

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Tuesday, 12 May 2026 at 2.00 pm
Council Chamber - Council Offices,
St. Peter's Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Committee Members: Councillor Murray Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Barry Dobson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Matthew Bailey, Councillor Emma Baker, Councillor James Denniston,
Councillor Graham Jeal, Councillor Gareth Knight, Councillor Chris Noon and
Councillor Rhea Rayside

Agenda

This meeting can be watched as a live stream, or at a later date, via the [SKDC Public-I Channel](#)

- 1. Public Speaking**
The Council welcomes engagement from members of the public. To speak at this meeting please register no later than 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting via democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk
 - 2. Apologies for absence**
 - 3. Disclosure of Interests**
Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.
 - 4. Minutes from the meeting held on 3 February 2026** (Pages 3 - 12)
 - 5. Updates from the previous meeting** (Page 13)
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Published and dispatched by democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk on Friday, 1 May 2026

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Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

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- 6. Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**
- 7. Sport and Physical Activity Strategy** (Pages 15 - 41)
To provide an update on the progress and delivery of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2021 - 2026) and the accompanying Action Plan, including a summary of achievements up to its conclusion in March 2026.
- 8. Cultural Strategy Six Monthly Update** (Pages 43 - 67)
To update committee members on progress of the actions contained within the cultural strategy, and to inform them of progress on the refresh for July 2026
- 9. LeisureSK Ltd Performance Report - Quarter's 3 and 4 2025/26** (Pages 69 - 77)
To provide an update to the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the performance of LeisureSK Ltd during quarter's 3 and 4 in financial year 2025/26 against the leisure management contract objectives.
- 10. LeisureSK Ltd Finance Update** (Pages 79 - 89)
To provide an update regarding the finance performance of LeisureSK Ltd during the financial year 2025/26.
- 11. Council Investment Plan Update** (Pages 91 - 95)
To provide an update on the Council's investment plans across the leisure centre's and sports stadium
- 12. Work Programme 2025/26** (Pages 97 - 100)
- 13. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

Minutes

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Tuesday, 3 February 2026, 2.00 pm

Council Chamber – South Kesteven
House, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham, NG31
6PZ

Committee Members present

Councillor Murray Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Barry Dobson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Matthew Bailey
Councillor Emma Baker
Councillor James Denniston
Councillor Gareth Knight
Councillor Chris Noon
Councillor Rhea Rayside

Cabinet Members present

Councillor Ashley Baxter (Leader of the Council)
Councillor Paul Stokes (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Other Members present

Councillor Robert Leadenham
Councillor Helen Crawford
Councillor Graham Jeal
Councillor Ian Selby

Officers

Karen Whitfield (Assistant Director for Culture, Leisure and Place)
Jade Porter (Arts and Cultural Services Manager)
Michael Chester (Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces)
Beth Goodman (Health and Wellbeing Lead)
Sally Bird (Events Officer)
Amy Pryde (Democratic Services Officer)

47. Public Speaking

There were none.

48. Apologies for absence

All Committee Members were present.

49. Disclosure of Interests

There were none.

50. Minutes from the meeting held on 11 December 2025

Minutes from the meeting held on 11 December 2026 were proposed, seconded and **AGREED** as an accurate record.

51. Updates from the previous meeting

All actions were completed.

52. Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service

The Deputy Leader of the Council updated the Committee on the £2m for Grantham improvements that was being diminished by Lincolnshire County Council administration. At an executive briefing at Lincolnshire County Council, the decision had remained the same.

SKDC administration felt this could potentially be a misappropriation of public funds. They thanked Cllr Richard Davies (Grantham) speaking at the meeting in support of the funding for Grantham.

53. Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

The Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report which provided an updated sport and physical activity strategy for 2026-2031.

Progress had been made in the past 5 years by the Council's Leisure Team in implementing the actions identified in the current strategy, targeting key areas and working with partners to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to live healthy, active lifestyles.

The information detailed in the report included the supporting documents which had been reviewed and where relevant actions had been incorporated in the draft strategy.

The draft strategy was structured around 4 key pillars and included an action plan along with key performance indicators. The four pillars are mentioned as active society, active place, active people and an active system. The refresh of the strategy was essential to ensure the goals and objectives remain relevant and

aligned to national context along with the needs of the community in South Kesteven.

It was outlined that Lincolnshire County Council administration was considering diminishing all funding for One You Lincolnshire physical activity initiatives. Therefore, the Council may need to review future ambitions to mitigate the removal of funding.

The Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead clarified the funding from Lincolnshire County Council currently covered the healthy weight programmes and exercise referral programmes in leisure centres, smoking cessation and community programmes.

One Member highlighted a KPI relating to attendance at leisure facilities within the District (1.2). Concern was raised that the Council could be committing themselves to a KPI which was out of their control.

It was confirmed that reviewing the KPI would be beneficial. The particular KPI (1.2) was from the LeisureSK Ltd contract specification and tracked who was using Council facilities. The KPI measured the inactivity and activity levels and tracked data for people throughout the District.

The Assistant Director of Leisure, Culture and Place suggested the Committee requested the strategy be taken away for further review of the percentage of inactive adults, as the strategy did not set a target at present.

It was noted that many venues held physical activity events, however, were not owned by the Council. It was queried how the attendance at these venues was accounted for.

The Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead confirmed that the data relied on individuals feeding into the Active Lives Survey data.

A query was raised on how the strategy would specifically address rural isolation and transport barriers within the District, which could hinder participation for smaller villages. It was further questioned whether the Council worked with any partners.

The Council were working with Active Lincolnshire to overcome rural barriers, they were proposing a neighbourhood place profile to identify areas of focus.

Another partner such as 'We Are Undefeatable' were a free organisation that people can access from anywhere, offering online workouts and specifically targeted individuals with long-term health conditions.

One Member asked whether people living in the District had been utilising the 'We Are Undefeatable' service.

ACTION: For the Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead to provide statistics on the numbers of people within the District using the 'We Are Undefeatable' service.

A query was raised on whether the Council liaised with other sport providers requesting information on data.

Concern was raised over KPI (1.3) and it may need to be removed due to the lack of funding.

A 'Moving Communities' survey had previously been undertaken, whereby sport providers had provided information into the data. The data did not show the direct numbers of participants.

The Committee were informed that LeisureSK Ltd were currently exploring alternative options to the 'healthy weight' programmes.

One Member requested whether there was any more recent data, as the most recent data within the strategy related to 2022-23. It was highlighted that inactivity levels may be linked to the covid pandemic.

The Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead stated that nationally, recent data was unable to be sourced due to small sample sizes from surveys in South Kesteven, however, it was noted that inactivity levels were on the rise.

A query was raised on whether the 'We Are Undefeatable' service was advertised on the Council's website or in SK Today.

'We Are Undefeatable' service was advertised on the Council's website. Leaflets for the service were handed out at events attended by Council Officers and a social media plan was being undertaken.

One Member queried whether the strategy encouraged the use of green flag status parks.

The Assistant Director of Leisure, Culture and Place clarified that the strategy encouraged use of green flag status parks and recognised the importance of them.

It was queried whether the Council would partner with GP surgeries as well as the NHS to target inactive adults.

The Council worked in partnership with Primary Care Networks (PCN's) and social prescribers to promote offerings around the District. The Council worked directly with some GP surgeries, however, outreach was an issue with surgeries.

One Member highlighted that for every 3 people with diabetes in Stamford, there were 4 people in Bourne and the Deepings. A query was raised on why diabetes

was so prevalent in one specific area and whether it was due to the lack of access to facilities.

ACTION: For the Health and Wellbeing Lead to provide further information on why the rates of diabetes were higher in certain parts of the District.

The Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the updated Sport and Physical Activity Strategy to cover the period 2026 – 2031.

2. Recommend to Cabinet that the draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031 is adopted following a further review of the KPI's.

54. Leisure investment works across the district

The Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report that provided an update on work undertaken as part of the leisure investment programme, alongside support provided by the Council to community organisation in the District.

The Leisure Investment Reserve was established earlier in the financial year. The primary objective was to improve the cosmetic appearance on each of the Council's leisure centres and improving the customer experience.

Work was well underway to finalise the scope of the specification, which was due for completion on 6 February 2026. The tender opportunity due to go live on 9 February 2026.

Any future reports regarding progress and the associated spend would continue to be reported to the Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The report also outlined the support provided to different community organisations across the District to improve the overall leisure offering and the current lease arrangements in place between sporting organisations and the Council.

One Member expected to review a heatmap on where the investments were across the District. It was hoped the report would explain where the investment was being allocated across South Kesteven to ensure fair and equal distribution.

It was queried whether any money had been allocated to sport groups through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Assistant Director of Culture, Leisure and Place confirmed any information regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was reported to the Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund had concluded now, however, a list of all villiages/towns and the funding they received could be viewed on the website.

A query was raised on whether other activities rather than usual activities were considered within the strategy to be advertised.

The Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces clarified the leisure centres promoted most activities. There was group of block bookings at each of the centres. The Council were working with Lincolnshire Co-op on the 'healthy walks programme'.

Members outlined activities and groups that were upcoming and required publicising:

- Football club in Thurlby
- Walking group in Bourne (from leisure centre)
- Bourne Woods (walking)
- Table Tennis Club in Folkingham
- Pointon Football Club
- Carlton Scroop Table Tennis Club
- Grantham Canal Partnership – 33 miles of free walks

One Member would share the activity groups within Grantham with the Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces.

Members recognised the great advertisement from the team on the leisure centres on social media.

The 'Activity Finder' on the Council's website provided different groups and activities taking place locally in the area.

A non-Committee Member shared that they felt the Meres Leisure Centre was outdated.

The Committee noted the contents of the report

55. Proposed Events Programme 2026/27 (Subject to Budget Approval)

The Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report that outlined possible funding for an events Officer and an events programme. Should the funding be approved, this represents an exciting opportunity to invest consistently in outreach and events, working towards a more planned and sustainable programme of cultural activity.

A draft programme of events had been developed in consideration of the Council's corporate objectives and the Cultural Strategy which was adopted in 2023.

The suggested programme draws on feedback from previous Council events and the results from a consultation exercise undertaken with residents, artists and community organisations in Bourne and the Deepings.

The aim of the programme was to respond to the needs of residents, remove barriers for participation and reach audiences who do not currently engage with the Council's venues or cultural offer.

Evaluations would be collected at each event, providing feedback to inform future decision-making and ensure that future work continues to reflect community need and provide value for money. The programme has been designed with legacy in mind .

Where possible, the proposed events had been structured to support practitioners and community groups to create activity that can continue beyond direct Council delivery.

The ambition was to grow cultural activity across the District rather than creating ongoing reliance on the Council to deliver the same events year after year.

Members praised the funding allocated for the Future High Streets Fund previously.

It was suggested whether the budget could be reviewed to continue events in Grantham marketplace to build on the success from the previous year. It was queried whether any other funding was available for the marketplace.

The Assistant Director of Culture, Leisure and Place confirmed that funding being provided was £100,000 and Officers had been given a clear remit that this should be spread equally across the whole District.

It was noted the table detailing costs of Lincolnshire Day and the silent disco did not add up to the whole number.

One Member felt that spending over £10,000 on Covid Remembrance was not a great use of the funding.

Members discussed the need for Councillors to enable and partner with the Council to help increase the attendance of these such events.

A query was raised on whether Officers had explored match funding for some of the events in co-operation with Grantham Town Council.

It was confirmed that the Council were working in conjunction with Town and Parish Council's on Council and non-Council run events. It was hoped that communities would take on the events in future years.

Members discussed the Issac Newton 300th Anniversary of his death and the events that would be arranged to commemorate that.

It was requested that the Council work with schools to invite them to these events, alongside requesting school pupils to host events e.g. a theatre production.

One Member noticed the importance and success of British Racing Motors (BRM) within Bourne.

A query was raised on the 'Bike Night' in Grantham and the £6,000 stage. It was outlined that Markets had used their UKSPF funding to purchase a stage, it was suggested this stage be shared with the Council to save funds.

It was noted that Deepings commonly had less money spent on their town in terms of events.

The Assistant Director of Culture, Leisure and Place clarified the stage had been delivered and had certain limitations around setting up the stage. The stage required to be independently assessed once built.

A non-Committee Member requested a meeting with the Assistant Director of Culture, Leisure and Place to discuss 'picnic in the park' and 'open-mic' events for Grantham to raise money for local charities.

A suggestion was made on whether the Council could supply each Parish Council with an apple tree/seeds to plant in the Parish to commemorate the 300 year death of Issac Newton.

It was confirmed this idea would be explored.

One Member queried what Members were on the stakeholder group and how Members of the Committee could become involved.

The Assistant Director of Culture, Leisure and Place clarified the first stakeholder group had taken place on 2 February 2026. The stakeholders would operate similarly to arrangements the 'Thatcher Fest'. At present, the Council had primarily engaged with artists, organisations and practitioners who would provide activities or events.

(Councillor Matt Bailey left the meeting at 15:30)

One Member queried whether the idea of a portable projector had been considered for the marketplace to showcase major sporting events.

It was highlighted that the cost of a projector for the two-day cinema had previously cost £12,000.

One Member noted a previous Cycle Race in Bourne was poorly organised. The planning of events was deemed important and can be successful if planned correctly.

Members thanked Officers for the report and noted events were important ways of uniting communities, footfall and supporting businesses.

A query was raised on when the outdoor mobile cinema would be visiting Billingborough.

The Events Officer confirmed bookings were provisionally booked for Haconby and Long Bennington.

One Member emphasised that local, Ward Councillors should be invited to meetings of Issac Newton celebrations. The Assistant Director for Culture, Leisure and Place confirmed it was being explored as to how Members could be involved in the process.

One Member clarified that Bourne Cycle Race was not unorganised, however, the organisers received a lack of funding.

