



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Report of Councillor Phil Dilks, Cabinet
Member for Planning

Update on Grantham Southern Relief Road

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To provide the committee with an update as the progress on the Grantham Southern Relief Road.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked 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| Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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 Enabling economic opportunities Housing Effective council |
| 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 The report is for noting and there are no financial implications for the Council.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy s151 Officer.

Legal and Governance

1.2 The report is for noting and there are no legal or governance issues for the Council.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

2.1 The Grantham Southern Relief Road (GSRR) is a large-scale infrastructure project being delivered by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). Once completed the GSRR will be a 3.5km relief road located to the south of Grantham that aims to improve the town's infrastructure and growth.

2.2 The road has been designed to create a new junction to the A1 at Spitalgate Heath that links with the A52 at Somerby Hill. This would result in the current A52 route through Grantham being downgraded and alleviating congestion within the town centre.

2.3 The relief road is a key component for the growth of Grantham and will facilitate the delivery of both the Garden Village and Prince William of Gloucester Barracks (PWGB) redevelopment as well as other economic growth. Other stated aims include

- Creating a safer, more attractive and accessible town centre
- Providing opportunities for growth
- Reducing carbon emissions and noise pollution

- 2.4 The project has been supported by South Kesteven District Council, Homes England, the former Greater Lincolnshire LEP as well as Highways England, the Department for Transport, Network Rail and local businesses. Lincolnshire County Council originally estimated that the cost of the GSRR was £148 million although there are additional costs in the region of £10-£20 million for the bridge installation¹.
- 2.5 Funding sources for the GSRR has included:
- £11.9 million from the Local Transport Board
 - £16.1 million from the Single Local Growth Fund
 - £5million from the Highways England Growth and Housing Fund
 - LCC funding
 - Developer contributions (forwarded funded by LCC)
- 2.6 The road is being delivered in three phases:
- Phase One – creation of a roundabout off the B1174
 - Phase Two – the B1174 will join the A1 trunk road
 - Phase Three – link the A52 at Somerby Hill to the new roundabout
- 2.7 Phases One and Two of the GSRR were originally granted planning permission in 2010 with Phase Three being granted permission in 2013 by South Kesteven District Council. The planning permissions have been subsequently varied in 2015, 2022 and 2023 as the design of the road has evolved. The last amendment was associated with the design of the viaduct over the valley.
- 2.8 Whilst works to Phase One commenced in 2015 with the new roundabout officially opening in August 2016, subsequent phases required approval from the Secretary of State which was given in 2019. Works commenced on Phase Two in October 2019 and on Phase three in April 2021. Phase Two was completed in December 2022.
- 2.9 There are ongoing delays with the completion of Phase Three of the bridge due to the identification of soft, unstable ground at the bridge construction site. LCC has publicly confirmed that there was a design error relating to the rollout of the bridge over the River Witham and the East Coast Mainline. This impacted the anticipated completion date as well as the cost of rectifying the error expecting to cost between £10-£20 million. The total cost of delivering the GSRR is now expected to be up to £168 million.
- 2.10 LCC has also confirmed that there have been further delays in obtaining all of the required approvals for the redesigned bridge. It is expected that the “bridge push” or “launch” over the River Witham and East Coast Mainline will take place within

¹ Figures from LCC ([Grantham Southern Relief Road – About the project - Lincolnshire County Council](#))

the next six months. Once the “launch” has started, it is expected that the road will be completed within two years. LCC has advised that this timescale reflects the scale and sequencing of the remaining works, many of which are depending on the bridge structure being in place and must be undertaken sequentially rather than concurrently. These include:

- Significant follow on works to the bridge structure, including extensive concrete works, plinth and parapet construction, deck waterproofing and utilities installation. Works over the rail corridor will also be dependent on securing appropriate rail possessions.
 - Completion of the western embankment, which cannot proceed until the bridge is installed. This includes placing and compacting approximately 14 metres of material, followed by an overloading period of time to allow settlement.
 - Construction of additional spans on the eastern side of the bridge, including Span 7, which will also require substantial concrete works.
 - Drainage works that are dependent on completion of the embankments and therefore cannot be undertaken earlier in the programme.
 - Final highway works, including kerbing, surface drainage, surfacing, footways, street lighting and signage.
- 2.11 LCC continues to forward fund the bridge through its capital programme and there is a budget of £38.4 million pounds proposed in the 2026/27 budget to support the completion of the road.
- 2.12 The ongoing delays for the completion of the GSRR are frustrating and could impact on the planned growth for Grantham if not resolved soon. In particular, the development of the Garden Village is dependent on the completion of the GSRR. The proposals for the Garden Village are being extensively reworked and new plans and documents are expected to be submitted imminently. Part of the work that is being revisited includes an update to the Transport Assessment (TA). However, based on the original assessment, there is capacity for approximately 150 dwellings before the GSRR is completed. Given the timeline for delivery of the Garden Village, further delays could impact on the longer-term delivery of this site; this could have consequences for the Council’s ability to demonstrate future adequate housing delivery.
- 2.13 In addition to the Garden Village, the PWGB is due to be redeveloped as a mixed-use development including a significant amount of additional housing. The GSRR will need to be completed in order to facilitate the additional traffic movements from this development.
- 2.14 Any further delays to the completion of the GSRR could therefore impact on future housing and economic growth in Grantham; this will be monitored carefully.

3. Key Considerations

- 1.1. The report is to update the Committee on the progress of the GSRR and is for noting.

4. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 4.1 The report is for information only

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 [Grantham Southern Relief Road – About the project - Lincolnshire County Council](#)