MINUTES

COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2024
2.00 PM

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councillor Gloria Johnson Chairman
Councillor Paul Fellows Vice-Chairman

Councillor Matthew Bailey
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 Phil Dilks
Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren
Councillor Barry Dobson
Councillor Patsy Ellis
Councillor Paul Fellows
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 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

OFFICERS

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive
Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
Nicola McCoy-Brown, Director of Growth and Culture

Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer
Chris Prime, Communications Manager
James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Patrick Astill, Communications Officer
Alison Hall-Wright, Director of Housing
Claire Morgan
Claire Moses, Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits Customer and Community)

99. Public Open Forum

There was one question submitted to the Leader of the Council by Mr Peter Bell:

"Would the Leader of the Council commit to examining how the Council could better support the public to be involved in the democratic processes and procedures of the Council with particular emphasis on encouraging those with disabilities, whether hidden or visible, and members of the public from minority groups, become more involved in the opportunities open to the public to participate, and to consider whether a specific budget allocation and staffing resource ought to be identified for this work?"

Mr Bell went onto highlight areas where he felt processes had not been followed by the Council, or where he had identified areas of concern:

- Information had been refused on street naming and numbering following a Freedom of Information request.
- Information had been refused on highways maintenance following a Freedom of Information request
- Extensions to Public Space Protection Orders had not been made legally.
- A consultation on the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy had received a number of responses as part of public consultation which had not resulted in any changes to the Policy when put before the relevant Committee
- There had been a delay in the publication of minutes of a UK Shared Prosperity Fund Board meeting.
- An item on Cyber Security had been noted in open session at a meeting of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, even though the report was exempt from publication and the press and public were not excluded from the meeting
- The quality of Equality Impact Assessments accompanying reports
- Access to the Council Chamber for wheelchair users.

In responding, the Leader of the Council welcomed the conversation on openness and transparency as it had been a topic he had led on since becoming a Councillor. A welcome addition to the Council in recent years had been the installation of the webcasting system which allowed for public meetings to be broadcasted on the internet; however this system was restricted to the Council Chamber, so any meetings outside of that room could not be recorded in the same way.

Informal Cabinet meetings were being held around the District, in order to reach as many different parts of the area as possible and to enable members of the public to have easier access to their elected members.

The Council should be following good practice in terms of access for those with disabilities. In addition, equality and inclusivity were core values of the Council; whilst alternative means of communicating with the Council existed, more could be done to reach those from different cultures, ages and backgrounds.

There was more information that could be put into the public domain whilst being mindful of obligations to protect individuals and commercially sensitive information. The Leader reminded those watching the meeting live that Ward Councillors were a useful first port of call for members of the public if further information was required on any topic within the Council's remit.

A motion without notice was proposed requesting that the Governance and Audit Committee establish an Access to Information Working Group.

Following a short debate, and having been moved and seconded, it was **AGREED**:

DECISION

That Full Council request the Governance and Audit Committee establish an Access to Information Working Group.

100. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Steven Cunnington
Councillor James Denniston
Councillor Bridget Ley
Councillor Nikki Manterfield

101. Disclosure of Interests

No interests were disclosed.

102. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the extraordinary meetings held on 11 January 2024 at 1pm, and 2:30pm were proposed, seconded and agreed as correct records.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 25 January 2024 were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record.

103. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

The following announcements were made:

Chairman
The Chairman reminded everyone present of the Chairman's Civic Dinner which was taking place on 22 March 2024.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing
The Cabinet Member announced the 8-week consultation period to help shape the future of the District through the Local Plan. The Local Plan provided a vision for sustainable development across the District. The current Local Plan had been adopted four years ago.

An update on employment land, and gypsy and traveller accommodation would be included with the Local Plan.

The new Local Plan was set to run until 2041.

Leader of the Council
The Leader firstly announced a change to the allocation of Cabinet roles. The Leader was to take on responsibility for Human Resources from the Cabinet Member for People and Communities. The other change would be that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture would assume responsibility for Markets; this had previously been within the remit of the Leader.