An event called 'Music in Quiet Places' was ongoing and organised by the arts centres. Several events were upcoming:

- 28 May (St Mary and St Peter's Church, Harlaxton)
- 11 June (St Andrew's, Billingborough)
- 25 June (St Andrew's Church, West Deeping)
- 9 July (Careby, near Stamford)

One Member requested a monthly update be sent to Councillors on events taking place around the District.

All events were publicised in SK Today, if timing allowed. Events were also published on the Council's social media platforms.

The Assistant Director of Culture, Leisure and Place confirmed following budget approval and consideration of Cabinet. Members would receive monthly lists of events to share with their communities.

The Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the proposed events calendar and considered making any further suggestions or amendments.

It was proposed, seconded and **AGREED** to recommend Cabinet to consider an additional £20,000 in the events budget ringfenced for preparation for the Newton Festival. Additionally, £10,000 from the community fund for the Newton Festival.

56. Work Programme 2025/26

The Committee noted the Work Programme 2025/26.

It was confirmed that heads of terms between the Council and Grantham Town Football Club had been agreed and the lease was awaiting sign off in March 2026.

A query was raised on whether a visit to Grantham Town Football Club would be arranged prior to the next meeting.

It was suggested that Grantham Canal Partnership be invited to a Committee meeting in the future.

It was clarified that Grantham Town Football Club had envisaged to attend the next meeting to update the Committee in person.

The Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces confirmed a KPI update on LeisureSK Ltd (year 1) would be brought to the Committee on 13 May 2026.

57. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent

There were none.

58. Close of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 15:45.

Action Sheet

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Actions from meeting of 3 February 2026

Min no	Agenda item	Action	Assigned to	Comments/Status	Deadline
53	Sport and Physical Activity Strategy	For the Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead to provide statistics on the numbers of people within the District using the 'We Are Undefeatable' service	Beth Goodman (Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead)	Email sent to Committee Members on 20 February 2026	Complete
53	Sport and Physical Activity Strategy	For the Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead to provide further information on why the rates of diabetes were higher in certain parts of the District.	Beth Goodman (Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead)	Information is being sought	Ongoing

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**SOUTH
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COUNCIL**

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 12 May 2026

Report of Councillor Paul Stokes
Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet
Member for Leisure and Culture

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2021 – 2026) – End of Strategy Update

Report Author

Bethany Goodman, Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead

 bethany.goodman@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To provide a final update on the delivery of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2021 - 2026), including a summary of achievements up to its conclusion in March 2026.

Recommendations

Members of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

- 1. Note the delivery and achievements of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021 – 2026 for South Kesteven.**
- 2. Note the refreshed Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031 has been adopted and work is ongoing to develop an accompanying Action Plan.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting Communities
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no financial implications for the Council in relation to this report. The work completed to date has been undertaken within identified budgets and using grants awarded to the Council.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no legal and governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan (2024-27) identifies Connecting Communities as a key priority. To underpin this priority, the Council has delivered the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (the Strategy) which was adopted in 2021 and concluded in March 2026. The Council's Leisure Team is responsible for implementing the actions identified in the Strategy, targeting key areas, and working with partners to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to live healthy, active lifestyles.
- 2.2 The Council's Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee has previously agreed to receive a six-monthly report to highlight the progress made on the delivery of the Action Plan, with the most recent update being provided at the meeting of the Committee on 14 October 2025 (see **Background Papers**).
- 2.3 The remainder of this report provides a further update and is broken down into three key areas with subsets as follows:
- A. An overview of the work undertaken to support the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.
- Physical Activity Initiatives for Council Employees
 - Partnerships and Collaborative Working
 - Leisure Facilities

B. The Active Lives Survey

C. Summary of achievements through the delivery period for the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021 – 2026

D. The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031

A. An overview of the work undertaken to support the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.

Physical Activity Initiatives for Council Employees

- 2.4 Encouraging Officers to be more active yields numerous benefits, including improved physical and mental health, increased work productivity, reduced absenteeism, and better team morale.
- 2.5 In September 2025, 12 Officers attended a 'Mind and Body Tone' session virtually, which is a group activity concept that brings together both mental wellbeing and physical exercise. The session left participants feeling stronger, toned and with a positive mindset.
- 2.6 Council Officers had the opportunity to take part in a 100 miles challenge throughout the month of November 2025, raising money for a selection of three charities. 18 Officers signed up to the challenge increasing their activity levels during the month.
- 2.7 In November 2025, a self-defence session was organised for Council Officers in support of White Ribbon Day UK. The session offered the opportunity to learn practical techniques applicable to real-life situations, and enabled confidence building which focused on personal development and was suitable for everyone. A total of eight Council Officers attended this one-hour workshop.
- 2.8 In December 2025, a sing-a-long choir was hosted for five weeks, where Council Officers could take time out to lift their mood by singing some festive Christmas carols and songs.
- 2.9 In February 2026, a total of 63 Council Officers took part in the February Move More Challenge which saw teams competing to virtually walk around the district. This encouraged competition across teams and many people increased their activity levels throughout the month.
- 2.10 The annual Rotary Swimathon was a key highlight at the start of 2026, with the Council registering a team for the third year in a row raising a total of £128, with monies going towards local causes.

- 2.11 A cake sale was held at the Depot for 'Time to Talk' Day in February 2026, raising money for the charity Mind. This raised £220 and provided a safe place for colleagues to be open about their mental health and talk about what support is available through Mind.
- 2.12 Nutrition and Hydration week was celebrated at the end of March 2026, providing tips and advice on healthy eating, the importance of staying hydrated and what impact this has on our performance both physically and mentally.

Partnerships and Collaborative Working

- 2.13 The Council alone cannot achieve its corporate ambition of Connecting Communities. Therefore, Officers have continued to collaborate with partner organisations, stakeholders, and communities. Since the previous update provided to this Committee, new relationships have been developed and activities attended, these include:

- Monthly attendance at UK Active Webinars.
- Quarterly attendance at the new Active Lincolnshire Sport and Physical Activity Network.
- Attendance at 'We are Undefeatable' webinars.
- Attendance at the Grantham Partnership Board where local initiatives relating to physical activity are discussed and promoted.
- Attendance at the Lincolnshire District Wide Health and Wellbeing Working Group, which enables knowledge sharing and communication across the District Councils.
- Attendance at the Lincolnshire District Wide Health Weight Partnership Board.
- Attendance at the Age Friendly Lincolnshire Working Group.
- Attendance at workshops and roundtable seminars hosted by the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA).
- Attendance at the Why Sports Conference: Sport, Health and Wellbeing – a Nations Progress.
- Attendance at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Sport and Leisure Management Networks.
- Working in partnership with local Public Health departments.
- Attended training sessions to understand 'Fingertips', which is a public health data collection website which breaks the data collected down into themed profiles.
- Reinstated the Stadium Stakeholder meetings to improve collaboration between South Kesteven District Council, LeisureSK Limited, Grantham Town Football Club and Grantham Athletics Club.

- 2.14 Free weekly 'Our Parks' exercise sessions led by trained Council volunteers continue every Wednesday at Wyndham Park Visitor Centre, with the sessions fully booked since their launch in November 2025. The session is targeted at older adults wanting to improve their strength, mobility and balance.

- 2.15 Council Officers have started undertaking bike marking sessions at schools as part of the Bikeability training weeks for pupils. The kits reduce the chances of residents within South Kesteven becoming a victim of cycle theft by allowing individuals to register their bikes on a National Police approved database for free. More sessions at schools are scheduled for the remainder of the year across the district.
- 2.16 Conversations are continuing with Lincolnshire County Council to promote Active Travel, with Officers working to identify any routes or schemes that could be developed within South Kesteven to be considered for future funding. Lincolnshire County Council have commissioned a series of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans which focus on Bourne, Market Deeping and Deeping St James.
- 2.17 As part of this process, walking the routes and public engagement will be undertaken to understand pinch points, danger spots, places that feel unwelcoming or are difficult to navigate, and where sections could open up if access is improved.
- 2.18 Council Officers have continued to support colleagues from the Property Team to ensure open community spaces can be improved. These include:
- Wyndham Park Skate Park – installation of a new skate park including 10 ramps, to provide a safe, accessible and inclusive space for young people and families to engage in physical activity.
 - Dysart Park Tennis Courts – resurfacing the tennis court to promote active lifestyles and encourage outdoor play with new posts and nets installed.
 - Dysart Park MUGA – installed a 16m x 10m hard court multi use sports court with line markings for football, basketball and netball, encouraging outdoor play by creating a focal point for recreational sports.
- 2.19 Council Officers led on the creation of the district's first 'Health and Wellness' Day event hosted at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre in November 2025. A range of local organisations and clubs came together to showcase the local opportunities available for residents. Future Health and Wellness Days are being scheduled across the district with the next event scheduled for Sunday 10th May 2026 at Bourne Leisure Centre.
- 2.20 In January 2026, Officers delivered a presentation at the Grantham Business Club to promote the importance and benefits of Workplace Wellbeing and suggested low-cost initiatives, along with some statistics and information about the ageing population within South Kesteven.

Leisure Facilities

2.21 Officers within the Leisure Team continue to work with the Council's leisure provider LeisureSK Limited to deliver the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. The list below details activity currently being undertaken:

- Wellbeing walks continue to take place from Bourne Leisure Centre on a Wednesday and Friday morning, Stamford Leisure Pool on a Tuesday afternoon, and Grantham Meres Leisure Centre on a Thursday.
- Good Boost, which is an app based therapeutic water exercise programme for people with musculoskeletal conditions, continues to be delivered at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre.
- Holiday swim crash courses continue to be delivered across all three centres.
- Exercise on Prescription continues to be delivered across Bourne Leisure Centre and Grantham Meres Leisure Centre.
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) swimming lessons and dedicated family swim sessions continue to run at Bourne Leisure Centre, Stamford Leisure Pool and Grantham Meres Leisure Centre.
- Fighting Fit Cancer Rehabilitation classes continue to run at Bourne Leisure Centre in partnership with the Lincoln City Football Foundation.
- Specialist classes are being held at Bourne Leisure Centre which provide targeted interventions and enhanced health and wellbeing outcomes. These include classes for those suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Cardiac Rehabilitation, Disability Circuits, Mindfulness Meditation, and classes to aid balance and coordination.

2.22 The £4million decarbonisation project at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre was successfully completed and commissioned on time in March 2026, in line with funding guidelines by Salix Finance.

B. The Active Lives Survey

2.23 There has been no change to the Active Lives data that was previously presented to Members of this Committee on 14 October 2025 (see **Background Papers**).

C. Summary of achievements through the delivery period for the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021 – 2026

2.24 The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2021–2026) has delivered meaningful progress in increasing participation, strengthening community engagement, and improving access to inclusive and high-quality opportunities for residents.

2.25 Across the delivery period 2021 - 2026, key achievements have been highlighted with the use of an infographic, which can be found at **Appendix One**.

2.26 The data presented within the infographic comprises of:

- Number of engagement events delivered within South Kesteven – events delivered directly by Council Officers or in collaboration with an external partner.
- Number of external partners worked with – comprises of collaborations with health services, national bodies, community groups, clubs or leisure providers.
- Exercise on prescription figures – LeisureSK Limited have documented the number of participants who have accessed the exercise on prescription scheme and those who have achieved the desired 150 minutes per week of exercise.
- Carbon reduction goals and spending – includes the monies spent at the Council’s leisure facilities on pool covers, solar PV, LED lighting upgrades, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and supporting infrastructure, pool circulation pumps and boiler upgrades.
- Training opportunities for the Council’s Leisure Team – includes training courses, workshops, conferences, webinars and updates which ensure Officers remain up to date with current sector trends.
- Active Lives Adult Activity Level Data – demonstrates the increase of adult activity levels with the data sourced from the Active Lives Survey.
- Park Improvements – shows current play areas across the district and what investment has been spent, not including the annual maintenance repairs.
- Awards – consists of runners up and winners of awards such as the Green Flag Awards, The Great British Workplace Wellbeing Awards and the Active Lincolnshire Sport and Physical Activity Awards.

D. The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031

2.27 The draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2026 – 2031) was considered by Members of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 03 February 2026 (see **Background Papers**).

2.28 **Table One** below details the changes that were made to the Strategy following its consideration by the Scrutiny Committee in February:

Table One: Changes made to the Strategy following consideration by Members of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
	Source of Changes	Changes Made
1	Culture and Leisure OSC Feedback	<u>Page 10: Active Place, Action</u> Feedback: The below action was listed as a Key Performance Indicator but is not a quantitative indicator so is now listed as an ‘Action’. <i>Addition of the Action ‘Annual promotion and engagement with Sport and Physical Activity events such as Health and Wellness Days, Great Big Green Week, National Fitness Day.</i>
2	Culture and Leisure OSC Feedback	<u>Page 13: Reporting</u> Feedback: This section was previously called ‘Key Performance Indicators’ but many of the KPI’s were achieved in partnership with providers and therefore

		not the sole responsibility of South Kesteven District Council. <i>Changes made from 'Key Performance Indicators' to 'Reporting'.</i>
3	Culture and Leisure OSC Feedback	<u>Page 13: Reporting</u> Feedback: All Key Performance Indicators should be reviewed to ensure they will remain relevant in years to come. <i>Changes included removing all Key Performance Indicators and insertion of data sources that can be measured from Fingertips for South Kesteven residents.</i>

2.29 The Strategy was approved and adopted by Cabinet on 10 March 2026 (see **Background Papers**), and a copy of the Strategy can be found at **Appendix Two**. An action plan of deliverables is now being developed and will be presented to a future meeting of this committee along with the first six-monthly update in October 2026.

3. Key Considerations

3.1 The Council's Leisure Team has continued to collaborate with the Council's leisure provider, LeisureSK Limited, along with a range of partners across South Kesteven. The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2021 – 2026) has now concluded and work is now underway to deliver the refreshed Strategy (2026 – 2031).

4. Other Options Considered

4.1 The Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee have previously agreed to receive six-monthly updates on the delivery of the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2021 – 2026). Therefore, the 'do nothing' option has been discounted.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

5.1. The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy provides a basis for the Council to deliver on its ambition to increase health and wellbeing outcomes across South Kesteven. Members are encouraged to suggest enhancements to the extent and clarity of the information produced for the next six-monthly update report.

