



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 24 March 2026

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

Community Engagement Update 2024-2025

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of community engagement for the calendar years 2024/25. It highlights actions taken to deliver against the aims of the Community Engagement and Development Strategy - Our People, Our Place and provides detail on achievements and includes plans for the coming year.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the draft Community Engagement Update report and offer comment on the content.

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Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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 specific financial comments arising from this report.

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

Legal and Governance

1.2 There are no significant governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

2.1 This report provides an update on the work of the Community Engagement Team during the calendar years of 2024-2025. Civil Society plays a vital role across the communities of South Kesteven, and it is the role of the Community Engagement Team to support those groups to achieve their goals. In Community Engagement or Development, the Team's involvement with groups is transient – but remains whilst ever the group needs support.

2.2 The work of the Team provides a 'bridge' between where a group is and where it wants to be. The Team's role is not to tell these groups what to do, it is to support them to do what they want to do. Once they have those skills the Team can withdraw – but with a clear understanding that, should they need support again, we will always be there it will remain available.

2.3 Attached to this report at Appendix A is the 2024-2025 update on achievements against actions agreed under the Council's Community Engagement and Development Strategy – Our People, Our Place 2024-27.

2.4 The draft report provides information on the four key focus areas of the Council's Strategy:

- Building Capacity
- Addressing Needs
- Mutual Support
- Strengthening Cohesion

- 2.5 Although the report sets out detail of achievements and aspirations across each of these areas, it should be borne in mind that these titles represent the sum parts of a whole picture and so therefore should not necessarily be viewed in isolation of each other.
- 2.6 The draft report further outlines actions and responsibilities relating to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Prevent and Safeguarding.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 Appendix A provides an overview of actions taken across a two-year period and outlines forthcoming projects, activities and engagement opportunities. Members are asked to consider the content of this document and provide comment.
- 3.2 The Council's Community Engagement and Development Strategy is complemented by an Action Plan which covers the period 2024-2027. This is included at Appendix B.
- 3.3 The Action Plan, which sets out what will be delivered to meet the objectives of the Community Engagement and Development Strategy, contains 31 actions covering all aspects of the Council's community engagement and development work.
- 3.4 Many actions within the Plan are listed as "active" whilst four are listed as completed. Actions listed as active remain ongoing simply because these projects or activities are delivered in order to provide continuing support to the voluntary and community sector.
- 3.5 A review of the Community Engagement and Development Strategy will take place during 2026, and its accompanying Action Plan will be refreshed to reflect new avenues of support for Civil Society groups and organisations going forward.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 This report is for information only and therefore no other options were considered.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 To ensure Members are updated on the achievements and aspirations related to the aims of the Community Engagement and Development Strategy – Our People, Our Place 2024-27.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 [Community Engagement and Development Strategy – Our People, Our Place 2024-2027.](#)

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix A – Draft Community Engagement Update 2024-2025

7.2 Appendix B – Community Engagement and Development Action Plan 2024-2027