The second announcement from the Leader was on the Deepings Leisure Centre. The Leader had received a letter from the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council offering South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) the freehold of the leisure centre. Also on this subject, the Deepings School and the Anthem Trust were yet to reach an agreement with the Deepings Community Interest Company. Still to be formulated was permission from the Department for Education to proceed in full, alongside a solid business plan. The Leader had drafted a letter to be sent to the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council and had also spoken to Sir John Hayes MP about a way forward for the project with the Department for Education. There was a further meeting on 1 March 2024 to discuss these matters in more detail. The Leader stressed that all groups involved wanted to find a solution to move the project forward.

Thirdly, the Leader spoke on the subject of waste collections in relation to the new roll out of separate paper and card collections. The Leader apologised to those who had experienced issues, but had engaged with the new scheme and read the relevant instructions, whilst urging all residents to adhere to the new way of recycling paper and card. Disappointment was expressed with those who had taken out their frustrations with waste staff and Council officers who were trying to make the new scheme work.

Finally, congratulations were offered to Grantham-born swimmer Freya Colbert who was crowned the new Women's World Champion in the 400 metre medley at the World Aquatics Championships in Doha.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste (Councillor Rhys Baker)

The Cabinet Member outlined that since 2018 SKDC had worked with the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) to implement twin stream recycling, building on previous legislation. New obligations had been placed on waste collection in order to ensure greater consistency.

Last week around 7,000 bins were rejected as the waste within was contaminated, which was around 20-25% of bins collected on those days. Call handling staff encountered abuse and threatening behaviour. Such conduct was unacceptable, as nobody went to work to encounter verbal abuse of threats. Line managers had been in contact with teams and had signposted support.

Senior officers and Cabinet Members had accompanied crews to explain the rejection of bins. The levels of contamination had been put in place through guidance from Lincolnshire County Council. Samples received contained contamination of 24% from Monday and Tuesday's bins. Within 48 hours a mop up collection of bins had been organised, with final collections finished on Tuesday. Thanks were offered to the waste team for this.

Further routine sampling revealed 53% of waste was unrecyclable, contaminating a significant proportion of the remaining waste. Change was never easy, and many people had adapted, but the rebuilding of trust with those struggling to adapt with the new system needed to occur.

Physical and online resources would be updated. Lincolnshire County Council were being asked to give further training to waste operatives. Alongside this, the Council would instigate spot checks to raise consistency of recyclate. Members of the public were encouraged to contact ward members or go through the appropriate channels if they had queries on the new system for collection of paper and card.

Head of Paid Service

A way forward for St. Martin's Park in Stamford was agreed at the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 8 February 2024. Negotiations were ongoing but there had been a fruitful and effective negotiation held the morning of 9 February 2024. Any further updates would be reported through Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, and Full Council.

It was moved, seconded and **AGREED** to vary the order of the agenda to allow for the Budget for 2024/2025 to be heard ahead of the Council Tax Resolution for 2024/2025.

104. Climate and Ecology Bill

Members considered a recommendation from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 12 December 2023 to support the Climate and Ecology Bill.

In moving a proposal in support of the Climate and Ecology Bill, the Chairman of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee outlined that strong international commitment was required to halt and reverse ecological decline. There was evidence to suggest that the resolutions from the Paris UN Climate Change Conference did not go far enough.

It was argued that catastrophic environmental events across the globe coupled with population growth had had a disastrous effect on the environment. SKDC could play its part locally with its local agenda. Technology needed to constantly adapt to meet the needs of the future. MP's needed to raise SKDC's concerns at a national level.

The proposal was seconded.