6. Background Papers

6.1. *Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2021 – 2026) – October 2025 Update – Report to Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee, published 7*

October 2025, available online at:

<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s48237/Sport%20and%20Physical%20Activity%20Strategy%202021%20-%202026%20-%20October%202025%20Update.pdf>

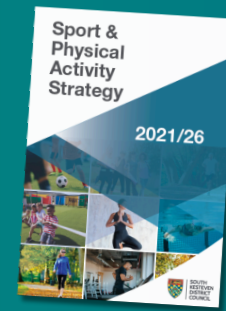
- 6.2. *Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031* – Report to Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee, published 26 January 2026, available online at: <https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s49575/Sport%20and%20Physical%20Activity%20Strategy.pdf>
- 6.3. *Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031* – Report to Cabinet, published 2 March 2026, available online at: <https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s50064/Cover%20report.pdf>

7. Appendices

- 7.1. **Appendix One** – Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021 – 2026 Infographic
- 7.2. **Appendix Two** – Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031

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At a glance: Sport and Physical Activity Strategy



25

5.4% increase in levels of physically active adults



24 events delivered

We work with 55 external partners



18 our parks fitness classes delivered with an average of 8 out of 10 participants each class



57 trained First Aiders for Mental Health at SKDC



£992,074 invested in parks and outdoor spaces



20 training courses, webinars and workshops attended by council officers

£5,130,826 invested in energy efficiency improvements for leisure centres



115 internal wellbeing events delivered

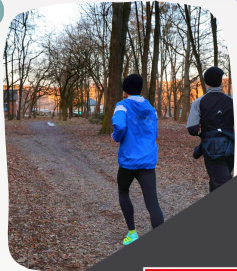


35 parks, play areas and outdoor spaces in the district

644 residents have completed prescription referral programmes



14th consecutive Green Flag Award for Grantham's Wyndham Park, third for Dysart Park and fifth for Queen Elizabeth Park



SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Sport & Physical Activity Strategy

2026-2031



SOUTH
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Our vision for South Kesteven

Vision:

Inspiring everyone to live a more active life

Mission:

Providing opportunities for people to be more active, more often



Our Corporate Plan clearly sets out South Kesteven District Council's ambition to be a 'thriving district to live in, work, and visit'.

Central to this is our responsibility to enhance the strength, wellbeing, security and capacity of our communities for a thriving and cohesive society that all our residents are proud to belong to.

We want to tackle the inequalities in participation in sport and physical activity, remove barriers and create inclusive opportunities for all. We want sport and physical activity to be integrated into our lifestyles and to ensure opportunities are available for all ages and abilities. By tackling the inequalities and removing barriers seen in sport and physical activity and health, this will allow the residents of South Kesteven to 'be more active, more often'.

As a council, we have demonstrated our commitment to ensuring there are opportunities for people to be active in South Kesteven and we will continue to work with other partners and stakeholders at a district, county and national level to reduce inactivity.

We have also shown our commitment to ensuring there are opportunities for people to be active in South Kesteven, including the establishment of LeisureSK Ltd who took over the management of the council's leisure centres in January 2021. We will work together to provide high quality facilities, that are customer focused and meet the needs of residents in South Kesteven. We also have a shared ambition to provide outreach activities in our communities, providing opportunities for all to be active across the whole district.

This strategy is a vision for the next five years and sets out the mission to provide opportunities that our residents need now and, in the future, to support healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities.



Cllr Ashley Baxter

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economic Development
South Kesteven District Council



Cllr Paul Stokes

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure



The Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity

There is a need for sport, physical activity and wellbeing opportunities which play a major role in shaping the health of the nation. Being active means different things to different people and it's about finding what works for the individual.

Active people live healthier, longer and happier lives, with physical activity reducing the risk of diseases,

helping to support individuals to maintain a healthier weight. Active lifestyles prevent 900,000 cases of diabetes, 93,000 cases of dementia delivering a combined saving of £7.1 billion to the UK economy.


There is strong evidence recognising the extensive health benefits for people of all ages, including:

Children	Adults	Older Adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bone health Cognitive function Cardiovascular fitness Muscle fitness Weight status Depression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-cause mortality Stroke and heart disease Hypertension Type 2 diabetes 8 cancers Depression Cognitive function Dementia Quality of life Sleep Anxiety/depression Weight status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falls Frailty Physical Function 




Dementia
by up to
30%

Cardiovascular Disease
by up to
35%





Colon Cancer
by
30%



Depression
by up to
30%

Regular physical activity reduces your risk of:


Hip fractures
by up to
68%



Breast Cancer by **20%**



Type 2 diabetes by up to
40%



All-cause mortality by **30%**



Further benefits include improved sleep, helping to manage a healthy weight, building muscle strength and improving overall cardiovascular health.

Sport and Physical Activity also deliver a further two direct benefits through social value. The primary value is the direct benefit and value to individuals with improved wellbeing, measured at £96.7 billion.

The secondary value is the wider value to society, including the state and is measured at £10.5 billion – Sport England.



“Every £1 spent on Sport and Physical Activity generates almost £4 in return across health and wellbeing, strengthening communities and the national economy”

SPORT ENGLAND



Guidance, Evidence and Partnership Working

The South Kesteven Sport and Physical Activity Strategy considers guidance from a wide range of strategies, both locally and nationally, as well as the World Health Organization's guidelines.

The Council alone cannot achieve its corporate ambition of **Connecting Communities**, so therefore we recognise that a 'Whole System Change' approach is required.

A wide collaboration with several partners from Active Lincolnshire, LeisureSK Ltd, Health and Social Care, the Voluntary Sector, Lincolnshire County Council and many more, allows us to co-create and deliver initiatives that support the outcomes of this strategy.

UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines

Below you can find the recommended guidelines for four age groups based on the UK Chief Medical Officer's Guidelines. More information can be found at www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/exercise-health-benefits

Adults (19 TO 64 YEARS)

- Do strengthening activities that work all the major muscle groups (legs, hips, back, abdomen, chest, shoulders and arms) on at least 2 days a week
- Do at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity a week or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity a week

Older Adults (65+ YEARS)

- Be physically active every day, even if it's just light activity
- Do activities that improve strength, balance and flexibility on at least 2 days per week
- Do at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity a week or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity if you are already active, or a combination of both

Children and young people (5 TO 18 YEARS)

- Aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous intensity physical activity a day across the week
- Take part in a variety of types and intensities of physical activity across the week to develop movement skills, muscles and bones

Disabled adults

- Aim for at least 150 minutes each week of moderate intensity activity
- Do strength and balance activities on at least two days per week

District Health Profile and Physical Activity Levels

This section provides an overview of population health profiles and physical activity (PA) levels to inform strategic priorities and targeted interventions within the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. Understanding who is least active, the health conditions which are most prevalent, and the barriers faced, enables a place-based, preventative, and inclusive approach.

South Kesteven covers a vast area of 365sq miles and is made up of four market towns and many rural areas. The district has a wealth of community assets, leisure facilities, parks and open spaces that provide opportunities to be active in our communities. We appreciate that not everyone will be able to travel to their local leisure facility which therefore requires more opportunities, in more areas.

With a current population of 147,074 and a forecast to grow to 159,795 within twenty years, it is essential that there are spaces and places to be active within our communities. South Kesteven is an ageing district and projects that by 2046, 30% of the district will be aged 65 or over.

- Life expectancy for both men and women: 79.94 years - males, 83.71 years - females
- Percentage of adults who are physically active: 22.2%
- Percentage of children who are physically active: 50.5% (2022/2023 data)
- Percentage of adults who are considered overweight or obese: 59.63% (2022/2023 data)
- Percentage of children who are considered overweight or obese:
 - Reception – 20.62% (2022/2023)
 - Year 6 - 35.92% (2022/2023)

■ Percentage of diabetes prevalence (17 years+):

- 7.40% (Stamford)
- 10.11% (Bourne/Deepings).
- 8.20% (Grantham)
- 7.89% (UK average)

■ Percentage of population that is made up of older adults (65+): 23.82%

■ Percentage of adults who have reported a limited long term illness or disability: 17.87% (Census 2021)

■ People who suffer with mental health issues in any given year: 1 in 4 people

In the UK:

■ Physical inactivity is estimated to contribute to almost 1 in 10 premature deaths from coronary heart disease (CHD) and 1 in 6 deaths in the UK from any cause.

■ Physical inactivity is increasingly recognised as a global health priority that should be the concern of all healthcare systems (WHO, 2024) people with a long-term health condition or disability are twice as likely to be inactive as those without.

■ Physical activity is essential for people to live better with long-term conditions.

■ The greatest health and economic gains can be made by supporting those who are physically inactive to participate in some physical activity. physical activity helps to delay the onset and progression of diseases for as long as possible, it also helps people to recover from surgery more quickly and it is beneficial for mental health.

These health challenges place increasing demand on healthcare services and highlight the need for preventative, physical activity led solutions.

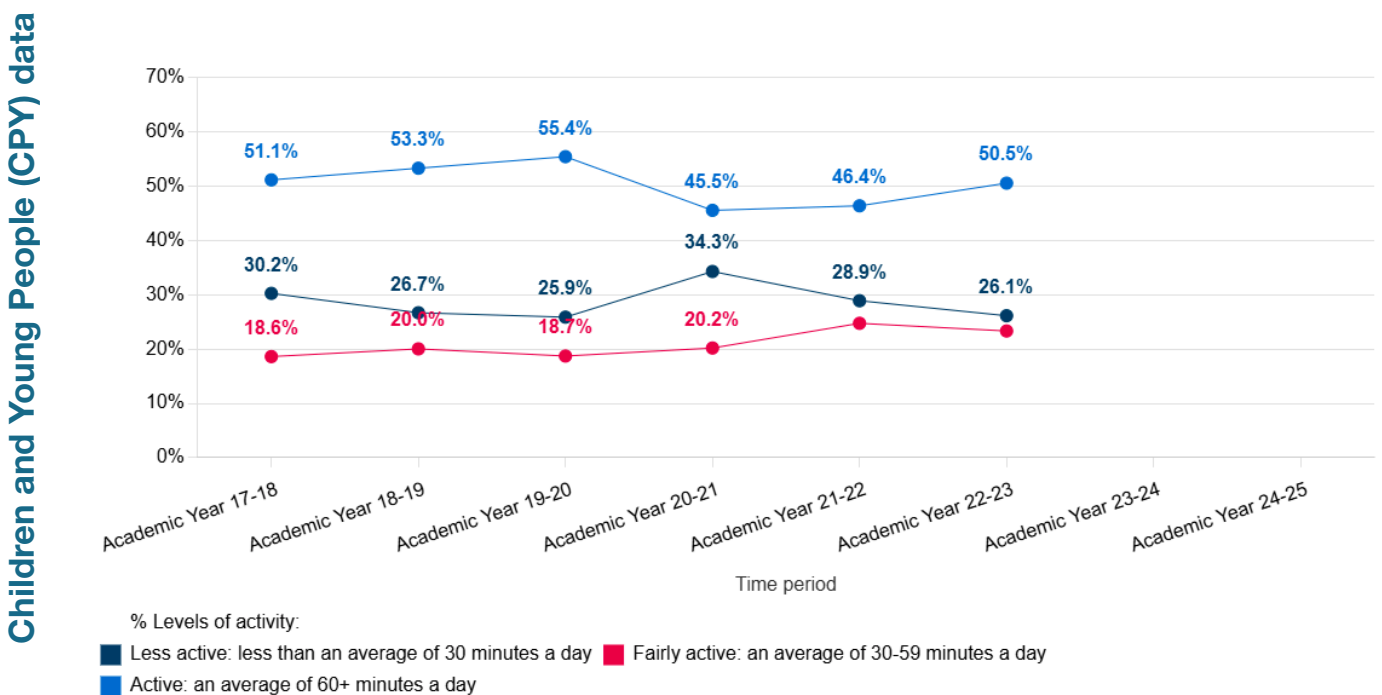
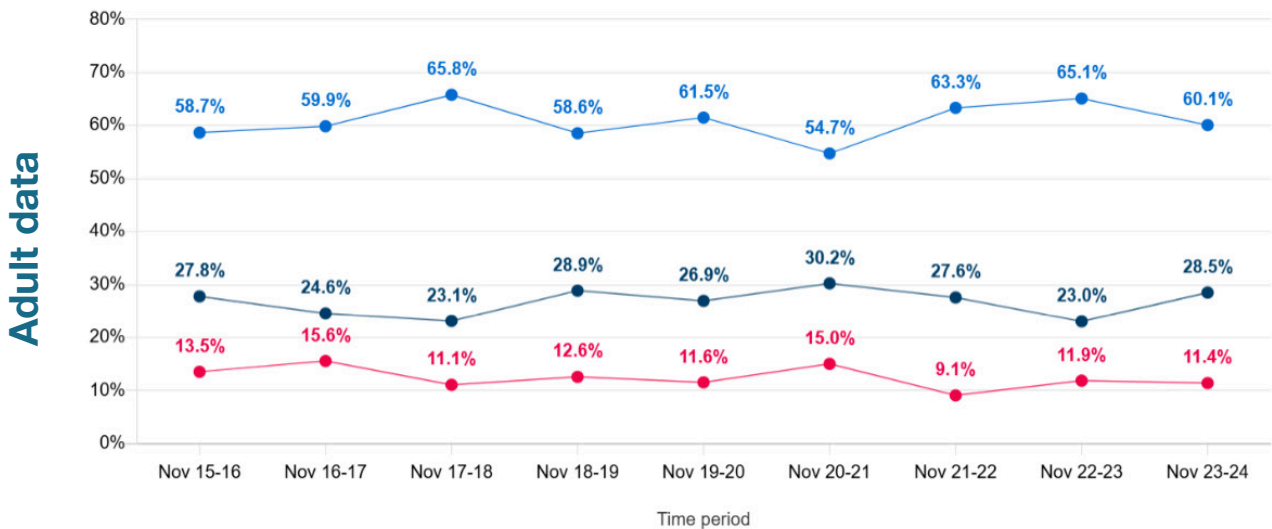
Physical Activity Levels

The below data set is sourced from The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, and includes gardening activity, in accordance with CMO recommendations. This data is based on those aged 19 and over.

