [www.granthamforgrowth.co.uk](http://www.granthamforgrowth.co.uk).

**Bourne Core Area** - The Bourne Core Retail area is the proposed expansion and development of the town centre to meet the needs of the town’s growing population. There is continued growth of the industrial units which are being
developed in conjunction with the building of 2,000 planned new homes on the Elsea Park estate.

The LSP views Sustainable Growth not only in terms of the built environment but also with regard to the natural environment and the impact of climate change on the district. If both work in harmony we can build sustainable communities in which people want to live and work, now and in the future. Only by developing this balance will we meet the diverse needs of our residents, improving quality of life and offering opportunities which bring communities together. We don’t just want to build housing – we want to build the communities who live and work in South Kesteven.

The main outcomes for Sustainable Growth are:

- Grantham to become a sub-regional centre
- Redevelopment of Bourne Core Area including retail, commercial and residential uses in modern buildings
- to support the development of affordable housing across the district
- to ensure that these developments and the natural environment are sustainable
- to develop community transport schemes to prevent isolation of our vulnerable residents
- to promote opportunities for formal and informal education
- to ensure opportunities for employment

**Community Cohesion** - South Kesteven has seen large scale population change in the last five years (national statistics show that the ethnic demographic has increased from 3.4% to 5.8% - last updated August 08 (Office for National Statistics – Neighbourhood Statistics – Resident Population Estimates by Ethnic Group) with migrant workers coming into the district from eastern Europe and Portugal predominantly. South Kesteven’s last resident’s survey (2006/7) asked a question on Community Cohesion. The nationally published figure for the district in response to the question on whether the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together was 77%. This was just above the bottom quartile for all councils. Once the detail behind the responses was broken down it was clear that a significant proportion of our residents had a low level of awareness one way or another to make a firm judgement on the question. This led us to identify Community Cohesion as a priority for the district believing that the issue is greater than the apparent outcome of the survey.

Of course community cohesion also addresses issues around Community Safety as well as inter-generational tolerance and equality of service for older people and people with disabilities. In short, achieving community cohesion means working together to build a strong, safe, inclusive South Kesteven.

With an ever-changing population Community Cohesion needs a long-term commitment in South Kesteven. In order to make sure that South Kesteven as a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area we will develop a programme of activity which ensures:

- People will share respect for one another, develop community pride and, regardless of the diversity of their backgrounds, get on well together
• People will feel safe within their own neighbourhoods
• Cultural Diversity is embraced and celebrated

**Healthy Living** - The health of the population of South Kesteven is ‘good’ when compared to the rest of the country. There are comparatively lower levels of coronary heart disease, strokes, cancers, infant mortality and teenage pregnancy. However, there are variations in health and illness within the district in terms of life expectancy, ill-health and long-term illness and such variations are often reflected in the deprivation scores for individual wards across the district. The PCT has identified Harrowby, Earlesfield and St Wulfram’s wards as areas of concern. The two key inequalities across South Kesteven have been identified as obesity – 2008 health profile for South Kesteven states that 24.6% of adults in the district are obese and alcohol misuse (188 recorded hospital admissions in 2008) and it is our intention to reduce these inequalities through projects and commissions which promote healthy lifestyles tackling issues with a culture of ‘prevention rather than cure’.

To improve obesity levels in both children and adults and reduce alcohol misuse in South Kesteven we intend to:

• Provide a range of educational activities which will lead to improved knowledge of nutrition and the importance of physical activity
• Provide training for professionals working either directly or indirectly with young people on the importance of alcohol awareness thereby reducing incidents of anti-social or criminal behaviour through binge drinking.
• Reduce the number of admissions to hospital related to alcohol consumption
• Maximise the district’s use of leisure facilities – either recreationally or as exercise referral to help prevent ill health within South Kesteven

Although these priorities are shown as independent of each other we will seek, wherever possible, to link and support the delivery of projects and commissions across South Kesteven.

**Reference Documents:**
SK Core Strategy 2009
SK Generic Equality Scheme 2009 – 2012
SK Resident’s Survey 2006/7
SK Health Profile 2008 (Dept of Health)
Office of National Statistics – Mid year population estimates 2007
South Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008 - 2011
2001 Census