The following points were highlighted during debate:

- Since 1970 the District's local species had been depleted. The Bill was a welcome step forward in addressing issues such as this.
- The Bill was calling on the UK government to do more. The UK did not have the biggest carbon footprint globally, but that did not mean that it could not lead by example.
- The Bill had been written by climate scientists and had cross-party support. Support had been received from many Councils across the country.
- A joined up environmental plan would aid in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It would also explore a move to a green economy whilst working alongside developing countries.
- The Climate and Ecology Bill no longer existed as it had not been carried over into the new session of Parliament. However, it was due to be re-introduced in the coming weeks.
- The decision to recommend the Climate and Ecology Bill to Full Council from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was not a unanimous one.
- The support of this Bill would be an extra cost on the SKDC budget, however there were reports of the total cost to the global economy over the next 50 years being well in excess of £150 trillion. No public consultation on this had taken place to date.
- The UK Environment Bill 2021 provided a number of these measures already.
- The proposed National Assembly to be set up for ecological issues would be a collaborative group to lobby Parliament, which was the arena where MPs could lobby the changing of laws.

The original motion in support of the Climate and Ecology Bill moved by the Chairman of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was amended to make it clear that the move as in support of the reinstatement of the Bill; this amendment had been accepted by the original mover and seconder of the motion.

Therefore, following a vote, it was **AGREED**:

DECISION

That Full Council write to all MPs within South Kesteven to urge the reinstatement of the Climate and Ecology Bill to the Parliamentary timetable before the next General Election.

Note: Councillor Tim Harrison asked that his vote against the motion be recorded.

105. Making of the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan

Members considered the 'making' of the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan as part of the South Kesteven Development Plan. There was referendum held on 18 January 2024 which supported the making of the Neighbourhood Plan.

This would be the sixteenth Neighbourhood Plan made within South Kesteven.

The recommendations in the report were moved, seconded, and following a vote it was **AGREED:**

DECISION

That Full Council:

1. 'Makes' (approves) the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan (referendum version) to become part of South Kesteven District Council's 'Statutory Development Plan', and a material consideration for determining planning applications in the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Area.

2. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director of Planning & Growth to make minor 'non-material' changes to the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan as necessary, and exercise all Council functions and responsibilities in relation to making the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan.

106. Budget Proposals for 2024/25 and indicative budgets for 2025/26 and 2026/27

Members considered the Budget Proposals for 2024/2025.

In moving the Budget proposals, the Leader of the Council ran through a presentation to accompany the Budget, which was appended to these minutes. The following points were highlighted:

- The Tunstall software bid within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) referred to 'opening mechanisms' within sheltered housing.
- The highest amount of funding within the HRA was for Voids refurbishments.

- Major projects were listed within the General Fund (GF). These included new projects in the Cattle Market, Stamford, and also the £1 million earmarked for LED street lighting. Replacing existing street lighting would pay for itself within less than four years.
- Over £13 million was budgeted within the HRA for new builds and energy efficiency works. The gap between housing stock sales and purchases was reducing, meaning that the level of loss of Council housing stocks would narrow in years to come.
- The administration had committed to improving the Earlesfield Community Centre.
- Works in progress included improvements to Grantham using the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF). The FHSF gave the opportunity to make improvements to Grantham Marketplace.
- Investigations into battery recycling were still ongoing.
- In March a new bus service was being introduced between Stamford and Grantham by Centrebus.
- There were high levels of compliance seen across the housing stock in terms of gas, electricity, legionella, damp and mould, asbestos, fire risk, lift inspections, and smoke.
- The consultation on the 3% Council Tax rise was conducted through a database compiled through the SK Today publication.

The Budget proposals were seconded.

An amendment to the Budget proposals was moved and seconded which aimed:

'To create a reserve of £60,000 for clearing A1 verge sides – the "Clean the A1 Reserve". This is to be transferred from the Local Priorities Reserve.'