Sport England publishes a similar Physical Activity indicator using Active Lives Adult Survey data, however, excludes gardening activity. This data classifies adults as 16 and over. This data can be found in the graphs below.

- Percentage of physically active children and young people – 50.5% in 2022/2023
- Percentage of physically active adults – 68.2%
- Percentage of physically inactive adults – 22.2%

To support local monitoring of performance against the CMO guidance for the appropriate ages, it is necessary to provide estimates with a different definition to those figures produced by Sport England.



Please note, some data is unavailable for children and young people due to a small sample size.

Delivering a Healthier South Kesteven: Action Plan

South Kesteven’s ambition is to deliver a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy that brings partners together with shared objectives, to grow and promote opportunities for sport and physical activity, helping to build a healthier district.

The four pillars, priority outcomes and actions can be found below to underpin the initiatives that we aspire to deliver, that support the outcomes of this strategy.

Pillar	Priority outcomes	Action	Why is this important
<p>Active Society</p> <p>Creating a social movement to reduce inactivity, drive participation and understand the benefits of physical activity for all ages and abilities</p>	<p>Improve the health of residents and visitors by encouraging and providing opportunities to be active following the UK Chief Medical Officer’s physical activity guidelines, as found in section 3</p> <p>Improve the understanding of the benefits of physical activity and deliver a positive customer experience for everyone who uses the Council’s leisure facilities and services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure participation is affordable and accessible to the whole community ■ Encourage physical activity as a holistic approach to wellbeing, including a focus on mental health ■ Provide enhanced information around physical activity, diet and lifestyle as part of our core services using communications and social media channels ■ Showcase ways of integrating physical activity and movement into the lifestyles of residents and part of everyday life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Obesity and illnesses such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease are prevalent in our society but often preventable which incurs a significant cost to the NHS ■ Regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle is proven to reduce the risk of certain illnesses ■ Educating people on the benefits of physical activity is more likely to result in behaviour change ■ Delivering a positive customer experience will result in repeat visits and increased participation

35

Active Place

Creating safe, accessible environments for people, of all ages, to take part in regular physical activity

Deliver and facilitate high quality leisure facilities and community spaces to deliver positive and affordable opportunities for people to improve their health

Recognise that our leisure services serve as a community health hub and are a core part of Neighbourhood Health

Physical activity refers to all movement including during leisure time, for transport to get to and from places, or as part of a person's work or domestic activities

- Invest in the Council's leisure facilities to ensure that they are high quality and meet the needs of customers

- Use local leisure in a holistic and innovative manner

- Lead with a place-based approach using local data

- Continue to invest in the Council's leisure facilities to contribute towards the Council's carbon reduction goals

- Explore opportunities to use parks and open spaces within the district to encourage the use for physical activity, informal play and structured sport

- Support the active travel agenda working with partners to encourage walking, wheeling or cycling

- Invest in the Council's play areas, parks and open spaces to provide high quality facilities meeting the needs of our residents

- Annual promotion and engagement with Sport and Physical Activity events such as Health & Wellness Days, Great Big Green Week, National Fitness Day

- Providing safe places for people to be active encourages participation

- Positive and affordable opportunities ensure our services are available to all and encourage return

- Active travel offers extensive personal, environmental, community and economic benefits to the district

- Green spaces provide opportunities to exercise and spending time in nature can improve our quality of life mentally, physically and socially

Active People

Creating opportunities across all settings to help all people and communities to take part in regular physical activity

Tackle inactivity in priority groups and areas whilst increasing the numbers of people taking part in physical activity across the district, including:

- Rural and deprived areas
- Young people
- Older adults
- Women and girls
- Men's health
- People with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions

Understand the types of activities that residents would like to see more of in their communities

■ Support and offer a broad range of sport and physical activity opportunities that reflect the interests and needs of the community and visitors to the district

■ Work with the Council's leisure provider and partners to run health intervention programmes that result in improving health and wellbeing residents

■ Deliver outreach activities in communities for those in rural areas, with disabilities and/or living with long term health conditions

■ Consult with residents about the types of activities they would like to see in their communities for all ages, abilities and families

■ Work with partners to develop maps that can be used to promote and enable physical activity

■ Focus on positive experiences as the foundations for a long and healthy life

■ South Kesteven has many rural communities that may not have access to traditional leisure facilities

■ South Kesteven is an ageing population and physical activity is increasingly recognised as a cost-effective preventative approach to reducing chronic conditions

■ The rate of obesity and diabetes is increasing in young people.

■ Physical activity has a major role to play in the prevention, management, treatment and rehabilitation of many long-term conditions.

■ Participation in physical activity is lower for people with a disability and/or a long-term health condition

■ The Council needs to understand the needs and demands of residents and users of leisure facilities

Active System

Coordinated leadership, partnerships and workforce capability to reduce sedentary behaviour

Foster strong, meaningful cross-sector partnerships to expand activity opportunities, strengthen collaborative working, and enhance community cohesion

Embed movement into healthcare and signpost to available NHS and partner tools

- Recognise that physical activity is much more than participation in sport and includes activities such as walking, gardening and dancing

- Facilitate partnerships and collaboration between authorities, organisations, communities and groups to empower those who can make change

- Work with partners from all sectors to tackle health and other inequalities in areas of highest need

- Ensure opportunities attract funding and collaboration on innovative projects

- Work with businesses and organisations to ensure workplace wellbeing initiatives, including physical activity, are considered

- Working in collaboration with other partners, we can pool our resources, utilise our communication channels and achieve so much more

- Sport and physical activity provides opportunities for socialising and brings communities together

- Community cohesion and anti-social behaviour can be reduced by providing opportunities to be active, particularly for young people

- 72% of people say the NHS is the most trusted source of advice on physical activity

Reporting

Data that can be measured using the Fingertips* platform for South Kesteven consists of –

Adults	Children
◆ Percentage of physically active adults (19+)	◆ Reception prevalence of children overweight (including obesity) (4-5 years)
◆ Percentage of physically inactive adults (19+)	◆ Year 6 prevalence of children overweight (including obesity) (10-11 years)
◆ Percentage of adults meeting the ‘5-a-day’ fruit and vegetable consumption recommendations	◆ Percentage of physically active children and young people (5-16 years) – currently no data available since 2022/2023 due to small sample size
◆ Overweight (including obesity) prevalence in adults (18+)	◆ Percentage of less active children and young people (5-16 years) – currently no data available since 2022/2023 due to small sample size

Measuring the above data sets provide crucial insight into the health status of South Kesteven. Together, they help to –

- Identify health risks early
- Guide policy, prevention and intervention strategies
- Inform service planning

Therefore, the above data sets will be reported on every six months to demonstrate South Kesteven’s position.

**Fingertips is a large public health data collection platform.*



Our Facilities

www.southkesteven.gov.uk/arts-leisure-and-culture/sports-and-leisure

Grantham Meres Leisure Centre
Bourne Leisure Centre
Stamford Leisure Pool

Links to Key Documents - References

[South Kesteven District Council Corporate Plan - 2024 to 2027](#)

[Sport England - Uniting the Movement 2021 - 2031](#)

[UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines](#)

[Active Lives data](#)

[Local authority health profile - Fingertips](#)

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) - Lincolnshire Health Intelligence Hub](#)

[Get Active: A Strategy for the future of sport and physical activity](#)

[DCMS Youth Strategy](#)

[NHS England - Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England](#)

[Millions more moving - The Richmond Group of Charities](#)

[Horizon Scanning: Future Trends in Sport and Physical Activity - May 2025](#)

[NHS England - Harnessing the benefits of physical activity](#)

[Let's Move Lincolnshire Strategy - Active Lincolnshire](#)



Contact Details

Alternative formats are available on request:
audio, large print and Braille

South Kesteven District Council

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 www.southkesteven.gov.uk

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Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee


Tuesday, 12 May 2026

Report of Councillor Paul Stokes,
Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet
Member for Leisure and Culture

Cultural Strategy Six Monthly Update

Report Author

Jade Porter, Arts and Cultural Services Manager

 jade.porter@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To update the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress with the actions contained within the Cultural Strategy, and to inform them of plans to refresh the strategy for July 2026.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the information provided and offer suggestions on any additional information required for future updates, or for inclusion in the refresh of the Cultural Strategy.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting communities
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Activity is being delivered within existing budgets and financial performance is monitored on a regular basis.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer.

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 It is within the remit of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee to monitor and assess the performance of the Council's Arts and Cultural Service. There are no significant legal or governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. The Council's Corporate Plan (2024 to 2027) sets out the vision for South Kesteven to be "A thriving district in which to live, work and visit". To underpin this vision, the key priority of Connecting Communities identifies the Council's role in delivering and facilitating a sustainable leisure and cultural offer and celebrating and promoting the strong heritage and rich culture of South Kesteven.
- 2.2. The Council's Cultural Strategy 2023 to 2026 (the Strategy) was developed during 2023. The draft Strategy was considered at a meeting of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 June 2023 prior to it being formally adopted at a meeting of Cabinet held on 11 July 2023.
- 2.3. The Strategy is the guiding document for the Council's Arts and Culture Team and underpins cultural activity within the Council's three artistic venues, outreach activity across the district, and how the team engage with the wider cultural sector.
- 2.4. At a further meeting of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 September 2023, a suite of key performance indicators was agreed

against the key themes in the Strategy. It was proposed these Key Performance Indicators would be used to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the Strategy.

- 2.5. Since the adoption of the Strategy there has been a significant amount of progress made, this being the second six monthly update provided to this Committee. For ease of reading, an update of work undertaken has been split into sub sections alongside other relevant updates:

- A) Pay It Forward Scheme
- B) Event Outreach Activity
- C) Newton 300
- D) Marketing
- E) Venue Updates
- F) Update on Key Performance Indicators
- G) Cultural Strategy Refresh

A) Pay It Forward Scheme

- 2.6. The Pay it Forward scheme was launched in September 2023 and gives patrons the opportunity to donate when booking tickets. The funds raised are used to provide arts and cultural opportunities to residents who would otherwise be unable to access these services for whatever reason.
- 2.7. How the donations have been used is displayed on the websites of all three Council venues, and people who make donations automatically receive a thank you email.
- 2.8. Last financial year the fund raised £8,320. Currently Theatre company 'Circo Rum Baba' are working with the arts service to organise a small tour of their production 'Over the Moon', an acrobatic interactive piece of theatre designed specifically for children with additional needs.
- 2.9. The aim is to take this to four schools within South Kesteven that specialise in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Schools such as this can face barriers to attending theatre events due to transport, the higher ratio required for staff to pupils, and venue restrictions. By taking this to schools specifically the students will get to experience arts and culture they may not be able to access as easily.
- 2.10. The fund continues to grow and has also been used within the last financial year to welcome a small group of teenagers from Art Pop Up's Youth Group. The 9 teenagers attended a cinema screening of 'Lilo and Stitch 2'. Several of the attendees had not previously been to the cinema or even been inside Stamford Arts Centre before.

B) Event Outreach and Activity

- 2.11. SKDC continues to contribute just over £3,500 annually to the Rural Touring Scheme, which is also funded by Arts Council England. The scheme takes high quality live performances to rural spaces. Being operated by Live and Local, the Scheme continues to be extremely well supported in South Kesteven. The events which have taken place and are planned include a range of drama, music and comedy. The latest programme runs across 2025 and 2026, engaging 8 venues across the district with a total of 14 events. **Appendix One** provides a detailed report on the activity undertaken.
- 2.12. Since September 2025 the Arts Service has had a budget of £20,000 to spend on outreach and activity across South Kesteven for financial year 2025/26, with a budget of £100,000 being allocated for the current financial year.
- 2.13. The proposed events programme for 2026/27 was presented to this Committee in February and subsequently approved, including recruitment to a permanent Events Officer post.
- 2.14. The events that have taken place so far are:

Name	Overview	Date & Location	Cost	Attendee No.
Stamford Wassail	Lantern making workshop and procession ahead of the annual Stamford Wassail.	3 rd Jan Stamford Community Orchard	£1,020	Workshop – 40 Procession & Wassail - 180
Skate Skillz	Skateboarding and street art workshops in each skate park during the February Half Term.	16 th Feb – Deeping St James 17 th Feb – Stamford 18 th Feb – Bourne 19 th Feb – Grantham	£5,932	400 – across all events
<i>BMX Skillz Showcase</i>	<i>BMX display team at Market Deeping BMX Track.</i>	<i>21st Feb – POSTPONED DUE TO POOR WEATHER New date: 26th Sep – Market Deeping BMX track</i>	<i>£2,088</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Covid-19 Day of Reflection	Commissioned memorials with a reflection ceremony in each location to mark the impact of the covid-19 pandemic.	8 th March Wyndham Park, Grantham Stamford Leisure Pool Bourne Leisure Centre The Deepings Practice, Market Deeping	£7,011.96	61

Spring Skillz	A family fun day with a focus on encouraging people to try something new. Activities included a climbing wall, skateboard workshops, circus skills, and pottery painting.	4 th April, Wyndham Park, Grantham	£3,265.20	1,500
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2.15. Stamford Wassail

3rd January at Stamford Orchard

The free workshop, run by Sam Rodden, was fully booked and enjoyed by all attendees. Creating the lanterns made the audience feel like part of the event as they were able to lead the procession to the orchard

Data from Surveys and Evaluations:

- 77% of attendees had never been to the orchard before
- 69% of participants had been to an SKDC Arts Venue within the last 3 months

Feedback from Stamford Community Orchard: *“It nearly doubled out visitor numbers to over 180. It has given us the confidence to have a lantern procession in future years.”*

“Working with SKDC was excellent – score of 5/5.”

