

LINCOLNSHIRE

**Providing for Lincolnshire's Future -
A Sustainability Framework**

incorporating

Environmental Stewardship Strategy

March 2005

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Preface

People are increasingly aware that the long term future of the planet may be determined by what we do today. National governments, multi-national companies and natural processes have considerable influence on the global environment. However, it has also been recognised that individual citizens can make negative or beneficial impacts on the local environment that can contribute to the world wide situation.

This approach has become known as 'think global, act local' and has been enshrined in United Kingdom policy under the banner of 'Local Agenda 21'. This is our country's response to the international agreement reached at the 'Earth Summit' in Rio in 1992, and developed at the second 'Earth Summit' in Johannesburg in 2002.

There is a lot of jargon: Agenda 21, Sustainability, Stewardship and so on. Although the science is complex and the solutions to problems are difficult to achieve, the objective can be put simply:

'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

Lincolnshire County Council is expected to demonstrate leadership on this issue. This does not mean telling people what to do. It does mean helping people to understand how they can contribute to a better environment and community. The County Council wishes to work in partnership with others.

The County Council also needs to set an example.

This document explains Lincolnshire County Council's policies, sets out its intentions and gives examples of what it is already doing in Providing for Lincolnshire's Future.



William Webb

Executive Member with responsibility for sustainability

The County Council adopted the Sustainability Framework & Environmental Stewardship Strategy on 21st September 2004.

Sustainability Framework

A THE COUNCIL'S AMBITIONS

A1 The County Council has identified six ambitions that will drive its objectives and policy over the next few years. These are:

Create economic prosperity

We will work to raise the incomes of all the people of Lincolnshire through improving skills, creating jobs and encouraging business investment.

Enrich the quality of life

We will work with our partners to create a safe and secure community, which protects and cares for the disadvantaged and establishes a real sense of community.

We will also support an environment, which is safe, sustainable and healthy.

Provide the opportunity for people to achieve their full potential

We will support people of all ages and from all backgrounds to achieve their full potential through the provision of a strong infrastructure, from which we can deliver excellence in education; access to children's services; provide access to services which promote health and sport; encourage life long learning.

Improve community engagement

We will proactively engage with our community, seeking and valuing their views; listening and responding to them; and regularly communicating to keep them informed and involved.

Improve the transport infrastructure throughout the county

We will focus on enhancing and enlarging our transport infrastructure by protecting, maintaining and promoting our existing rail and road networks; as well as improving our strategic transport links.

Provide community focused, cost effective services

We will provide services which are led by the needs and expectations of our community and delivered in the most efficient and effective way, ensuring at all times that we communicate with our customers to understand both their needs and ongoing levels of satisfaction.

B SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL

● **Sustainability**

Lincolnshire County Council defines sustainability as meeting the following four objectives at the same time, in Lincolnshire and the world as a whole:

- effective protection of the environment
- prudent use of natural resources
- social progress which meets the needs of everyone
- high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

(using the UK Government “Better Quality for Life – a strategy for sustainable development for the UK” 1999 definition. A revised Strategy is due to be published in March 2005)

In addition to the Government Strategy all regions were required to adopt a Regional Sustainable Development Framework (RSDF). In the East Midlands a unique approach was taken. An Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) was agreed as the overarching framework for all strategies in the East Midlands and acts as the RSDF. This is intended to aid integration in policy making, covering as it does, economic, social, environmental and spatial themes.

- B1** Sustainability principles are too important to be identified as a restricted area of activity within the County Council’s portfolio of duties, powers and responsibilities. Therefore, the purpose of this framework is to provide some guiding principles for the preparation of all the policies that will be developed to fulfil the Councils Ambitions and Objectives.

These principles are detailed in B2, B3 and B4 opposite. Wherever possible they should be met at the same time - providing a win-win-win for society, economy and environment.

Sustainability principles for social, economic and environmental themes

B2 Principles for meeting social needs in a sustainable way

The County Council will endeavour to:

- a) maximise everyone's access to the skills and knowledge needed to play a full part in society;
- b) maximise everyone's access to services;
- c) encourage local needs to be met locally wherever possible;
- d) promote and develop safe and secure environments that reduce the potential for, and fear of, crime;
- e) protect and enhance human health and amenity through safe, clean, pleasant environments;
- f) value, protect and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness thus strengthening local community and cultural identity;
- g) develop initiatives to increase quality of life through access to a diverse range of high quality environments;
- h) create balance and linkages between green space and built up areas;
- i) promote enjoyment of open spaces and appreciation of their importance;
- j) emphasise preventative social actions as well as social care;
- k) take account of the needs of current and future generations.