Debate on the amendment ensued, and the following points were highlighted:

- £60,000 may well be sufficient to clear outstanding litter on the stretch of the A1 in South Kesteven, but unfortunately the problem would still return the following day when new traffic flowed through the area. A safe and affordable mechanism needed to be used to tackle this issue.
- This was an issue that the previous administration had looked into, through asking officers to consider what specialist companies were available to undertake the work.
- 17 SKDC members with wards adjacent to the A1 were contacted about the issue of littering, and 8 of them responded. A number of the responders were Independents, with a lower number responding from the SK Coalition Group.
- The issue of littering on the South Kesteven stretch of the A1 was debated, and a way forward identified, at Environment Overview and Scrutiny held on 12 December 2023.
- A previous report into debris on the verges had suggested that a figure north of £200,000 would be required to clear them. However, the figure of £60,000 would enable the Council to start a clearance. The figure of £60,000 was

identified at the aforementioned Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The instructions given to officers had not yet had the chance to be fulfilled; it might be better for Council to postpone any decision on a reserve until they were in possession of further information.

- The safest options would be for a professional waste management company to come and in clear the litter. Ultimately, SKDC needed to lobby central government.

Note: Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew left the meeting.

As the amendment was related to the General Fund, a recorded vote was required.

For the amendment:	Councillors Matt Bailey, David Bellamy, Pam Bosworth, Helen Crawford, Richard Dixon-Warren, Ben Green, Graham Jeal, Gloria Johnson, Jane Kingman, Gareth Knight, Zoe Lane, Robert Leadenham, Paul Martin, Penny Milnes, Nick Robins, Penny Robins, Susan Sandall, Peter Stephens, Ian Stokes, Sarah Trotter, Mark Whittington, Jane Wood, Paul Wood, Sue Woolley (24).
Against the amendment:	Councillors Emma Baker, Ashley Baxter, Harrish Bisnauthsing, Pam Byrd, Richard Cleaver, Phil Dilks, Patsy Ellis, Paul Fellows, Phil Gadd, Tim Harrison, Anna Kelly, Philip Knowles, Virginia Moran, Charmaine Morgan, Chris Noon, Habib Rahman, Rhea Rayside, Max Sawyer, Ian Selby, Rob Shorrock, Lee Steptoe, Paul Stokes, Elvis Stooke, Murray Turner (24).
Abstain:	Councillors Rhys Baker, Barry Dobson, Vanessa Smith (3).

As the vote was tied, the Chairman exercised her casting vote **FOR** the amendment, stating that she wished for there to be a start made on clearing the A1 litter. Therefore, the amendment was **CARRIED** and became part of the substantive Budget Proposal.
Debate then ensued on the substantive motion, where the following points were highlighted:

- There was a high level of housing voids, for a number of different reasons. Currently, around £1 million was being lost due to voids through lost rent; having voids at a manageable level made a real impact on the housing register. £700,000 into the HRA was earmarked for voids.
- Drainage levies were imposed on the Council; however Lincolnshire local authorities were lobbying the government on this issue, and there was the possibility of some grant funding in this area.
- The Council was committing to the building of Council housing and also remained committed to the arts. This was evidenced through items such as the maintenance to the Guildhall Arts Centre roof in Grantham.

- A strategy to replenish the reserves was not contained within the Budget. Investment income was declining to under £500,000, and the only ways of generating money available to the Council were increased Council Tax, fees and charges, government grants or cutting front line services.
- Discretionary reserves would have reduced from £12 million to £8.2 million in this financial year and would reduce further in future years.

Note: The meeting was extended until 5:30pm as it was approaching 3 hours in length.

- The increase in Council House rents of 7% was less than the increases to the state pension, benefits and the rise in the National Minimum Wage.
- There was a reserve movement of £1.2 million, with reserves being increased by a similar amount. At the same time local services were being maintained, and enhanced in some cases.

Note: Councillor Anna Kelly and Barry Dobson left the meeting.

In summing up, the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development made the following points:

- National and international issues, and the state of the leisure industry as a whole were having a knock-on impact on SKDC's leisure centres. Some of the c£750,000 that had been granted to LeisureSK Limited so far was attributable to the rise in energy costs. The relationship with LeisureSK Limited was being reviewed with a focus on its governance.
- 14 years of austerity had meant that funding for local authorities across the country had suffered. Last year's budget had balanced because of the Budget Stabilisation Reserves.
- Whilst it would help in terms of the clear up of litter on the A1, the £60,000 planned for the debris would not fix the problem long-term.