2.16. Skate Skillz – February Half Term

Deeping St James – 16th February - Attendees: 75

This event ended early due to sudden heavy rain at 1.30pm which made the park unusable. Up until this point the workshops were well attended and appreciated.

Stamford – 17th February - Attendees: 150

This was well received by families, and it was noticed that a couple of attendees had returned to practice what they had learnt in The Deepings and ask for more advice.

Bourne – 18th February - Attendees: 100

A lot of people decorated their equipment at the graffiti workshop, more so than the previous events. There were skaters who had been to previous events, and they started to offer advice to people who had just taken one of the beginner workshops. This built a feeling of community at the parks.

Grantham – 19th February - Attendees: 75

Skating in the park was postponed due to the constant rain making conditions unsafe, however the instructor was still around to give general advice and was able to use the balance board to show new skaters the basic positions.

The graffiti workshop went as ahead as planned and was received incredibly well. Many people stayed for quite a while to finish the graffiti boards. These have been left at the visitor centre to be displayed on the railings of the skate park.

Data from feedback:

Participants were part of 2 age groups, *under 18s* and *31 to 50* showing it was popular with families
95% of participants had not skateboarded before.
59% of participants had not visited the skate park before.
50% of participants heard about the event on social media, word of mouth was the second most common way to hear about events
77% had not visited the SKDC arts venues in the previous 3 months
“It’s been absolutely fantastic. My son is a complete beginner and he’s progressed so much in a day. It would be great to have regular meet ups as part of a club in the future.”
“Fab session and great to have something like this!”
“Thank you for putting the event on, keeping it free and encouraging our kids to try new things.”

2.17. Covid-19 Day of Reflection

Sunday 8th March

Four memory trees commissioned from Don’t Lose Hope - a mental health charity based in Bourne.

Locations:

Grantham – Wyndham Park – approximate attendees 20

Stamford – Stamford Leisure Pool - approximate attendees 15

Bourne – Bourne Leisure Centre - approximate attendees 6

Market Deeping – The Deeping Practice - approximate attendees 20

A short reflection ceremony was held in each location with key figures from the local community speaking on the impact of the pandemic before inviting attendees to attach a ribbon to the tree in a moment of reflection.

The memory trees are now listed on the national memorial database and will remain in situ for community to make use of in the coming years. Since the events took place another council has been in touch looking to do something similar.

2.18. Spring Skillz

Saturday 4th April – Wyndham Park, Grantham

This made for a very busy day in the park with an approximate 1,500 visiting during the event.

Data from feedback: Due to the volume of people at the event, the Survey QR codes were not overly visible and staff did not have time to conduct the feedback surveys. In future an additional member of staff will be budgeted for to allow for survey responses to be taken.

From the surveys that were completed the following data was collected:

-88% of respondents had not visited one of the SKDC venues in the last 3 months.

-When asked about a fair ticket price, per participant (for all activities), 63% of respondents said a price between £1 and £6 would have been fair. 13% of respondents wanted the event to be free.

-The age groups represented in the feedback at under 12 and 31 to 50

“Thank you so much, it was such a wonderful day, which I’m sure took a lot of organisation!”

“Great to see lots of different activities aimed at children of all ages but also different interests. A great addition would be a woodland workshop station, making bird feeders or something similar. It's a great location, coffee, ice cream, parks and toilets available, and a wander along the river as well as the event.”

- 2.19. Future events that were approved are in the process of being organised with many dates now confirmed. **Appendix Two** provides an updated list of upcoming events. These will be advertised on the Arts Centre's websites, social media, flyers, and posters and banners where appropriate when all details are confirmed.
- 2.20. Music in Quiet Places was successful across 2025, with four music events taking place in Hough-on-the Hill, Witham on the Hill, Folkingham and Greatford. The most recent series sold 495 tickets across the four events, which is an improvement on the performance in 2024 when 424 tickets were sold.
- 2.21. The 2026 Music in Quiet Places Season is now on sale with the locations confirmed as St Mary & St Peter Church in Harlaxton, St Andrew's Church in Billingborough, St Andrew's Church in West Deeping and St Stephen's Church in Careby.
- 2.22. Each year the Council work with four venues in rural areas of the district and programme a professional, classical concert in each. This year the four classical concerts are:
 - Chameleon, a four-piece band playing 13 instruments between them.
 - Elmore Quartet, award winning London based string quartet
 - K'antu, a four-piece folk inspired ensemble performing with more rare instruments such as the Lute and historical percussion.

C) Newton 300

- 2.23. In a similar way to how the Council convened meetings between stakeholders regarding Thatcher events, Officers are currently hosting meetings to discuss activity to mark the 300th anniversary of Isaac Newton's death on 31st March 2027.
- 2.24. The meetings have attracted over 20 people from various businesses and organisations including 'Lincoln Big', the National Trust and freelance artists and producers, all looking to put on activity to mark the occasion.
- 2.25. The aim is for The Council to act as a facilitator for stakeholders to share plans, event information and collaborate where possible. The Council will also produce a promotional flyer for the collective events should there be enough activity organised.
- 2.26. SKDC are currently looking to contribute to the anniversary in several ways. Within the Guildhall Arts Centre's normal programming budget, conversations are underway with Dame Maggie Aderin Pocock, British Space Scientist, science

educator and co-host of 'The Sky at Night'.

- 2.27. There will also be a series of workshops across the summer that are STEAM based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) for children to learn new skills and celebrate some of Newton's discoveries.
- 2.28. A chess tournament is also being organised across the district. Working alongside the Lincolnshire Chess Federation, Officers will be working with local chess clubs to host a tournament in each of the four towns, with the final looking to be held in the Newton Hall in the King's School Grantham in 2027.
- 2.29. Alongside this, arrangements are underway for a Chess Grandmaster to host a simultaneous exhibition. This will involve a grandmaster playing multiple opponents at once, moving around the room to do so. This is a good event to spectate, and Officers will be looking to attract school students as the opponents.
- 2.30. Using remaining budget from the Future High Street Fund, the extremely popular Luminarium will be installed in Wyndham Park for 9 days, from 27th March – 4th April 2027, across the anniversary of Newton's Death.
- 2.31. The Luminarium is designed to 'bring about an encounter with light'. Visitors walk inside the structure, which is made of different domes and connecting tunnels, all with designs that allow the natural light to push colour and patterns through the structure. It is described as a 'contact with beauty, light and art', linking into Newton's most famous experiment refracting light.
- 2.32. The large installation is created by Nottingham Artist Alan Parkinson, and managed by Architects of Air. It has travelled internationally with visitors reaching above 1,000 per day and visitors travelling from miles around to attend. Head of Programming at The Sydney Opera house described it as "the most attended presentation ever" to take place there.

D) Marketing

- 2.33. "What's On" brochures are printed three times a year for the Guildhall and Stamford Arts Centres. These brochures are also distributed by staff around the towns in locations like shops, cafes, and hairdressers, making them easily accessible for customers.
- 2.34. Each venue has established branding, with large 'What's On' diary pages printed as roller banners and large outdoor posters. These have received really good feedback and work as a point of reference for passing customers who may not be familiar with the activities offered within the arts centres.

- 2.35. Across the venues, social media is being used not just for show promotion but also to deliver more interactive, engagement-driven content. More recently reels are being utilised to share short-form videos after events, and to advertise certain genres.
- 2.36. The three venues use Spektrix as their box office ticketing system. This provides a range of reports, offering valuable data and insights. The top four ways audiences find out about events remain the same as the previous report: 1. Word of Mouth, 2. Brochures, 3. Website and 4. Direct Email Notifications.
- 2.37. Social Media followers currently stand at:
- Guildhall Arts Centre Facebook: 7,417
Guildhall Arts Centre Instagram: 1,667
- Stamford Arts Centre Facebook: 10,080
Stamford Arts Centre Instagram: 4,531
- Bourne Corn Exchange Facebook: 2,700
- 2.38. Hirers at Bourne Corn Exchange who choose to sell their tickets via the venue benefit from receiving marketing via our social media channels and being included on E-shots to customers on our database.
- 2.39. Stamford and Guildhall Arts Centres send monthly E-shots about upcoming events for all subscribers. Targeted emails are then sent to specific customers based on their individual booking history to inform them of similar events they might enjoy. Currently, the Guildhall email list includes 13,227 subscribers, Stamford Arts Centre has 13,487, and the newly established Bourne list has 573 subscribers.
- 2.40. Comparing financial years, in 24/25 emails opened were 616,000 and in 25/26 emails opened were 834,100 – an increase of 35%. Clicks on content and links within the emails were also up by 37% compared to the previous financial year.

E) Venue Updates

- 2.41. All three venues continue to hire out spaces for meetings, parties, celebrations and other events. As well as this Arts and Cultural events also take place within the venues including dance classes, youth drama workshops, art workshops and more recently an increase in adult crafting workshops.
- 2.42. Promotion of room hire is ongoing, with all three venues exceeding the budgeted income for last financial year for room hire.
- 2.43. Bourne Corn Exchange in particular attracts a high number of parties and private events due to having a large capacity, and the stage for people to hire in bands

and live entertainment.

- 2.44. Stamford Arts Centre has recently stopped offering Cinema Membership and is instead offering a multibuy discount. This is to encourage users to book further in advance for more films and encourage audiences to try films they might not have done before.
- 2.45. Although the priority booking was appreciated by many, to get schedules out on time the venue was having to confirm the programme early, when a couple of days extra might have secured a bigger title film from a bigger distributor. This new way of working allows the venue to get popular titles potentially closer to the release date.
- 2.46. Stamford Jazz events have recently moved from the Cellar Bar to a new set up in the ballroom, increasing the capacity and income for the arts centre and musicians. These events regularly sell out and the move has increased the potential attendance by 100%.
- 2.47. Stamford Arts Centre has also seen the introduction of some more adult workshops, recently this was lampshade making. Many customers are repeat visitors to workshops which have sold out on each occasion.
- 2.48. The Independent Cinema Organisation programmes the Stamford Arts Centre cinema and recently put out a survey to Stamford cinema attendees in order to steer their programming and support the venue. The feedback was generally positive, with 89% of attendees falling into the 'promoters' category, meaning they would actively encourage others and speak positively about the cinema offering at the venue.
- 2.49. With careful programming and targeted marketing, the classical concerts at Stamford Arts Centre have also seen an increase in sales:

Doric String Quartet, 2024: 119 tickets
Doric String Quartet, 2026: 199 tickets

Imogen Cooper, 2023: 173 tickets
Imogen Cooper, 2026: 214

Red Priest, 2021: 144 tickets
Red Priest, 2025: 214 tickets
- 2.50. The Guildhall Arts Centre has received well known acts within the last six months, including Gyles Brandreth and famous comedian Ed Byrne.
- 2.51. Both venues are now programming a children's storytelling ballet company, that has been marketed as an introduction to ballet for families. These shows with

accompanying workshops have proven to be incredibly popular. They are on sale at an accessible price to encourage young people and families to attend this more traditional kind of performance. ‘Let’s All Dance’ have become a regular in both venues programmes and have incredibly good attendance compared to programming ballet for adult audiences. This kind of experience should carry through and grow future dance audiences.

F) Key Performance Indicators

2.52. An update on activity undertaken to support the Key Performance Indicators previously agreed at a meeting of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 September 2023 is provided in **Table One** below:

Table One – Key Performance Indicators		
Partnership and Collaboration	Numbers of providers engaged with a Council established cultural network	The Stakeholder group for ‘Thatcher Fest’ was successful liaising with community groups and businesses to curate a series of events, providing a ‘festival’ feel. This approach was received well by stakeholders and gained national press attention.
		A Stakeholder group has been set up for the Newton 300 events with a group of over 20 representatives from local community groups, heritage sites and businesses across Lincolnshire.
		The Wassail event in January was done as a collaboration and addition to the existing event run by Stamford Community Orchard.
		Conversations and partnerships are being

		formed with motorbike groups to support the Bike Night in Grantham, and the Lincolnshire Chess Federation to support the district wide chess tournament for Newton 300.
Placemaking	Number of outreach events held or supported by the Arts and Cultural Services team	The 'Into Film Festival' to be hosted in Stamford Arts Centre in 2026, giving school students the opportunity to attend films for free through the organisers.
		'Nature Makers' days were held in both Bourne and Stamford, providing free family activities
		The Pay it Forward Scheme has also allowed for outreach activities to take place, as well as bringing people into venues. There are further plans to take a professional show to SEN schools.
		Music in Quiet Places sold 495 tickets across the four events in 2025.
		Funding continues to be allocated to the Rural Touring Scheme providing touring performances in rural areas of SKDC
Attendance Numbers at Venues		For each financial year the Arts Centres programmed events sold: Guildhall 24/25: 17713 - £245,947.10 Guildhall 25/26: 17, 274 - £258,846.25

		<p>Stamford 24/25: 35,579 - £325,070 Stamford 25/26: 38455 - £358.524.00</p> <p>Bourne 24/25: 1531 tickets sold through Spektrix (623 of these being the Whale) Bourne 25/26: 121 tickets sold through Spektrix</p> <p>Bourne is mainly a venue to hire and only has the one space available for activity when compared to the other venues, therefore significantly lower ticket sales are expected.</p>
Health and Wellbeing	Social prescribing service established and residents engaged	The Arts Service has worked alongside Inspire+ to provide Activities for HAF Camps using Pay it Forward donations
		The newly established events budget focusses on events to improve wellbeing through attendance and to encourage social interaction.
	Numbers of participants engaged with the arts service from target groups	Information has been provided in the body of the report how the Pay It Forward Scheme is benefitting residents who would not otherwise be able to access the arts service.
		Stamford Cinema continues with Audio Description and Watch Word equipment for cinema screenings, opening up accessibility to

		deaf and visually impaired audiences.
		Grantham Operatic Society have worked alongside the venue technicians to have the first amateur 'relaxed' performance.
	Take Up of Rural Touring programme across district	The Scheme continues to be extremely well supported in South Kesteven with the some of the fourteen performances planned across eight different venues already underway.
Value for Money	Amount of external funding secured to support the service	The Future High Street Fund was utilised to support the Guildhall Arts Centre by securing a Lighting Desk that was failing, but imperative to hosting events. The fund also has provided new furniture and a revamped coffee shop space making it more attractive to customers.
Cultural Venues and Programmes	Number of volunteering hours engaged in delivery of Arts and Cultural Events	Last financial year the total number of volunteer hours at the Guildhall Arts Centre have been 2169 hours, between 41 volunteers.
		Stamford Arts Centre have an emerging pool of 13 volunteers, starting with live theatre events. More volunteers will be recruited to grow the volunteer pool to eventually cover live performances in the theatre and ballroom.