B3 Principles for achieving economic growth in a sustainable way

The County Council will promote and facilitate economic success that:

- a) maintains and further develops a vibrant local economy while minimising adverse effects on the local, national or global environment;
- b) gives access to satisfying and rewarding work;
- c) recognises the contribution to society of unpaid work;
- d) encourages access to facilities, services, goods and other people in ways that reduce the need to travel and minimise impacts on the environment;
- e) makes opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily available to all;
- f) encourages the most efficient and effective use of resources through education, re-use and recycling;
- g) investigates, uses and promotes sustainable energy practices;
- h) reuses natural resources;
- i) delivers sustainable trade and business practices; and
- j) takes account of the needs of current and future generations.

B4 Principles for a sustainable environment

The County Council will take into account the need to protect and enhance the environment while developing its social and economic agenda. It will develop strategies that:

- a) aim to increase the quality of air, water and soil;
- b) use energy, water and other natural resources efficiently and with care;
- c) encourage efficient use of energy and water in our communities;
- d) minimise waste, then re-use or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery, and finally treat or dispose of what is left;
- e) recognise the need to limit pollution to levels that do not impact unacceptably on people or natural systems;
- f) value, protect and enhance the diversity of the natural and built environment;
- g) promote sustainable patterns and forms of development;
- h) take account of the needs of current and future generations;
- i) protect and enhance the biodiversity by restoring and recreating priority habitats.

C IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

● **Principles**

- C1** It is the policy of the Council that the Sustainability Framework should be effected by integrating its principles into all County Council policies and plans. Each Portfolio Holder and relevant Director will therefore ensure that the Framework is reflected in their areas of responsibility.
- C2** Consequently, the principles of LA21 and Sustainability will be reflected in all Directorates and in many policies rather than in a single unit or statement.
- C3** There are already many examples of work that take into account the principles of sustainability. These are listed in the Annex. However, The Council intends to be more systematic in promoting its sustainability objectives.
- C4** The Council recognises that it can help raise awareness of sustainability issues within Lincolnshire. This will be achieved through education and promotion of good practice and working with others.

● **Complementary Documents**

- C5** This Framework is not intended to replace other policy documents. In the fields of social and economic policy in particular, a number of complementary documents will be required.
- C6** An Environmental Stewardship Statement is attached to complete the Framework as an LA21 Statement.

D MONITORING THE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

- D1** The Executive Committee will monitor the implementation of the Sustainability Framework and determine appropriate reporting methodologies.
- D2** Each Director is responsible for incorporating the principles in the Sustainability Framework as appropriate within their service jurisdiction. The Director of Highways & Planning will assist in collating information from directorates and ensure that the Executive and Council is kept informed of new developments in the sustainability agenda.

Environmental Stewardship Strategy

Lincolnshire County Council will develop its social and economic agenda around the need to protect and enhance the environment. Everyone has responsibilities to act as stewards of our environment so that future generations may benefit from Lincolnshire's heritage and environment. The County Council will take positive action to ensure it plays a significant role in Environmental Stewardship, particularly with respect to:

- Resource Management
- Waste Management
- Minimising Pollution
- The Natural Environment
- The Built Environment
- Cultural and Heritage Management
- Sustainable Development

Resources Management

Aim: *to use energy, water, land and other natural resources efficiently and with care; and to utilise renewable energy where practicable.*

Key Areas for Action:

- ◆ Sustainable Energy Policy
- ◆ appropriate sections in the Revised Structure Plan

Waste Management

Aim: *to minimise waste, then re-use or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery, and finally treat or dispose of what is left.*

Key Areas for Action:

- ◆ Implement Waste Management Strategy
- ◆ Promote good waste management practices

Minimising Pollution

Aim: *to minimise and reduce the impacts of pollution on people and natural systems.*

Key Areas for Action:

- ◆ appropriate sections of new Local Transport Plan
- ◆ County Council Practices

Natural Environment

Aim: *encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity by protecting and creating habitats and managing land appropriately.*

Key Areas for Action:

