

Council



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Thursday, 21 November 2024 at 2.00 pm
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House, St. Peter's
Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Members: Councillor Paul Fellows, Chairman of the Council
Councillor Ian Selby, Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor Matthew Bailey	Councillor Tim Harrison	Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Emma Baker	Councillor Graham Jeal	Councillor Penny Robins
Councillor Rhys Baker	Councillor Gloria Johnson	Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Ashley Baxter	Councillor Anna Kelly	Councillor Max Sawyer
Councillor David Bellamy	Councillor Jane Kingman	Councillor Rob Shorrock
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing	Councillor Gareth Knight	Councillor Vanessa Smith
Councillor Pam Bosworth	Councillor Philip Knowles	Councillor Peter Stephens
Councillor Pam Byrd	Councillor Zoe Lane	Councillor Lee Steptoe
Councillor Richard Cleaver	Councillor Robert Leadenham	Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Helen Crawford	Councillor Bridget Ley	Councillor Paul Stokes
Councillor Steven Cunnington	Councillor Nikki Manterfield	Councillor Elvis Stooke
Councillor James Denniston	Councillor Paul Martin	Councillor Rosemary Trollope- Bellew
Councillor Phil Dilks	Councillor Penny Milnes	Councillor Sarah Trotter
Councillor Richard Dixon- Warren	Councillor Virginia Moran	Councillor Murray Turner
Councillor Barry Dobson	Councillor Charmaine Morgan	Councillor Mark Whittington
Councillor Patsy Ellis	Councillor Chris Noon	Councillor Jane Wood
Councillor Phil Gadd	Councillor Habibur Rahman	Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Ben Green	Councillor Rhea Rayside	Councillor Sue Woolley

Agenda

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:

- ***a demonstration of the electronic voting equipment in the Chamber will be held at 1:40pm***
- ***prayers will be held at 1:55pm before the commencement of the meeting.***

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 26 September 2024

(Pages 5 - 17)

5. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

(Page 19)

6. Proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution

(Pages 21 - 24)

To consider recommendations from the Governance and Audit Committee to make amendments to the Council's Constitution.

7. Establishment of a Joint Committee for District Councils

(Pages 25 - 41)

This report seeks approval for the establishment of a District Joint Committee comprising the seven district authorities in Lincolnshire further to the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.

8. 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.

9. Notices of Motion

a) Councillor Ben Green

Motion to Phase Out Synthetic Pesticides on Council-Owned Land

*South Kesteven District Council commits to phasing out the use of all synthetic pesticides, including glyphosate, on Council-owned land by both Council operatives and third-party contractors, through the implementation of a **Pesticide Elimination Strategy** to be adopted by 2026. The development of this Strategy will be overseen by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be subject to public consultation, and will outline a detailed plan for the gradual, phased elimination of all synthetic pesticides on Council land **within 24 months of its adoption**. This motion initiates the process.*

Reasons:

- ***Nature Crisis:*** Recent research highlights a significant decline in insect populations across Europe, including the UK, which is one of the most nature-depleted countries globally. A study using a 'splatometer' method revealed a 50% reduction in insect splatters on vehicle registration plates between 2004 and 2019. This trend mirrors a broader decline in insect abundance, which has fallen by up to 80% at some European sites over the past two decades. We have witnessed a silent summer, with pitiful populations of butterflies and wasps, among many other species. This is troubling as decreased insect abundance threatens ecosystem health by disrupting pollination, food chains and soil fertility. Reducing synthetic pesticide use on land we control will contribute to halting this decline and support nature.
- ***Public Health and Safety:*** Phasing out synthetic pesticides on Council land will significantly reduce health risks for residents, particularly children and pets, by minimising exposure to harmful chemical residues. These chemicals can linger in the environment, contaminating soil, air, and water, potentially entering the food chain and affecting public health. Pesticides also pose a serious threat to watercourses, as run-off can contaminate rivers and groundwater, harming aquatic life and degrading water quality. By reducing pesticide use, we not only protect public health but also preserve cleaner water sources and support healthier ecosystems.
- ***Respect for Agricultural Practices:*** This policy focusses solely on the management of Council-owned land under the Council's responsibility and will not impact or interfere with the agricultural methods or practices employed by local farmers and private landowners. It aims to enhance the stewardship of public land while respecting existing

agricultural operations. We recognise and value the essential role that pesticides play in food production and acknowledge the significant contributions of our farmers to the economy and national resilience. Lincolnshire's status as the nation's breadbasket is a point of immense pride and this policy is intended to support effective public land management without affecting agricultural productivity.

- **Strong Precedent:** Furthermore, it is noteworthy that numerous cities across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, and many other locations throughout Europe and the UK, including Cambridge, have successfully eliminated the use of synthetic pesticides. These serve as compelling examples of how urban areas can transition to more sustainable practices that protect public health and the environment. Their achievements highlight the viability of phasing out harmful chemicals in favour of alternative pest control methods, demonstrating that such measures not only benefit local ecosystems but also enhance the quality of life for residents. By learning from these successful initiatives, our Council can confidently pursue a similar path towards a healthier and more sustainable community.

Implementation Plan:

- **Initiating Strategy Development:** The heart of this motion is to formally initiate the creation of a **Pesticide Elimination Strategy**, which will outline the gradual, phased removal of synthetic pesticides, including glyphosate, from all Council-owned land.
- **Immediate Action:** The Council will commit to stopping synthetic pesticide use on Council land wherever possible while the Strategy is being developed.
- **Promotion of Alternatives:** The Council will explore and promote non-chemical alternatives for weed and pest control as part of this process.
- **Land Management Review:** A review of current land management practices will be conducted to ensure compliance with the objectives of the forthcoming Strategy.
- **Public Consultation and Oversight:** The Pesticide Elimination Strategy will be developed under the supervision of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will include public consultation. The Strategy is to be adopted **by 2026**, outlining a clear plan for the full elimination of synthetic pesticides **within 24 months of its adoption**.

10. Close of meeting