		<p>Venue volunteers are essentially to the delivery of the live programmes and workshops. The venues have volunteer ushers welcoming customers into the venue, helping them with their enquiries and working to evacuate theatres in the event of a fire or incident. The Guildhall also has Follow Spot Volunteers, controlling the spotlights from the balconies for live performances.</p>
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G) Cultural Strategy Refresh

- 2.53. The current Cultural Strategy will expire in July 2027 and is therefore due to be refreshed and updated.
- 2.54. Surveys are currently being curated to send out to current audience members via our mailing lists, paper copies will be available at the venues. There will be a further survey specifically for Members to share their views.
- 2.55. The aim of the survey is to gauge what residents currently want to see from the Council in terms of arts and culture, as well as questions specifically about the venues to improve and shape the service offered.
- 2.55 The results of the survey and draft refreshed Cultural Strategy will be shared with the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a further meeting prior to it being considered by Cabinet for adoption.

3. Key Considerations

- 1.1. This report provides an update on work being undertaken since the adoption of the Cultural Strategy and the achievement of the agreed Key Performance Indicators.

2. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 It has previously been agreed that the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive a six-monthly update on the Cultural Strategy and the accompanying Action Plan.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 As the Council strives to deliver best value and the widest engagement with its arts and cultural service, Members are requested to provide suggestions on any additional information they wish to see.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Live and Local Rural Touring Scheme Report
- 6.2 Appendix 2 – Updated Events List Information

Live & Local Lincolnshire Monitoring

South Kesteven District Council

Autumn Healthcheck Report

As at: 17/09/2025

Programme Year: 2025/2026

These quantitative reports represent the outcomes from local authority funds committed in the equivalent financial year to the above Programme Year. However they support activity during our Program Year period, crossing two financial years (June to May).

Outputs Summary

The Performances and Shows

Unique Events	14	(Count: 14)
Unique Shows	12	
Priority Performances	2	(14%)
Diverse Performances	0	(0%)
BAME Performances	0	(0%)
International Performances	0	(0%)
Creative Case Performances	0	(0%)

The Communities & Promoters

Unique Groups	8
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Promoter Groups List

Active Groups with Events Booked

	Events
Ropsley Village Hall Management Cttee	2
Swayfield Ministry of Fun	2
West Deeping Village Hall Cttee	1
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Village Hall Cttee	1
Greatford Village Hall Cttee	3
Barrowby Open Door	2
Events at Corby Glen	1
Long Bennington Village Hall Cttee	2
<hr/>	
Total Promoter Groups:	8
Total Events:	14 (Count: 14)

Promoter Enquiries

Currently in recruitment process:

(Total: 3)

Promoting Group

Prospect Level

Grantham Music Club

Cool

Careby, Aunby & Holywell Village Hall Cttee

Warm

Boothby Pagnell Village Committee

Hot

[Any updates will be given at the meeting](#)

Show Details

05/10/25	Barrowby Memorial Hall	Manouche and more	Music (Gypsy Jazz)	Adults/Older Children
17/10/25	Long Bennington Village Hall	Dead on Cue	Drama	Adults/Older Children
17/10/25	West Deeping Village Hall	Crumbs	Comedy Theatre	Adults/Older Children
07/11/25	Greatford Village Hall	Swing from Paris - an evening of Parisian-flavoured music	Music (Gypsy Jazz)	Adults/Older Children
24/01/26	Swayfield Village Hall	Kathy's Song: A Celebration of the Music of Simon and Garfunkel	Music/Storytelling	Adults/Older Children
25/01/26	Ropsley Village Hall	The Campfire Sessions	Storytelling/Music	Adults/Older Children
27/02/26	Braceborough Village Hall	Janice Burns & Jon Doran	Music (Folk)	Adults/Older Children
07/03/26	Swayfield Village Hall	The Pocket Choral Society	Music (Other)	Suitable for All
15/03/26	Ropsley Village Hall	Great Britons	Comedy Theatre	Adults/Family
19/03/26	Long Bennington Village Hall	Victor and Albert - Purveyors of fine musical comedy	Cabaret	Adults/Older Children
27/03/26	Greatford Village Hall	Just Like That! The Tommy Cooper Show	Drama	Adults/Family
28/03/26	Ron Dawson Memorial Hall	Dead on Cue	Drama	Adults/Older Children
10/05/26	Barrowby Memorial Hall	Scratchy Beard's New Folk Explosion	Music (Folk/Blues)	Adults/Older Children
16/05/26	Greatford Village Hall	The Pocket Choral Society	Music (Other)	Suitable for All
Total Events 14		(Count: 14)		

Events by Audience & Show

Adults/Older Children

Crumbs	1	
Dead on Cue	2	
Janice Burns & Jon Doran	1	
Kathy's Song: A Celebration of the Music	1	
Manouche and more	1	
Scratchy Beard's New Folk Explosion	1	
Swing from Paris - an evening of Parisian	1	
The Campfire Sessions	1	
Victor and Albert - Purveyors of fine musi	1	
Total this Group:	10	71%

Adults/Family

Great Britons	1	
Just Like That! The Tommy Cooper Show	1	
Total this Group:	2	14%

Suitable for All

The Pocket Choral Society	2	
Total this Group:	2	14%

Total Events for Year: 14 (Count: 12)

Events by Artform & Show

Drama

Dead on Cue	2	
Just Like That! The Tommy Cooper Show	1	
Total this Group:	3	21%

Music (Folk)

Janice Burns & Jon Doran	1	
Total this Group:	1	7%

Comedy Theatre

Crumbs	1	
Great Britons	1	
Total this Group:	2	14%

Storytelling/Music

The Campfire Sessions	1	
Total this Group:	1	7%

Music (Other)

The Pocket Choral Society	2	
Total this Group:	2	14%

Music (Gypsy Jazz)

Manouche and more	1	
Swing from Paris - an evening of Parisian-flavoured music	1	
Total this Group:	2	14%

Music (Folk/Blues)

Scratchy Beard's New Folk Explosion	1	
Total this Group:	1	7%

Cabaret

Victor and Albert - Purveyors of fine musical comedy	1	
Total this Group:	1	7%

Music/Storytelling

Kathy's Song: A Celebration of the Music of Simon and Garfunkel	1	
Total this Group:	1	7%

Total Events for Year:	14	(Count: 12)
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Priority Performances Summary

These are companies or shows that have a particular significance within the overall programme and that we have said to our main arts funders (Arts Council England) that we will support. Their subsidy is partly predicated on these shows featuring in the final performance programme. They are companies or shows that:

- Came through our DART programme including work that has been created in partnership with promoters and/or their audiences;
- Are our current artform priorities (currently dance, drama and live literature);
- Are our audience priorities (currently children and young people);
- Have featured at the NRTF New Directions showcase;
- Have an uncommon, exceptional or surprising content or presentational style.

Priority	2	14%	
Non Priority	12	86%	
<hr/>			
Total	14	100%	(Count: 14)
International	0	0%	
Diverse	0	0%	
Drama	3	21%	
BME	0	0%	
Priority	2	14%	
Creative Case	0	0%	

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Upcoming Events List

Arts and Cultural Services

April 2026:

- 11th to 26th – South Kesteven Walking Festival
- 12th – The Tempest – Walking Theatre – Allington Manor
- 18th – Bourne Time Traveller Walk – Wellhead Park, Bourne
- 27th - Village Art Club – Book making workshop – Deepings Community Centre, Market Deeping with an exhibition at the Deepings Library during the Deepings Literary Festival.

May 2026:

- 16th – Grantham Car Show – Wyndham Park, Grantham - <https://www.guildhallartscentre.com/media/93794/deepings-banner-1.png?crop=0,0,0.2,0&cropmode=percentage&width=600&height=400&rnd=134176139460000000>

June 2026:

- 6th – Pop Up Cinema – Migration - St Swithun’s Church, Long Bennington – [Pop-up Cinema - Migration](#)
- 6th – Pop Up Cinema – Ballad of Wallis Island - St Swithun’s Church, Long Bennington – [Pop-up Cinema - Ballad of Wallis Island](#)
- DATE TBC w/c 15th – Village Art Club – Castle Bytham
- 20th – *Picnic in the Park, Bourne* – SKDC funding Rhubarb Theatre to bring their new driving school activity to the car show.
- 21st – *Midsummer Festival, Castle Bytham* – SKDC funding Rhubarb Theatre to bring their new driving school activity to the car show.

July 2026:

- DATE TBC w/c 6th – Village Art Club – Ancaster
- 18th – Silent Disco – Ropsley Village Hall
- 23rd – Pop-up Cinema – How to Train Your Dragon – Billingborough Village Hall –
- 23rd – Pop-up Cinema – Hot Fuzz - Billingborough Village Hall -



August 2026:

- 6th – Bike Night – Grantham Market Place
- 14th – Outdoor Pop-up Cinema – Raya and the Last Dragon – Red Hall, Bourne
- 14th – Outdoor Pop-up Cinema – FILM TBC - Red Hall, Bourne
- Proposed date 16th – Stamford Folk Dance Festival
- 21st – Pop-up Cinema – FILM TBC – Haconby
- 21st – Pop-up Cinema – FILM TBC – Haconby
- 30th – *Stamford Car Show – Stamford Meadows – we are paying Rhubarb Theatre to bring their driving school activity to the car show*

September 2026:

- 5th - Outdoor Pop-up Cinema – Muppets Treasure Island - Red Hall, Bourne
- 5th - Outdoor Pop-up Cinema – FILM TBC - Red Hall, Bourne
- 15th – Village Art Club – Long Bennington
- 15th – *Market Deeping Chess Heat – run by Spalding Chess Club*
- 26th – BMX Display – Market Deeping

October 2026:

- 1st – Deepings Schools Banner Parade (Lincolnshire Day) – Location TBC
- 3rd – Henry VIII Used to Hate Us – Theatre Show (Lincolnshire Day) – Red Hall, Bourne
- 24th – Pop-up Cinema – FILM TBC – Coronation Hall, Market Deeping
- 24th to 31st – Halloween Trails – Activity Day in each town to be confirmed

November 2026:

- 21st – Pop-up Cinema – The Muppets Christmas Carol – Coronation Hall, Market Deeping
- 29th – Grantham Christmas Market – Market Place, Grantham (Funded by Grantham Special Expense Area, not events budget)

December 2026:



- DATE TBC – Village Art Club - Folkingham

February 2027:

- 13th – Silent Disco – Galentines Theme – Location TBC
- 20th – Pop up Cinema – Location TBC

March 2027:

- 6th – Newton Cup Final – Grantham
- TBC – Luminarium (Newton 300 celebrations)
- Proposed dates 13th & 14th – Have a go weekend – workshops in locations across the district

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**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 12 May 2026

Report of Councillor Paul Stokes
Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet
Member for Leisure and Culture

LeisureSK Ltd. Performance Report - Quarters 3 and 4 2025/26

Report Author

Michael Chester, Team Leader - Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces

✉ michael.chester@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To provide an update to the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the performance of LeisureSK Ltd. during quarters 3 and 4 in financial year 2025/26 against the leisure management contract objectives.

Recommendations

Members of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to note the contents of the report.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate priorities?

Connecting Communities
Sustainable South Kesteven
Effective Council

Which wards are impacted?

Bourne East; Grantham Earlesfield;
Stamford St Georges;

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no financial implications from the Council's perspective in relation to this report. As part of the agency contract arrangement income is collected by LeisureSK Ltd. on behalf of the Council and a monthly reconciliation is carried out. Any expenditure incurred in delivering the service is deducted before any remaining surplus income is transferred to the Council.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for assessing the performance of LeisureSK Ltd. in line with the Council's agreed performance indicators as set out in the Leisure Services Specification – April 2025. The Committee has previously agreed to receive updates against the performance indicators and last received an update at a meeting of the Committee on Thursday 11 December 2025.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2024-27 sets out the key priorities for the Council and its leisure service. Providing a high-quality sustainable leisure offer helps support the Council's corporate ambitions and provides opportunities for improved health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities.
- 2.2 The Council entered a new 10-year agency agreement with LeisureSK Ltd. on 1 April 2025 which includes a refreshed suite of key performance indicators (KPI's). The Council's leisure contract with LeisureSK Ltd. focusses on embedding an approach that seeks to continuously improve service delivery and customer experience.
- 2.3 This report will therefore focus solely on the Company's performance against the KPI's embedded within the Leisure Services Specification. This Committee previously received an update on the Company's performance during quarter 2 on Thursday 11 December 2025 (see **Background Papers**).

