

Council



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Thursday, 28 September 2023 at 2.00 pm
Council Chamber - Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Members: Councillor Gloria Johnson, Chairman of the Council
Councillor Paul Fellows, Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor Emma Baker
Councillor Rhys Baker
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor David Bellamy
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Pam Bosworth
Councillor Pam Byrd
Councillor Richard Cleaver
Councillor Helen Crawford
Councillor Steven Cunnington
Councillor James Denniston
Councillor Phil Dilks
Councillor Richard Dixon-
Warren
Councillor Barry Dobson
Councillor Patsy Ellis
Councillor Phil Gadd
Councillor Ben Green
Councillor Tim Harrison

Councillor Graham Jeal
Councillor Anna Kelly
Councillor Jane Kingman
Councillor Gareth Knight
Councillor Philip Knowles
Councillor Zoe Lane
Councillor Robert Leadenham
Councillor Bridget Ley
Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor Paul Martin
Councillor Penny Milnes
Councillor Virginia Moran
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Chris Noon
Councillor Habibur Rahman
Councillor Rhea Rayside
Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Penny Robins

Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Max Sawyer
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Rob Shorrock
Councillor Vanessa Smith
Councillor Peter Stephens
Councillor Lee Steptoe
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Paul Stokes
Councillor Elvis Stooke
Councillor Rosemary Trollope-
Bellew
Councillor Sarah Trotter
Councillor Murray Turner
Councillor Mark Whittington
Councillor Jane Wood
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Sue Woolley

Agenda

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☎ 01476 406080

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

www.southkesteven.gov.uk

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

For those Councillors who wish to attend, prayers will be held at 1:55pm before the commencement of the meeting. Please be seated by 1:50pm.

1. Public Open Forum

The public open forum will commence at **2.00 p.m.** and the following formal business of the Council will commence at **2.30 p.m.** or whenever the public open forum ends, if earlier.

2. Apologies for absence

3. Disclosure of Interests

Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023

(Pages 7 - 20)

5. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

(Page 21)

6. Report of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel

(Pages 23 - 33)

To consider the content of a report of the Independent Remuneration Panel following the undertaking of a mini-review into the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme.

7. Designation of Monitoring Officer

(Pages 35 - 38)

To provide Full Council with an opportunity to designate an officer to the statutory position of Monitoring Officer.

8. Housing Revenue Account Acquisitions Capital Budget

(Pages 39 - 42)

To seek support and approval from Council to amend the 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital allocation of Housing Development Investment by an additional £1m to be able to respond promptly to opportunities to purchase properties to increase the Council's housing stock. The report was recommended by Cabinet at its meeting held on 11 September 2023.

9. Proposals for the upgrading of District Council street lights to LED units

(Pages 43 - 51)

This report provides an overview regarding South Kesteven District Council's potential to upgrade District Council operated streetlights to energy efficient LED (Light Emitting Diode) units. The report was recommended by Cabinet at its meeting held on 11 September 2023.

10. Proposed Replacement Depot Turnpike Close, Grantham

(Pages 53 - 99)

Full Council is asked to consider the proposals and agree next steps to enable the development of a new depot at Turnpike Close in Grantham, following a recommendation from Cabinet held on 11 September 2023.

11. Amendment to Constitution - Procedure for Dealing with Complaints Against Councillors

(Pages 101 - 118)

To provide Full Council with notification of a recommendation by the Standards Committee to include the revised procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors as part of the Constitution.

12. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

(Pages 119 - 122)

To consider appointments to committees, and also to the Rural Services Network and Grantham Almshouses Outside Bodies.

13. Members' Open Questions

A 45-minute period in which members may ask questions of the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and opposition group leaders excluding the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Licensing and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committees and Governance and Audit Committee.

14. Notices of Motion

a) Councillor Lee Steptoe

Full Council notes that:

1. *The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.*
2. *Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that "corporate tax avoidance" has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.*
3. *Almost two thirds of people (64%) agree that the Government and local councils should consider a company's ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.*
4. *Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.*
5. *It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.*
6. *The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.*

Full Council believes that:

1. *Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be.*
2. *Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.*
3. *As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.*
4. *Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.*
5. *More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new*

UK procurement law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.

6. *UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.*

Full Council resolves to:

1. *Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.*
2. *Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.*
3. *Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.*
4. *Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.*
5. *Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.*
6. *Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.*
7. *Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.*
8. *Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.*
9. *Support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.*

Further information can be found at <https://fairtaxmark.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Councils-for-Fair-Tax-Declaration-ENG-CYM.pdf>

b) Councillor Sue Woolley

This Council calls for an urgent full review of the resources and processes in waste services to be reported to the Finance and Economic Overview Scrutiny Committee, and the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Our residents expect to receive a first-class refuse collection service and that's exactly what they got throughout the Covid period. SKDC waste operatives worked tirelessly and

professionally during this time, ensuring residents' bins were emptied.

Unfortunately there is increasing evidence of failures in bin collections that urgently need to be investigated.

Council notes that bin collections are being missed, resulting in repeat visits around the District by refuse vehicles. This costs the Council time, money and labour, as well as unnecessarily increasing the carbon footprint of our District. In August alone, 536 missed bin collections were reported.

An urgent review should look into but not be limited to:

- the need for more vehicles and operatives to complete the collections;*
- the need for more management resources;*
- failures in cabinet oversight;*
- failures in contingency planning;*
- failures in communication with members about the extent of issues in waste services.*

The review will need to draw up an improved business plan, and make operational recommendations, since we recognise that as South Kesteven grows issues may get worse.

c) Councillor Penny Milnes

This council recognises the important responsibilities and duties it has to provide local authority housing in South Kesteven - including to those designated as refugees. Whilst all Members recognise this important work, this council is concerned that the discharge of this duty can have adverse relations with communities, parish councils and other representatives across the district.

This council believes that recent approval and subsequent purchase of properties in Langtoft by our housing service without consulting local representatives, the community and without consideration for the section 106 requirements damaged the reputation of the council and relations with residents, parish councillors and ward members.

This council agrees, in order to learn lessons moving forward, to undertake an urgent review of HRA purchasing activities to be reported to the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee including but not limited to:

- the scope of consultation surrounding future purchases of social housing by the SKDC HRA*
- the communication process for cabinet oversight of consultation around the HRA*
- failures in communication with members about the acquisition activities of the HRA*

- consideration of location in the context of the need, sustainability and facilities.

- transparency in the use of S106 variations in implementing changes to proportionate tenures following original planning approval.

15. Close of meeting