A recorded vote on recommendations 1-10 of the motion was required as it related to the Council's Budget; recommendations 11-18 did not require a recorded vote as they did not directly impact the Budget,

The results of the recorded vote were as follows:

For: Councillors Emma Baker, Rhys Baker, Ashley Baxter, Harrish Bisnauthsing, Pam Byrd, Richard Cleaver, Phil Dilks, Patsy Ellis, Paul Fellows, Phil Gadd, Tim Harrison, Gloria Johnson, Philip Knowles, Virginia Moran, Charmaine Morgan, Chris Noon, Habib Rahman, Rhea Rayside, Max Sawyer, Ian Selby, Rob Shorrock, Vanessa Smith, Lee Steptoe, Paul Stokes, Elvis Stooke, Murray Turner (26)

Against: Councillors Matt Bailey, David Bellamy, Pam Bosworth, Helen Crawford, Richard Dixon-Warren, Ben Green, Graham Jeal, Jane Kingman, Gareth Knight, Zoe Lane, Robert Leadenham, Paul Martin,

Penny Milnes, Nick Robins, Penny Robins, Susan Sandall, Peter Stephens, Ian Stokes, Sarah Trotter, Mark Whittington, Jane Wood, Paul Wood, Sue Woolley (23)

Abstentions: None

The remaining recommendations had been moved, seconded, and following the vote they were **AGREED**:

DECISION:

That Full Council:

1. Sets a General Fund budget requirement of £8.521m for 2024/2025 detailed at section 3 of the report and at Appendix A (inclusive of special expenses).

2. Approves a Council tax base of 49,710.0 for the South Kesteven District.

3. Notes the indicative base estimates for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 as detailed at Appendix A of the report.

4. Approves the General Fund Capital programme for 2023/24 to 2025/26 detailed at section 6 of the report and shown at Appendix B.

5. Approves the General Fund Capital Financing statement detailed at Appendix B of the report.

6. Approves the General Fund Capital Programme budget carry forward of £14.381m from 2022/2023, detailed at Appendix B.

7. Approves the movements in General Fund Revenue and Capital Reserves and balances detailed at section 8 of the report and shown at Appendix C

8. Approves the Treasury Management Strategy Statement detailed at Section 10 of the report and provided at Appendix F

9. Approves the Capital Strategy as detailed at Appendix G of the report and section 10.

10. Approves a reserve of £60,000 for clearing A1 verge sides – the “Clean the A1 Reserve”. This is to be transferred from the Local Priorities Reserve.

Note: Resolutions 1-10 were subjected to a recorded vote – resolutions 11-21 were subjected to a normal vote via a show of hands.

11. Approves Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwelling rent increases of 7.7% for 2024/25 in accordance with Government rent setting guidelines providing an average rent of £96.99 per week.

12. Approves an increase in HRA garage rents of 6.7%.

13. Approves an increase in shared ownership rents by 7.7%.

14. Approves the HRA Revenue Summary for the year 2024/25 and notes the indicative budgets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 (detailed at Appendix A).

15. Approves the Housing Capital Investment programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 (detailed at section 6 of this report and at Appendix B.

16. Approves the HRA Capital Financing statement (detailed at Appendix B).

17. Approves the Housing Revenue Account Capital Investment Programme budget carry forward of £0.177m from 2023/24 (detailed at Appendix B).

18. Approves movements in HRA revenue and Capital Reserves and balances (detailed at section 8 of this report and shown at Appendix C).

107. 2024/2025 Council Tax Resolution

Members considered setting the level of Council Tax for 2024/2025 in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements.

Note: Councillors Phil Gadd, Chris Noon, Ian Selby and Emma Baker left the meeting.