- 2.4 During year one of the contract with LeisureSK Ltd., baseline data has been collected to measure the performance of the company against across the remainder of the contract period. The information provided in **Appendix One** is the baseline contract data collected during year one of the contract period.
- 2.5 During Q3 there was a reduction in the Swim School occupancy across the company of 5.3% with Stamford Leisure Pool seeing the greatest reduction. However, it is pleasing to see that across Q4 the overall occupancy has grown by 0.7% and Stamford Leisure Pool has seen an occupancy growth of 10% as a result of a programme review and careful class management. Q3 also saw a low amount of new membership sales in comparison to the number of leavers across the contract, however there was the opposite effect in Q4 with a greater number of new membership sales being generated compared to leavers. This is mainly down to the completion of the gym refurbishment at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre. The sales performance for new members and leavers in Q3 and Q4 is comparable with national trends.
- 2.6 Moving forwards into 2026/27 the Council will be able to assess the performance of LeisureSK Ltd. against the key performance indicators in the Leisure Services Specification, now that the baseline data has been collected during year one of the contract.
- 2.7 Council Officers continue to undertake regular monitoring visits across each of the leisure facilities. These focus on the customer experience journey whilst ensuring that the delivery of the service is aligned with the performance requirements set out in the Leisure Services Specification.
- 2.8 During the period October 2025 to March 2026 a total of 24 monitoring visits were carried out by the Council's Leisure Team, covering the three leisure facilities and the stadium in Grantham.

2.9 **Table One** below shows the findings for cleanliness and maintenance issues raised from the leisure monitoring visits during this period. Also included in brackets is the variance compared to the same reporting period in the previous year.

Table One: Findings from the leisure monitoring visits and the items raised for rectification between the period of October 2025 to March 2026		
Facility	Total Cleanliness Items	Total Maintenance and Repair Items
	Oct 2025 – Mar 2026	Oct 2025 – Mar 2026
Bourne Leisure Centre	211 (+10)	148 (-5)
Grantham Meres Leisure Centre	418 (+132)	211 (-14)
South Kesteven Sports Stadium	274 (-75)	205 (+60)
Stamford Leisure Pool	165 (-99)	86 (-8)

2.10 Monitoring of the rectification numbers for cleanliness and maintenance issues forms part of the corporate KPI's which are reported to this Committee.

2.11 Under the terms of the contract LeisureSK Ltd. must inform the Council should there be any unforeseen closures of the pools outside of planned maintenance works, which would include the closures at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre as part of the decarbonisation works. During Q3 and Q4 there were a total of three pool closures as detailed below:

- Stamford Leisure Pool had two closures in December 2025. These were due to chemical dosing issues and staff sickness.
- Bourne Leisure Centre had one closure due to faecal fouling in the swimming pool.

2.12 LeisureSK Ltd. are supported by an external company, Right Directions Ltd., who carry out independent health and safety monitoring. Each centre is subject to an annual health and safety operational audit which is undertaken by one of the consultants from Right Directions. The most recent audit results for 2025 show an improvement across all sites with the results shown in **Table Two** below:

Table Two: Health and Safety Operational Audit Scores 2025	
Facility	Audit Score
Bourne Leisure Centre	90% (+1%)
Grantham Meres Leisure Centre inc South Kesteven Sports Stadium	89% (+9%)
Stamford Leisure Pool	89% (+1%)

- 2.13 As part of the leisure monitoring visits undertaken by the Council's Leisure Team, should there be any findings during the visit relating to health and safety, these are raised with the centre management team with a timeline agreed for rectification.
- 2.14 LeisureSK Ltd. provide the Council with accident statistics on a quarterly basis. There was a 15% increase in the number of accidents, incidents and near misses reported during this reporting period compared to the first half of the year. Following an internal review there was an issue with some accidents, incidents and near misses not being reported correctly previously. The Contract Operations Manager has addressed this and carried out training with the team. There was one sporting accident at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre which was required to be reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).
- 2.15 With the Council's previous Facilities Management Contract having come to an end in March 2026, the previously held bi-monthly property maintenance meetings did not continue during Q4 as the focus was on completing any outstanding works prior to the change of contractor. A new FM Contract has now commenced from 1 April 2026 with Key Integrated Services (Key IS) and once the new contract has been fully embedded by the Property Team, regular property maintenance meetings between the Council Officers , Key IS, and LeisureSK Ltd. will resume.
- 2.16 Council Officers continue to work through the findings of the building condition surveys which are prioritised for completion based on the severity and risk identified. These works are taking place in addition to the ongoing reactive maintenance works which are identified. Both the Council's Leisure and Property Teams continue to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss these and review the future programme of works.
- 2.17 The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase3c project at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre was successfully completed and commissioned on time in March 2026 in line with the funding deadline set by Salix Finance. This will decarbonise the leisure centre by replacing its fossil fuel heating system and introducing a carbon neutral Net Zero Pod air source heating system.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 This report provides information on the leisure contract performance and monitoring arrangements for LeisureSK Ltd. and offers an opportunity for Members to raise any concerns around the facilities and the level of service being offered.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee have previously agreed to receive regular updates on the performance of LeisureSK Ltd. against the contract KPIs.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 The Council has a duty to ensure the leisure contract provides value for money and delivers on its corporate objectives. The information detailed within the report provides Members with an opportunity to assess the performance of LeisureSK Ltd.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 *LeisureSK Ltd. Performance Report – Quarter 2 2025/26* – Report to Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee, published 3 December 2025, available online at:

<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s48926/LeisureSK%20Ltd%20Performance%20Report%20-%20Quarter%202%20202526.pdf>

7. Appendices

- 7.1 **Appendix One** – LeisureSK Ltd. Performance Data 2025/26

Table One: An overview of the performance indicators for LeisureSK Ltd against the Council's priority outcomes during each quarter of 2025/26					
Priority Outcome	Performance Indicator	Q1 Result <i>*These are actual results and will form the baseline data for future reporting against</i>	Q2 Result <i>*These are actual results and will form the baseline data for future reporting against</i>	Q3 Result <i>*These are actual results and will form the baseline data for future reporting against</i>	Q4 Result <i>*These are actual results and will form the baseline data for future reporting against</i>
1) Improving the health of residents by encouraging and providing opportunities for people in South Kesteven to be more active, more often.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a 1% YOY increase in the activity levels in the number of adults who undertake 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Achieve a 1% YOY increase in the activity levels in the number of children who undertake 60 minutes of physical activity per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 60.1% (Nov 2023/24) Children 50.5% (Academic Year 2022/23) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 60.1% (Nov 2023/24) Children 50.5% (Academic Year 2022/23) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 60.1% (Nov 2023/24) Children 50.5% (Academic Year 2022/23) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 60.1% (Nov 2023/24) Children 50.5% (Academic Year 2022/23)
2) Tackling inactivity in priority groups and areas, increasing the numbers of people taking part in physical activity and the frequency this is undertaken to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Authority's priority wards and rural areas Young people (under the age of 16) Women and ethnic groups Older adults (over 55's) People with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions 	<p>Measured annually from the Operator's available data and compared to data from Sport England's Active Lives Survey. See Priority Outcome 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of baseline data for target groups in year 1 Achieve a 1% increase in the number and participation dedicated to each of the key target groups identified from year 2 onwards 	<p>Young people: 3,957 Older adults: 25,875</p> <p><i>*Reporting dashboard currently being reviewed by LeisureSK CRM provider to assist with other metrics</i></p>	<p>Young people: 4,436 Older adults: 27,660</p> <p><i>*Reporting dashboard currently being reviewed by LeisureSK CRM provider to assist with other metrics</i></p>	<p>Young people: 2,410 Older adults: 24,987</p> <p><i>*Reporting dashboard currently being reviewed by LeisureSK CRM provider to assist with other metrics</i></p>	<p>Young people: 3001 Older adults: 27,799</p> <p><i>*Reporting dashboard currently being reviewed by LeisureSK CRM provider to assist with other metrics</i></p>
3) Provide high quality leisure facilities and activities to deliver positive and affordable opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing.	<p>Measured annually from the Operator's available data and compared to data from the Sport England annual Moving Communities Customer Experience Survey.</p> <p>Achieve a 2% YOY increase in total usage across each Facility</p>	<p>Grantham: 99,426 Bourne: 65,713 Stamford: 36,164</p> <p>Total: 201,303</p>	<p>Grantham: 113,865 Bourne: 64,956 Stamford: 35,160</p> <p>Total: 213,981</p>	<p>Grantham: 103,489 Bourne: 56,795 Stamford: 29,632</p> <p>Total: 189,916</p>	<p>Grantham: 89833 Bourne: 63492 Stamford: 30780</p> <p>Total: 184,105</p>
4) Nurture robust and meaningful partnerships across sectors to improve activity opportunities and encourage partnership working and improve community cohesion	To be completed through the Operator sharing available information on a quarterly basis with the Authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One You Lincolnshire for Exercise on Prescription Lincoln City Football Foundation to deliver Fighting Fit Cancer Rehabilitation Lincolnshire Co-op for Healthy Wellbeing Walks Bourne Galletly Practice for Seated Exercise The Chartered Institute for the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One You Lincolnshire for Exercise on Prescription Lincoln City Football Foundation to deliver Fighting Fit Cancer Rehabilitation Lincolnshire Co-op for Healthy Wellbeing Walks Bourne Galletly Practice for Seated Exercise The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One You Lincolnshire for Exercise on Prescription Lincoln City Football Foundation to deliver Fighting Fit Cancer Rehabilitation Lincolnshire Co-op for Healthy Wellbeing Walks Bourne Galletly Practice for Seated Exercise The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One You Lincolnshire for Exercise on Prescription Lincoln City Football Foundation to deliver Fighting Fit Cancer Rehabilitation Lincolnshire Co-op for Healthy Wellbeing Walks Bourne Galletly Practice for Seated Exercise The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA)

		<p>Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) for development of a Workforce Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One You Lincolnshire for delivery of Gloji Energy 	<p>(CIMSPA) for development of a Workforce Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One You Lincolnshire for delivery of Gloji Energy 	<p>(CIMSPA) for development of a Workforce Development Strategy</p> <p>One You Lincolnshire for delivery of Gloji Energy</p>	<p>for development of a Workforce Development Strategy</p> <p>One You Lincolnshire for delivery of Gloji Energy</p>
<p>5) Improving knowledge of the benefits of physical activity and deliver a positive customer experience for those who visit the Authority's leisure facilities and engage with services</p>	<p>Measured annually from the Operator's available data and compared to data from the Sport England annual Moving Communities Customer Experience Survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a 2% YOY increase in the levels of customer satisfaction at each Facility Achieve a YOY increase in the NPS score for each Facility 	<p>Annual customer experience survey 2024 results</p> <p><u>Satisfaction</u> Grantham: 80% Bourne: 82.11% Stamford: 80.88% SK Contract: 80.99%</p> <p><u>NPS</u> Grantham: 9.09 Bourne: 30.85 Stamford: -1.51 SK Contract: 14.29</p>	<p>Annual customer experience survey 2025 results</p> <p><u>Satisfaction</u> Grantham: 70.43% Bourne: 84.29% Stamford: 74.75% SK Contract: 77.12%</p> <p><u>NPS</u> Grantham: -0.91 Bourne: 16.67 Stamford: -12.12 SK Contract: 2.88</p>	<p>Annual customer experience survey 2025 results</p> <p><u>Satisfaction</u> Grantham: 70.43% Bourne: 84.29% Stamford: 74.75% SK Contract: 77.12%</p> <p><u>NPS</u> Grantham: -0.91 Bourne: 16.67 Stamford: -12.12 SK Contract: 2.88</p>	<p>Annual customer experience survey 2025 results</p> <p><u>Satisfaction</u> Grantham: 70.43% Bourne: 84.29% Stamford: 74.75% SK Contract: 77.12%</p> <p><u>NPS</u> Grantham: -0.91 Bourne: 16.67 Stamford: -12.12 SK Contract: 2.88</p>
<p>6) Improve the energy efficiency of the leisure estate and review further renewable energy opportunities to support the Authority's aim to reduce its carbon footprint by 30% by 2030, and to achieve net zero by 2041.</p>	<p>To be completed through the Operator sharing available information on a quarterly basis with the Authority on energy consumption and carbon emissions for each Facility.</p> <p>Achieve a 5% reduction in consumption at each Facility each year in the first three years of the contract</p>	<p><u>Gas consumption (kW)</u> Grantham: 519,427 Stadium: 16,551 Bourne: 324,458 Stamford: 181,594</p> <p><u>Electricity consumption (kWh)</u> Grantham: 142,285 Stadium: 15,351 Bourne: 123,384 Stamford: 71,322</p>	<p><u>Gas consumption (kW)</u> Grantham: 440,343 Stadium: 7,431 Bourne: 248,688 Stamford: 245,458</p> <p><u>Electricity consumption (kWh)</u> Grantham: 153,087 Stadium: 15,929 Bourne: 122,046 Stamford: 65,641</p>	<p><u>Gas consumption (kW)</u> Grantham: 588,926 Stadium: 45,775 Bourne: 381,099 Stamford: 306,805</p> <p><u>Electricity consumption (kWh)</u> Grantham: 169,691 Stadium: 18,592 Bourne: 136,621 Stamford: 66,716</p>	<p><u>Gas consumption (kW)</u> Grantham: 580,756* Stadium: 74,004 Bourne: 415,678 Stamford: 349,867</p> <p><u>Electricity consumption (kWh)</u> Grantham: 12,519* Stadium: 18,602 Bourne: 143,274 Stamford: 70,819</p> <p><i>*No invoices have been received for Feb & Mar at the main leisure centre due to a change of utility supplier</i></p>