- ◆ Local Conservation Plan
- ◆ Biodiversity Action Plan

Built Environment

Aim: *to value, protect and enhance the diversity of the built environment.*

Key Areas for Action:

- ◆ Local Conservation Plan
- ◆ appropriate sections in Revised Structure Plan

Cultural and Heritage Management

Aim: *to record, protect and promote our culture and heritage in a sustainable manner.*

Key Areas for Action:

- ◆ Cultural Strategy
- ◆ Tourism

Sustainable Development

Aim: *to promote sustainable patterns and forms of development and the use of sustainable business practice.*

Key Areas for Action:

- ◆ revised Structure Plan
- ◆ Economic Development strategies

Existing Sustainability Practices

| Ref | Activity in Highways & Planning Directorate | Responsibility |
|-----|---|--|
| H&P | Local Transport Plan programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Travel Zones InterConnect, Call Connect and Call ConnectPlus Road Safety | Divisions Transport Group Divisions/LRSP |
| H&P | Structure Plan (Deposit Draft) | Lincs Dev/Planning |
| H&P | Waste Local Plan (Deposit Draft) | Planning Group |
| H&P | Co-adopted Wolds Management Plan | Wolds Project Officer |
| H&P | Co-adopted Wash Management Plan | Wash Project Officer |
| H&P | Support to Wolds Joint Advisory Committee | Conservation + partners |
| H&P | Wolds Sustainable Development grant fund | Wolds Project Officer |
| H&P | Conservation Projects (e.g. Historic Fabric Audit) | Conservation Team |
| H&P | Municipal Waste Management Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage recycling & composting encouraging landfill gas energy projects | Waste Management Team |
| H&P | Re-use and recycling of construction materials | Divisions/Lab/LCR |
| H&P | Fleet efficiencies | Transport Group/TransLinc |
| H&P | Support for Community Transport initiatives | Transport Group |
| Ref | Activity in Lincolnshire Development | Responsibility |
| LD | Lincolnshire Agenda | Lincolnshire Development |
| LD | Support to Rural Action Zone | Lincolnshire Development |
| Ref | Activity in Education & Cultural Services | Responsibility |
| ECS | Rural Academy | Director of Education and Cultural Services |
| ECS | Coastal Academy | Director of Education and Cultural Services |
| ECS | Cultural Strategy | Head of Cultural Services |
| ECS | Environmental Education & Environmental Awards Scheme (Eco-Schools and Healthy Schools Programme) | Director of Education and Cultural Services |
| Ref | Activity in Provision of Accommodation & Buildings | Responsibility |
| A&B | Energy and Water Efficiency in buildings | HBS |
| A&B | Purchase of "green electricity" | HBS |
| A&B | Use of sustainable hardwoods | HBS |
| Ref | Central Support Activities | Responsibility |
| CT | Information & Communications Technology for e-government | Chief Executive |

Providing for Lincolnshire's Future

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2004-05

| STRATEGIC CORPORATE ACTIONS | RESPONSIBILITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|---|---|
| 1/04 Adopt the Structure Plan | Director of Highways and Planning | Deposit Draft: April 2004 Adoption: 2005 |
| 2/04 Adopt the Waste Local Plan | Director of Highways and Planning | Deposit Draft: May 2004 Adoption: 2006 |
| 3/04 Develop and Adopt Lincolnshire Waste Strategy | Lincolnshire Waste Partnership | Early 2005 |
| 4/04 Develop and Adopt Local Transport Plan | Director of Highways and Planning | July 2005 |
| 5/04 Adopt and implement County Council Travel Plan | To be agreed | June 2005 |
| Other actions to be determined by Directors and Portfolio Holders | Director of Highways and Planning to discuss with Directors | Develop for publication in 2005-6 Action Plan |

USEFUL LINKS

National:

UK Government Sustainable Development site www.sustainable-development.gov.uk
 Sustainable Development in Government www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sdig/index.htm

Regional:

East Midlands Regional Assembly www.emra.gov.uk
 Regional Environment Strategy www.actions4environment.org.uk
 Regional Energy Strategy www.energy4enterprise.org.uk/index.asp

