

# Council



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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Thursday, 27 February 2025 at 2.00 pm  
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House, St. Peter's  
Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ

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

Councillor Matthew Bailey  
Councillor Emma Baker  
Councillor Rhys Baker  
Councillor Ashley Baxter  
Councillor David Bellamy  
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsingh  
Councillor Pam Bosworth  
Councillor Pam Byrd  
Councillor Richard Cleaver  
Councillor Helen Crawford  
Councillor Steven Cunningham  
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 Gloria Johnson  
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 Raysia

Councillor Nick Robins  
Councillor Penny Robins  
Councillor Susan Sandall  
Councillor Max Sawyer  
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

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# Agenda

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Published and despatched by [democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk) on Wednesday, 19 February 2025.

01476 406080

**Karen Bradford, Chief Executive**

[www.southkesteven.gov.uk](http://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 30 January 2025** (Pages 7 - 19)

**5. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)** (Page 21)

**6. Budget proposals for 2025/26 and indicative budgets for 2026/27 and 2027/28** (Pages 23 - 170)

To present the Budget proposals and estimates for 2025/26 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) covering both revenue and capital expenditure. The Council is required to set a balanced budget and agree the level of Council Tax for 2025/26. This report contains a summary of the proposals that have been considered for inclusion.

**7. Appointment of Local Returning Officer - Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017** (Pages 171 - 173)

To consider the appointment of the Chief Executive as the Local Returning Officer for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral elections

**8. Political Proportionality and Allocation of Seats to Committees** (Pages 175 - 180)

All Political Group Leaders are responsible for nominating Members from within their respective Groups to each of the Committees, in accordance with political balance as appropriate.

**9. Amendments to the Council's Constitution** (Pages 181 - 184)

To provide Full Council with the opportunity to approve proposed changes to the Council's Constitution, recommended by the Governance and Audit Committee on 13 February 2025.

**10. Appointment of Lead Member for Armed Forces** (Pages 185 - 189)

This report examines the role and responsibilities of the Council's Lead Member for Armed Forces, reaffirms the appointment of the current Lead Member and outlines the timing of re-appointment to the role.

**11. UK Shared Prosperity Fund Allocation 2025/26** (Pages 191 - 199)

The purpose of this report is to agree the principles behind the submission to the Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA) to secure the funding and to seek a delegation for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the submission.

## **12. Local Government Reorganisation**

(Pages 201 - 224)

To inform the Council on the government policy of Local Government Reorganisation.

## **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 Ben Green**

#### ***Motion to Restrict Positions of Special Responsibility Following Public Censure Notice***

##### ***Council Notes That:***

1. *The Council's Code of Conduct sets clear expectations regarding the ethical behaviour and standards required of elected members.*
2. *Where a Councillor is found to have breached the Code of Conduct, the Standards Committee has the power to impose sanctions, including the issuance of a Public Censure Notice.*
3. *The Governance and Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending amendments to the Council's Constitution to ensure robust governance and accountability.*
4. *In line with best practice in local government ethics, it is appropriate to consider restrictions on holding positions of special responsibility following a Public Censure Notice.*
5. *Enhancing the governance framework to include such provisions will strengthen public trust in the Council's leadership and decision-making processes.*
6. *Any amendments to the Constitution regarding eligibility for positions of special responsibility must be applied prospectively and not retrospectively to ensure fairness and legal compliance.*

##### ***Council Resolves To:***

1. *Refer the following proposed amendment to the Governance and Audit Committee, pursuant to Article 9.1 (xxxii) - (xxxiv) of the Constitution, for consideration and recommendation to Full Council:*

**Proposed Amendment to the Constitution – Part 5: Codes and Protocols**

*Addition of a new paragraph 7.3 to the Council's procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors, to reflect the following:*

**New Clause: Eligibility for Positions of Special Responsibility Following a Public Censure Notice**

1. *Where a Councillor is found to have breached the Code of Conduct and a Public Censure Notice is issued as part of the sanctions imposed by the Standards Committee or Hearing Review Panel, the Councillor shall be ineligible from holding any of the following positions of special responsibility for the full duration of the Public Censure Notice:*
  - o *Leader of the Council*
  - o *Deputy Leader of the Council*
  - o *Cabinet Member*
  - o *Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council*
  - o *Chairman or Vice-Chairman of any Council Committee or Sub-Committee*
2. *If a Councillor currently occupying any of the above positions is issued with a Public Censure Notice, they must vacate their role upon the publication of the notice. This provision applies only to cases occurring after the adoption of this amendment.*
3. *The restriction on holding positions of special responsibility shall remain in effect for the entire duration of the Public Censure Notice, as determined by the Standards Committee or Hearing Review Panel.*
4. *This amendment applies to all Councillors, irrespective of political affiliation, and shall take effect immediately upon adoption. However, it shall not apply retrospectively to existing Public Censure Notices issued prior to its adoption.*

**Council Further Resolves That:**

1. *The Governance and Audit Committee consider this amendment at the earliest opportunity, ensuring alignment with best practice in local government ethics and governance.*
2. *The findings and recommendations of the Governance and Audit Committee be reported back to Full Council for final approval and adoption into the Constitution. A report would only be presented back to Full Council if a recommendation was agreed to amend the Constitution.*

**Rationale:**

- *This amendment strengthens public accountability and*

*ensures that individuals subject to formal censure cannot continue to occupy positions of special responsibility.*

- *The amendment upholds the integrity of Council leadership by ensuring that those found in breach of ethical standards cannot continue to influence Council decisions through roles of special responsibility.*
- *The principles of good governance require that this standard be applied fairly and equitably to all Councillors, without retroactive application.*

*Council therefore endorses this referral to the Governance and Audit Committee for due consideration.*

## **15. Close of meeting**