Table Two: An overview of the key performance indicators for LeisureSK Ltd during each quarter of 2025/26					
Key Performance Indicator	How this will be measured	Q1 Result	Q2 Result	Q3 Result	Q4 Result
1) Total members – total number of members visiting per centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a 2% YOY increase – last quarter vs same quarter previous year 	Total: 23,407 2024: 19,834 Difference: +3,573 (18%)	Total: 23,775 2024: 22,834 Difference: +941 (4.1.%)	Total: 22,315 2024: 15,658 Difference: +6,657 (42.5%)	Total: 31072 2025: 28357 Difference: +2715
2) Total pay as you go users (PAYG) – PAYG users per centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a 2% YOY increase – last quarter vs same quarter previous year 	Total: 1,960 2024: 2,481 Difference: -521	Total: 2,006 2024: 2,628 Difference: -622	Total 1,341 2024: 1,713 Difference: -372	Total: 2661 2025: 2250 Difference: +411
3) Total throughput – total number of visits per centre including members and PAYG users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a 2% YOY increase – last quarter vs same quarter previous year 	Grantham: 99,426 Bourne: 65,713 Stamford: 36,164 Total: 201,303	Grantham: 113,865 Bourne: 64,956 Stamford: 35,160 Total: 213,981	Grantham: 103,489 Bourne: 56,795 Stamford: 29,632 Total: 189,916	Grantham: 89833 Bourne: 63492 Stamford: 30780 Total:184,105
4) Accidents, Incidents and Near Misses – total number of accidents, incidents and near misses across the portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a YOY reduction – last quarter vs same quarter previous year 	Total: 108	Total:75	Total: 103	Total: 113
5) Swim School Occupancy – total percentage of occupancy filled for the Swim School against total capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a recommended lessons occupancy of 85% but no more than 90% - last quarter vs same quarter previous year 	Growth of 1.4% across Q1 Grantham: 94% Bourne: 90% Stamford: 86%	Growth of -0.2% across Q2 Grantham: 96% Bourne: 89% Stamford: 85%	Growth of -5.3% across Q3 Grantham: 93% Bourne: 83% Stamford: 77%	Growth of 0.7% across Q4 Grantham:92% Bourne:84% Stamford:87%
6) Membership Sales – total number of new membership sales across the portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a YOY increase – last quarter vs same quarter previous year 	Total: 485	Total: 748	Total: 376	Total:604
7) Membership Leavers – total number of membership leavers across the portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a YOY reduction – last quarter vs same quarter previous year 	Total: 459	Total: 777	Total: 656	Total: 501
8) Quest Plus Accreditation – progress Quest scoring over the contract length with all facilities achieving Quest Plus and a minimum rating of very good by the end of year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved scoring YOY with a minimum rating of very good by the end of year 3 – annual vs previous year 	<u>Quest 1 Day Results</u> Grantham: Very Good Bourne: Good Stamford: Good	<u>Quest 1 Day Results</u> Grantham: Very Good Bourne: Good Stamford: Good	<u>Quest 1 Day Results</u> Grantham: Very Good Bourne: Good Stamford: Good	<u>Quest 1 Day Results</u> Grantham: Very Good Bourne: Good Stamford: Good

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Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 12 May 2026

Report of David Scott, Director of
LeisureSK Ltd

LeisureSK Ltd Finance Update

Report Author

David Scott, Director of LeisureSK Ltd

 david.scott@leisuresk.co.uk

Purpose of Report

To provide an update regarding the finance performance of LeisureSK Ltd during the financial year 2025/26.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

Yes - Exempt Appendix One - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – financial information.

1. Background to the Report

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2024/27 sets out the key priorities for the Council including its leisure service. Encouraging sport and physical activity to support healthy lifestyles by reducing health inequalities and delivering a sustainable leisure offer helps to support the Council's corporate ambition and provides opportunities for improved health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities.
- 1.2 The Council's leisure contract with LeisureSK Ltd focusses on embedding an approach that seeks to continuously improve service delivery and customer experience.
- 1.3 LeisureSK Ltd is committed to supporting the Council achieving its ambitions of having a sustainable leisure and cultural offer as per the Corporate Plan 2024/27.
- 1.4 The new 10-year contract between the Council and LeisureSK Ltd commenced on 1st April 2025 under agency principles.

2. Key Considerations

- 2.1. Based on the latest financial monitoring up to the end of February 2026 LeisureSK Ltd is predicting an operating surplus for 2025/26.
- 2.2. It is worth noting, the continuing improvement in the current financial position of the Company, which is discussed at each Board meeting. At the end of February 2026, the current forecast outturn for the end of the current financial year is an operating surplus of £136,200 which is an overachievement of £64,500 against the budget which under the agency principles would be returned to the Council. More detailed information is provided in Exempt Appendix One.
- 2.3. Overall fitness memberships have decreased by 3.2% over the comparative 12-month period, primarily due to a loss of members at Stamford following the opening of PureGym.
- 2.4. Swim School memberships have decreased by 2.7% over the comparative 12-month period, again mostly being attributed to Stamford.
- 2.5. Events have continued to be held regularly at Grantham Meres and generate additional income supporting the cashflow of the Company.

- 2.6. Utility costs have continued to perform well due to reduced consumption from the favourable weather conditions and increased solar generation at Grantham Meres reducing the electricity usage.
- 2.7. The LeisureSK Ltd annual budget and business plan 2026/27 was approved by this committee at the meeting on 11 December 2025 outlining a projected increase on operating surplus for the year ahead of £183,735 which includes the repayment of the two current loans for the gym investment at Bourne and Grantham.
- 2.18 Within the business plan one of the key objectives is to complete a gym refurbishment at Stamford as part of the investment across all sites. LeisureSK Ltd would look again for a loan from the Council to undertake these works in line with previous investments. A provisional sum of £95k has been modelled for these works and has been included in the Council's General Fund Capital Programme 2026/27. LeisureSK Ltd are exploring options regarding scope of works and utilisation of space alongside the timing of works around other investment works the Council is looking to undertake.

3. Background Papers

- 3.1. *LeisureSK Ltd Annual Budget and Business Plan 2026/27* – Report to Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee, published 11 December 2026, available online at:

[LeisureSK Ltd Annual Budget and Business Plan Report.pdf](#)

4. Appendices

- 4.1. Exempt Appendix One – Financial Performance 2025/26 Forecast Outturn

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 7 May 2026

Report of Councillor Paul Stokes
Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet
Member for Leisure and Culture

Council Leisure Centres - Investment Plan Update

Report Author

Michael Chester, Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces

✉ michael.chester@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the Council's investment plans across the leisure centres and sports stadium.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and the work undertaken to date in procuring the contract for Phase One of the Leisure Improvement Works.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting Communities Sustainable South Kesteven Effective council
Which wards are impacted?	Bourne East; Grantham Earlesfield; Stamford St Georges;

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The procurement of a contractor to undertake the leisure improvement works – phase one has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The contract value is in accordance with the allocation of funds in the Leisure Investment Reserve to undertake the agreed scope of works. The underspend of £162,778 from phase one will be carried forward to phase two allowing for a greater scope of works to be included.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Procurement

- 1.2 A compliant procurement process has been followed by running an open tender process to identify a preferred contractor to undertake the leisure improvement work – phase one, across each of the leisure centres and sports stadium.
- 1.3 This process has been supported by Welland Procurement and conducted in accordance with best practice and the Procurement Act 2023 to ensure that the principles of transparency, equity and fairness have been adhered to.

Completed by: Helen Baldwin (Procurement Lead)

Legal and Governance

- 1.4 This is an update report for noting; therefore, there are no specific governance concerns.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan (2024-27) sets out the Council's ambition to be 'A thriving District to live in, work and visit' with the aim of delivering and facilitating a sustainable leisure and cultural offer, as well as managing its resources and assets effectively with open transparent and accountable decision making. Underpinning

this are the key priorities for the Council of 'Connecting Communities' and being an 'Effective Council'.

- 2.2 The Council's three leisure centres and sports stadium have the highest customer throughput each year across all its assets and as such it is recognised that to continue to provide a positive customer experience there is a need to undertake cosmetic works and decoration, instead of solely focusing on the maintenance backlog.
- 2.3 A Leisure Investment Reserve of £1m has been established to enable investment in the facilities by improving the decoration and replacing worn out fixtures and fittings. Phase one of the investment was agreed at £500k and a further £500k was allocated for phase two in financial year 2026/27.
- 2.4 Following a meeting of the Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 November 2025, (see **Background Papers**), it was agreed that the allocation of this funding should be targeted at refurbishing the changing room facilities across all the centres.
- 2.5 Officers have since been working with consultants to finalise the scope of works for phase one of the project, along with Welland Procurement to procure the works through an open tender process.
- 2.6 As part of the open tender process, site visits for potential contractors were mandatory should they wish to formally submit a bid. A total of three scheduled site visits were arranged due to the high level of interest shown in the project.
- 2.7 A total of 45 expressions of interest were received and from this 10 contractors attended the site visits. This subsequently resulted in a total of nine formal tender submissions being received.
- 2.8 Officers have evaluated all the bids received and the award of contract is due to be considered by Cabinet on 5 May 2026. The recommendation is to award a contract for £321,222 to the preferred contractor, Northdown Property Services (NPS) Limited, this is broken down per Centre as follows:
 - Bourne Leisure Centre - £80,829
 - Stamford Leisure Pool - £72,032
 - Grantham Meres Leisure Centre - £92,962
 - South Kesteven Sports Stadium - £75,399
- 2.9 NPS Limited were founded in 2015 and are a leading property refurbishment and maintenance company based in Peterborough, with experience of delivering similar projects previously.

- 2.10 Officers obtained pricing clarification from NPS Limited during the moderation evaluation process given that the value of the bid submitted came in below the anticipated £500k budget. Written confirmation was received from NPS Limited through Welland Procurement that their pricing had been checked, and they were satisfied that the submission provided was accurate.
- 2.11 The programme of works has come in under the anticipated £500k budget and therefore the underspend from phase one will be carried forward to phase two. There has already been a draw down from the reserve of £16,000 which allowed for the phase one preliminary works to be undertaken prior to tender. This will mean that there is a carry forward of £162,778 which will allow for a greater scope of works to be included in phase two.
- 2.12 The scope of works does vary slightly between each facility but in principle it will cover the following:
- Servicing and repair of changing cubicles
 - Replacement WC cubicles at the leisure centres only
 - Replacement shower cubicles at Grantham Meres
 - Ceiling tile and grid replacements
 - Lighting upgrades
 - Door replacements
 - Replacement vinyl floor where appropriate
 - Whiterock to walls in shower areas
 - Vanity unit replacements
 - Replacement taps, mirrors and dispenser units
 - Refurbishment and replacement of home and away changing room furniture at the Stadium
 - Decoration
 - Deep cleaning
- 2.13 It is anticipated that there will be some potential disruption to the operations across each of the three leisure centres and sports stadium to allow for these works to be undertaken in a timely manner. The impact of this will be finalised during the contract mobilisation phase and in consultation with the centre management provider, LeisureSK Limited.
- 2.14 Officers are now in the process of engaging with NPS Limited to agree the implementation plan which includes the phasing of works and preparation of the legal contract, subject to approval at a meeting of Cabinet on 5 May 2026 and there being no legal challenge received.
- 2.15 In relation to phase two, early engagement has already been made with the consultants to review the scope of phase 2 given the increase in available funding. Officers will meet with them at each of the four facilities to look at the scope of works and a proposal will then be produced based on the outcome of these visits

and discussions. A further report will be brought to a future meeting of the Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree on the scope of works for phase two.

- 2.16 Once the scope of works for phase two has been agreed a compliant procurement process will be followed with the support of Welland Procurement, procuring the works as a single package through an open tender process. This will open the opportunity up to local suppliers and avoid incurring framework commission fees, thus demonstrating value for money.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 A compliant tender exercise has been undertaken to identify a preferred contractor to carry out the leisure improvement works – phase one, across each of the leisure centres and sports stadium. The proposed contract is for a period of up to six months with the option to extend for a further six months if required.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The Council could choose not to undertake the phase one improvement works; however, this has been discounted as the Leisure Investment Reserve has been established with the primary objective of improving the cosmetic appearance of each of the three leisure centres and sports stadium.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 This report is for noting and is being presented to update Members of the Committee with progress in relation to the leisure investment reserve.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 *Leisure Investment Reserve – Allocation Criteria* – Report to Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee, published 10 November 2025, available online at:
<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s48572/Leisure%20Investment%20Reserve%20proposals.pdf>

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Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2025/26

WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/ PRIORITY
12 May 2026				
Sports and Physical Activity Update	Lead Officer: Beth Goodman (Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead)	Final review of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2021 – 2026)		
Cultural Strategy Update	Lead Officer: Jade Porter (Arts and Cultural Services Manager)	To scrutinise performance of the Council's Arts and Cultural Service, including the implementation of the Cultural Strategy and achievement of the action plan To include events	This forms part of regular six-monthly updates which are provided to the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Connecting Communities
KPI update on LeisureSK Ltd (year 1)	Lead Officer: Michael Chester (Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces)	To provide an update on the performance of LeisureSK Ltd during quarter's 3 and 4 in financial year 2025/26 against the leisure management contract objectives.		
LeisureSK Ltd forecast position 2025/26	Lead Officer: David Scott (Director for LeisureSK Ltd)	To present the latest forecast position for 2025/26.		

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/ PRIORITY
Council Investment Plan Update	Lead Officer: Michael Chester (Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces)	To provide an update on progress with the Council investment plan.		
2 July 2026 (Provisional)				
Visit from Grantham Town FC	Lead Officer: Karen Whitfield (Assistant Director for Leisure, Culture and Place)	A presentation from Grantham Town Football Club on their aspirations for the club and developing community engagement, (Visit to take place once the lease negotiations have been concluded)	Agreed by the Chairman at the meeting of CLOSC held on 14 October 2025	
Corporate Plan 2024-27: Key Performance Indicators Report - End-Year (Q4) 2025/26	Lead Officer: Charles James (Policy Officer)			
LeisureSK Ltd Financial Outturn Position	Lead Officer: David Scott (Director for LeisureSK Ltd)	To present the budget outturn for financial year 2025/26		
13 October 2026 (Provisional)				
LeisureSK Ltd Performance Report - Quarter 1 2026/27	Lead Officer: Michael Chester (Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces)	To provide an update on the performance of LeisureSK Ltd during quarter 1 in financial year 2026/27 against the		

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/ PRIORITY
		leisure management contract objectives.		
<p style="text-align: center;">FUTURE ITEMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Play Area Strategy Action Plan – September/October 2026 Grantham Canal Partnership</p>				

REMIT

The remit of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be to work alongside Cabinet Members to assist with the development of policy and to scrutinise decisions in respect of, yet not limited to:

- Arts and Culture
- Heritage
- Markets and fairs
- Sport and physical activity
- Leisure SK Ltd
- Visitor Economy