

LINCOLNSHIRE RESEARCH OBSERVATORY

Executive Steering Group

Minutes from Meeting held on Tuesday 20 June 2006

Present:

MBr Director of Public Health, East Lincolnshire PCT (Chair)
APa Research Co-ordinator, Economic Regeneration
APe Senior Development Assistant, Economic Regeneration
JH Information and Liaison Officer, Lincolnshire Research Observatory
DJ Research and Project Officer, LSC Lincolnshire & Rutland
WR EMDA
DD Director, Business24
BC Research Officer, West Lindsey District Council
LM Strategic Information Analyst, City of Lincoln Council
AH Organisational Development Team, Boston Borough Council
CH Strategic Services Manager, Children's Links

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

AS Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Enterprise
AE Public Health Specialist, West Lincolnshire PCT
CC Performance and Improvement Officer, South Holland District Council
EP Principal Policy Officer, North Kesteven District Council
ED Senior Information Analyst (Public Health), Lincolnshire Shared Services
MW Strategic Development Manager (Planning and Review), Lincolnshire County Council Social Services
RW Director of Health Improvement, West Lincolnshire PCT
JW County Manager – Planning and Review, Lincolnshire County Council Social Services
PB Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Tourism
TP Head of Policy and Performance, North Kesteven District Council
RT Knowledge Director, Connexions Lincolnshire & Rutland
FW Assistant Chief Executive, Community Council for Lincolnshire

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Restructuring

MBr stated that from 1 October 2006 one PCT will exist for the whole of Lincolnshire, the new Chief Executive is due to be appointed by the end of July 2006. The development of a single integrated Public Health Network for Lincolnshire is ongoing. A model for how Public

Health should operate is currently being developed. Joint posts between Public Health and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) are still in discussion.

APa stated that the re-organisation of LCC is near completion. All Directors and Assistant Directors have now been appointed. Lincolnshire Development is now known as Economic Regeneration. The LRO is not currently affected and will remain within Economic Regeneration.

4. Progress to Date on the Development of the Countywide Intelligence System

Presentation given by APa on the GIS project. As part of the GIS project the LRO will be redeveloped, the current system was built for practitioners and following advances in ICT the LRO needs to be re-evaluated. The new system will allow the LRO to be customised to each user, and will be designed to complement the current systems used by partners.

Geostore - will become the single definitive database powering various systems, including the LRO. Data from LCC Highways and LRO is currently being cleaned and added and a protocol is being developed.

PlanAccess - a test version can be found at <http://maps.Lincolnshire.gov.uk>. The system will allow members of the public to pinpoint problems such as faulty streetlights, incidents of anti-social behaviour, or locate local facilities such as schools and libraries. Discussions are currently taking place with the Customer Service Centre regarding their adoption of the system.

PlanWeb - will replace current MapInfo licenses within LCC; will be available to all partners once the issue with firewalls is resolved. Data can be viewed from many levels, down to Super Output Areas. Training is anticipated to commence in September.

GeoReveal - will replace the LRO. The system has the ability to customise the entry level for different users, such as public, partners and practitioners reflecting their individual requirements. It is anticipated that the new LRO will be launched in October 2006.

PlanAccess, PlanWeb and GeoReveal will all be populated from Geostore. Data is automatically updated each night and published on to each site.

The first stage audit is due to begin at the end of June when the system is rolled out to Lincolnshire Enterprise using their data. This will test the ability of the system to operate through an external firewall. Following the audit the system can then be rolled out to all partners.

APa stated that all information should be shared, unless there is a very good reason not to, work will be done to de-personalise any sensitive data.

Training sessions are being planned for using PlanWeb, it is still not known if there will be a cost for these sessions. Further details of training will be forwarded to partners in due course.

The re-launch of the LRO using the GeoReveal system is expected to be in October 2006, the current LRO is still being maintained and updated during the interim period.

The new LRO will show the intelligence behind the raw data, for example when showing a simple population figure; data showing trends and projections will also be displayed.

The new LRO will not replace systems currently used by partners, but will seek to engage partners by linking to the current system and disseminating the information across the current and new systems.

Section 106 - countywide group has been tasked to provide an all-embracing tool for showing the impact new developments can have on existing services. The system will highlight other developments in the area, environmental concerns, and the impact on local services such as education, health and transport.

The Section 106 toolkit is due to be delivered by the end of June 2006.

Progress made:

- Software has been purchased
- Data is currently being cleaned
- PlanAccess - available on <http://maps.lincolnshire.gov.uk> (not complete)
- PlanWeb - roll out end of June, first with Lincolnshire Enterprise, then City of Lincoln Council
- LRO - available towards end of 2006, need to discuss with strategic partners what is needed

5. Agreeing Priorities for Action

In the past LRO has focussed on data, the emphasis is now moving to looking at intelligence. Discussion needs to take place with strategy / policy makers to find out what their needs are from the LRO.

Projects being worked on within the GIS project:

- Customer Service Centre
- PlanWeb roll out to area offices
- Quality of Life
- Sustainable Communities
- Environmental Audit
- Admissions for Schools
- Emergency Planning Unit
- Library Catchment Area
- Children's Services Area Review
- Crime Mapping Toolkit

DD raised the need for business data to be included, such as number of businesses, number employed and training programmes operated.

MBr stated the need to raise awareness of the LRO, and to continue work with those who regularly use it.

Action: APa and JH are happy to talk to partners about their needs or to give demonstrations of the ongoing developments, contact JH to arrange a suitable time.

Action: Details the ongoing promotion of the LRO and a conference in October to mark the launch of the new LRO will be provided by JH at the next Steering Group meeting.

6. Update on ESF Funded Research

Presentation given by APe on the ESF Funded Research conducted in 2005 and the planned research for 2006.

ESF Projects should focus on evolving skills needs, identify future potential trends and put forward suggestions and potential for combating the problem.

Round 2 projects were completed by 31 December 2005, covering Lincolnshire Employer Survey, Updating of the Skills Forecasting Model, Retention of Skilled Workers, Lincolnshire's Future Entrepreneurial Economy and 'Developing the Ties that Bind' study. All information can be found on the LRO by clicking on the ESF logo on the home page.

Action: For further information on the Round 2 projects contact JH

Round 3 projects need to be completed by 31 December 2006. Balance Sheet for Farming research has been delayed, which has had an impact on some of the proposed research topics.

Proposed topics:

- Analysis and interpretation of results from the skills forecasting model
- Consultation with local SME's and communities to provide qualitative data and information on skills availability and needs
- Primary research into the level and transferability of skills, particularly in areas and sectors affected by rural decline
- Research into the available skills in the self-employed and the required skills for self-employment
- Continuing improvement of the LRO website
- Full integration of the toolkit web developments

The topics covering the improvement of the LRO website and the full integration of the toolkit web developments are now encompassed in the GIS Project. The offers an opportunity to review the research programme following feedback from the Steering Group.

Action: Comments on Round 3 projects need to be forwarded to APa as soon as possible.

7. Any Other Business

LCC will be employing a Principal Research Officer on a one-year temporary contract to cover the maternity leave of current staff. Due to the short-term contract for the role it is also available as a secondment opportunity.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 24 August - 10am - Boardroom, Beech House