

Council



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Thursday, 27 February 2025 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 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 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 Rayside

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

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 (xxxi) - (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:*
 - *Leader of the Council*
 - *Deputy Leader of the Council*
 - *Cabinet Member*
 - *Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council*
 - *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