Usually the Council Tax level would be set under the same item as the Budget, but problems could occur when a Budget was not set on the day of Council. The Council was duty bound to set Council Tax levels as the pre-cepting authority.

The Council Tax level needed to be set after the Budget in this instance because the Council Tax resolution was underpinned by Council Tax levels. The Council was required to set a Council Tax Base, a Council Tax requirement and a parish precept which were all consistent with the Council Tax resolution.

The whole Budget was predicated on raising income through Council Tax.

An amendment to lower the Council Tax increase from 2.99% to 2.5%, resulting in a reduction of £42,000 being collected was rejected using Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rule 4.2 as the Chief Finance Officer had not had five working days with which to consider the proposal.

Note: The meeting was extended by 15 minutes as the original meeting extension was about to expire.

Having been moved and seconded, a recorded vote was then taken on the Council Tax resolution:

For:	Councillors Rhys Baker, Ashley Baxter, Harrish Bisnauthsing, Pam Byrd, Richard Cleaver, Phil Dilks, Patsy Ellis, Paul Fellows, Tim Harrison, Philip Knowles, Penny Milnes, Virginia Moran, Charmaine Morgan, Habib Rahman, Rhea Rayside, Max Sawyer, Rob Shorrock, Vanessa Smith, Lee Steptoe, Paul Stokes, Elvis Stooke, Sarah Trotter, Murray Turner, Jane Wood, Paul Wood (25).
Against:	Councillors Matt Bailey, David Bellamy, Pam Bosworth, Richard Dixon-Warren, Ben Green, Graham Jeal, Gareth Knight, Robert Leadenham, Paul Martin, Nick Robins, Susan Sandall, Peter Stephens, Ian Stokes, Mark Whittington, Sue Woolley (15).
Abstain:	Councillors Helen Crawford, Gloria Johnson, Jane Kingman, Zoe Lane, Penny Robins (5).

DECISION:

That Full Council:

1. Sets a Council Tax level of £183.89 for 2024/2025 (Band D property).

2. Approves the Council Tax Resolution as set out in Appendix A of the report.

108. Community Governance Review for Little Ponton and Stroxton

Members considered a draft Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review for the parish of Little Ponton and Stroxton.

The meeting was extended with the consent of the members in the Council Chamber with the proviso that the item be put straight to a vote (the question now be put), having been moved and seconded.

Following a vote, it was **AGREED**:

DECISION:

That Full Council:

1. Approves the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review for the parish of Little Ponton and Stroxton.

2. Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Governance Review Working Group, Political Group Leaders and the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing, to make any necessary amendments to the Terms of Reference document which may be required during the period of the review.

109. Appointments to Outside Bodies and Committees

The Appointments to Outside Bodies and Committees report was not considered due to time constraints and may be heard at the next meeting of Full Council.

110. Members' Open Questions

Members' Open Questions were not considered due to time constraints.

111. Notices of Motion

112. Councillor Vanessa Smith

Councillor Vanessa Smith's motion was not considered due to time constraints and may be heard at the next ordinary meeting of Full Council.

113. Councillor Sue Woolley

Councillor Sue Woolley's motion was not considered due to time constraints and may be heard at the next ordinary meeting of Full Council.

114. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 5:47pm.

Budget Report 2024 - 25

Cllr Ashley Baxter

Leader of the Council

Cabinet Member for Finance and Economic Development

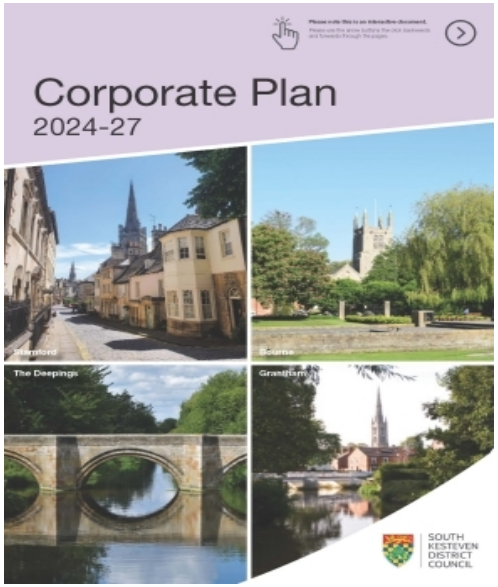
29 February 2024

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minute Item 106

Headline figures

- Council Tax Base 49,710
- Council Tax (for a Band D) £183.89
- Budgeted cost of services £19,591,000



SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Tax Details 2024/25

	2023/24 Band D £	2024/25 Band D £	Increase £	Increase %
Lincolnshire County Council	1,503.63	1,578.69	75.06	5.0
Lincolnshire Police & Crime Commissioner	291.24	304.20	12.96	4.4
South Kesteven District Council	166.59	171.81	5.22	3.1
South Kesteven + Special Expenses	178.58	183.89	5.31	3.0
South Kesteven + Special Expenses + Parishes	220.59	232.12	11.53	5.2

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Budget Increase Proposals (General)

Details	Cost £'000	Recurring/ One-Off
Inflationary increases	328	Recurring
Pay Award	2,078	Recurring
External Audit Fee	104	Recurring
Internal Audit Fee	36	Recurring
Emergency Accommodation	150	Recurring
Housing Register Post	18	Recurring
Local Plan	215	One-off
LeisureSK Ltd Management Fee	447	One-off
Tree Officer Post	45	Recurring

Budget Bids (HRA)

Details	Cost £'000	Recurring/ One-Off
Housing Ombudsman	8	Recurring
Complaints Officer	39	Recurring
Housing Apprentice	27	Recurring
Housing Register Post	18	Fixed Term
Tunstall Software	100	Recurring
Turnpike Close Office rental	55	Recurring
Void Refurbishment	700	One-off
Consultants' Fees	15	Recurring
IT Software Licences	77	Recurring
New Build Feasibility Studies	100	Recurring

Capital projects (GF)

Street Lighting	£ 1,000,000
Energy Efficiency	£ 446,000
Play Parks	£ 100,000
Empingham Road S106	£ 283,000
New Depot	£ 8,800,000
Disabled Facilities Grants	£ 975,000
UK SPF	£ 498,000
Asset maintenance	£ 2,185,000
Vehicles and bins	£ 1,681,000
Bourne LC Roof	£ 200,000
Cattlemarket Car Park	£ 500,000

Capital projects (HRA)

Energy Efficiency	£ 5,104,000
Scheduled works	£ 4,983,000
ICT System	£ 180,000
New Builds	£ 8,099,000
Disabled Adaptations	£ 150,000
Refurbishments	£ 2,634,000
Vehicles	£ 342,000
TOTAL	£ 21,492,000

Earlesfield Community Centre

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Works in progress

- Depot replacement
- Leisure SK Ltd
- The Deepings Leisure Centre
- Housing Voids
- Future High Street Fund
- Recycling (inc Battery Recycling)

Reasons to be cheerful

- Play Parks
- Community Centres
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Progress on Housing
- Disabled Adaptations
- Buses and bus stations

Housing Figures (Feb 2024)

	Baseline number	Compliant	Non Compliant	% Compliant
Legionella	33	33	0	100.00%
Gas	4644	4592	44	99.00%
Electrical	5856	5412	444	92.42%
Asbestos (re-inspections)	259	259	0	100.00%
Fire Risk Assessments	147	147	0	100.00%
Lift inspections	13	13	0	100.00%
Smoke & CO	5868	5868	0	100.00%
Damp & Mould	5868	5859	9	99.85%

Consultation

Do you support the proposal to increase SKDC's element of Council Tax by 3% (or £5.31/Band D) for 2024/25?

	Number	%
Yes	380	48.0
No	366	46.2
Don't know/not sure	46	5.8
Total	792	100.0