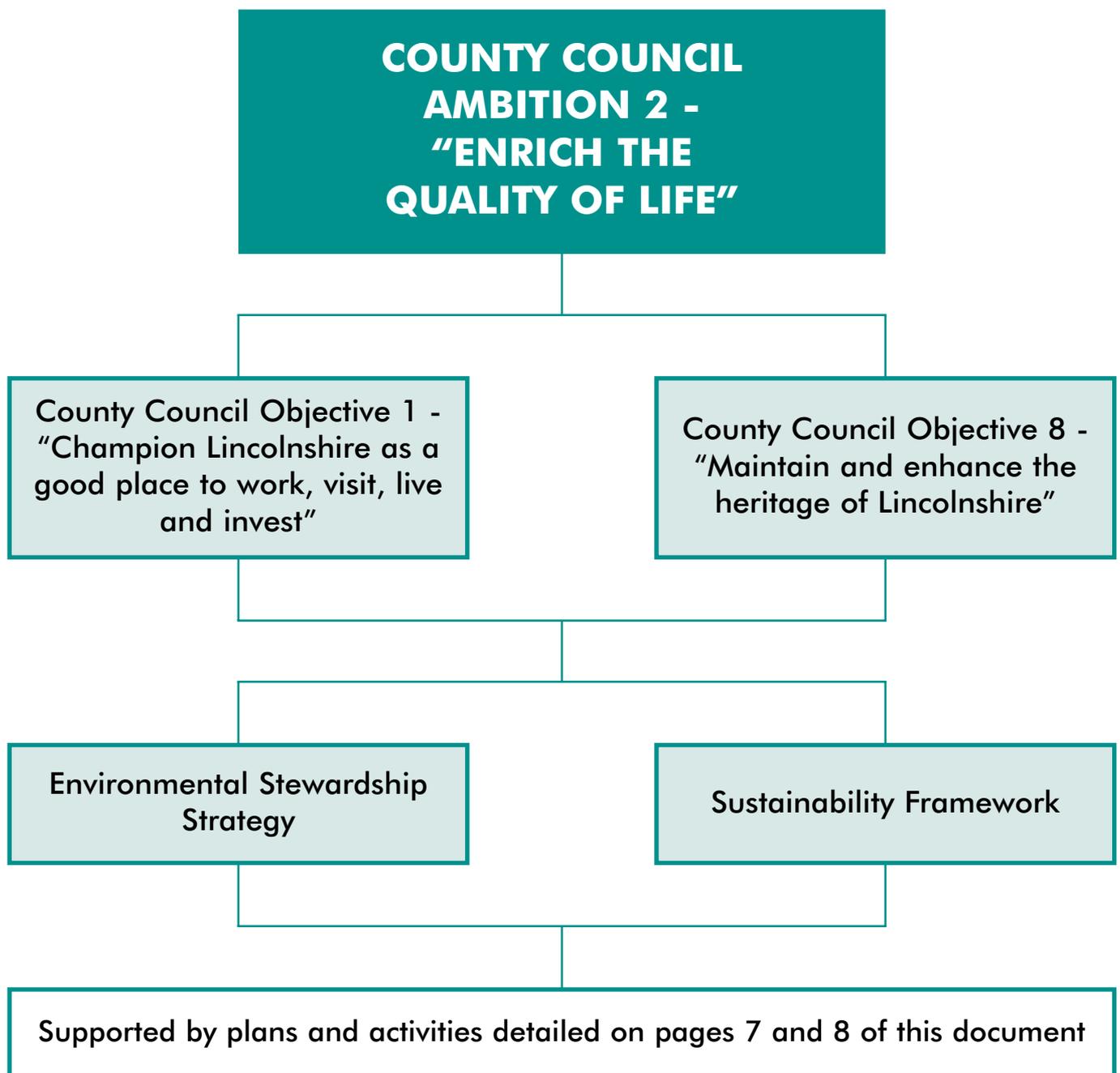
Local:

Lincolnshire County Council www.lincolnshire.gov.uk
 Various pages under Environment and Safety (Conservation; Natural Resources; Planning and Development; Recycling and Waste etc.)
 Transport and Roads (Public Transport; Planning and Infrastructure; Road Safety - Cycling and Walking)

Should you wish any further information on the Framework and Strategy please contact the County Council's Sustainability Officer, Douglas Robinson, on (01522) 554816 or E-mail: sustainability@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Comprehensive Environment Plan

The Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Strategy along with other key documents help deliver one of the Council's ambitions; To Enrich the Quality of Life, through 2 of its objectives; Champion Lincolnshire as a good place to work, visit, live and invest and to Maintain and enhance the heritage of Lincolnshire.



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