



*your council working for you*

# Priorities, projects and money

Making sure we have the right pieces in place is crucial.

We work hard every year to deliver value for money services to you.



**The complete picture**



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# Keep SK clean, green and healthy



- Healthy Life styles – tackle health inequalities and childhood and adult obesity (Fit Kids, Exercise Referral, Food4Life)
- Youth Sports Engagement – to combat antisocial behaviour and encourage participation in sport (Fair Play Football and summer activities)
- South Kesteven in Bloom – encourage residents to take part in floral competitions to develop community pride
- Green Flag Status for parks in South Kesteven – five-year improvement programme starting with Wyndham Park in Grantham before being rolled out across the district
- Recycling - continue to promote opportunities through community involvement and education



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# Promote leisure, arts and culture



- Destination South Kesteven – raise the profile of the district helping to make it a place where people want to live, work and visit
- Promote a cultural programme of arts and leisure activities and events to attract a wider audience
- Promote the district's heritage and tourism
- Encourage a diverse daytime and evening economy
- Special events to celebrate the Olympics



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# Grow the economy



- Promote Destination South Kesteven as a place to do business
- Improve Grantham town centre to attract investment
- Develop an apprenticeship scheme to meet local demands
- Encourage higher paid jobs through business development
- Capture and retain local talent
- Progress major projects including the Southern Quadrant and Station Approach in Grantham and Wherry's Lane in Bourne
- Secure broadband coverage across the district to improve overall access and attract new business



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# Support good housing for all



- Work with developers to increase the number of Lifetime Homes – properties which can be adapted to fit residents at all stages of their lives
- Work with the community to create a safer, cleaner and greener South Kesteven by ensuring a visible presence on the streets to help combat antisocial behaviour, the fear of crime and crime itself
- Bring old homes back to life by investing in run-down (void) properties and using local skill in the form of apprentices, local colleges and businesses
- Work with landlords to improve the quality of private rented housing



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# You said....

We asked you to choose where you would be prepared to see a reduction in service or an increase in charges. Your feedback has helped us put together our spending plans for the next year.



## You said.... we could

- Reduce green waste collections during the winter
- Introduce an annual green waste charge for residents who use this service
- Reduce the cost of CCTV monitoring
- Collect missed bins once a week rather than twice
- Reduce the number of issues of our council magazine from 6 to 4
- Reduce our overheads without affecting frontline services

## You said....we shouldn't



- Reduce the money we spend on tackling anti-social behaviour
- Reduce highway verge litter picking/street cleaning schedules – in fact we have increased it!
- Reduce the opening hours of our toilets



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# What's Important to our residents

Times have changed and so have our residents' views on what matters most to them.

Back in 2008/09 the things that were most important in making somewhere a good place to live were:

- **Level of crime**
- **Health Services**
- **Clean Streets**
- **Education**
- **Affordable housing**

Two years on, in the middle of a global recession, local people have told us what they now want us to focus on. That's:

- **Creating jobs**
- **Improving shopping facilities**
- **Easing traffic congestion**
- **Car parking**
- **Activities for teenagers**





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# Money matters

Money matters to everyone and your local council is no different.

This section will tell you how we have done the sums to make the most of the money we get from various sources, including government grants, our council tax payers and fees and charges.

This becomes even more important during these challenging economic times.

We will need just under £14 million to deliver our priorities. For the second year running we are planning to freeze council tax, and would welcome your views on this.

## **In 2012/13:-**

We expect to receive around £6 million from our council tax payers and around £8 million in government grants.

Since 2010/11, the amount of government grant we have received has decreased by over £2 million but we have continued to provide all our front line services by working really hard behind the scenes to reduce our overheads. We have also listened to

customers about what matters most to them and this feedback has helped us make some tough financial decisions.

## **We have saved:**

- £366,000 by developing an innovative way of providing local leisure services through "Leisure in the Community"
- £78,000 by renegotiating our contracts
- £90,000 by sharing the costs of senior officer posts with neighbouring authorities
- £300,000 of staffing costs
- £22,000 by reducing the number of editions of the council magazine Sktoday from 6 to 4

