

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Tuesday, 18 March 2025 at 10.00 am
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Committee Members: Councillor Ian Selby, Vice-Chairman of the Council (Chairman)
Councillor Emma Baker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Steven Cunnington, Councillor Barry Dobson, Councillor Gloria Johnson,
Councillor Paul Martin, Councillor Rhea Raysia, Councillor Mark Whittington and
Councillor Paul Wood

Agenda

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

- 1. Public Speaking**
The Council welcomes engagement from members of the public. To speak at this meeting please register no later than 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting via democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk
- 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 10 February 2025** (Pages 3 - 12)
- 5. Updates from the previous meeting** (Page 13)
To consider actions agreed at the meeting held on 10 February 2025.

6. **Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**
7. **Q&A for Agencies involved in Flood Response**
8. **Update on South Kesteven District Council's Climate Action Plan** (Pages 15 - 23)
To provide an update to the Committee on South Kesteven District Council's development of a Climate Action Plan.
9. **Progress update on upgrade of District Council Streetlights to LED** (Pages 25 - 34)
This report provides a progress update on the ongoing project to upgrade District Council operated streetlights to energy efficient LED units.
10. **Work Programme 2024 - 2025** (Pages 35 - 36)
To consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2024 – 2025.
11. **Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

Meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 10 February 2025, 10.00
am



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Committee Members present	Other Members present
Councillor Ian Selby (Chairman)	Councillor Tim Harrison
Councillor Emma Baker (Vice-Chairman)	Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing	
Councillor Gloria Johnson	
Councillor Paul Martin	
Councillor Mark Whittington	
Councillor Paul Wood	
Cabinet Members present	
	Councillor Ashley Baxter
	Councillor Richard Cleaver

Officers

Graham Watts, Assistant Director
(Governance and Public Protection) and
Monitoring Officer
Debbie Roberts, Head of Corporate
Projects, Policy and Performance
Phil Swinton, Emergency Planning and
Health & Safety Lead
Kay Boasman, Head of Waste
Management and Market Services
Serena Brown, Sustainability and
Climate Change Manager
Louise Case, Sustainability Project
Support Officer
Joshua Mann, Democratic Services
Officer

47. Public Speaking

Ms Anne Gayfer – Question to the Committee, in relation to extreme weather events:

“Every week, every day, we hear of or experience more and more severe weather events. A couple of weeks ago we were hit by a weather bomb - our normal weather squashed up into a few hours, causing high winds and heavy rain.

The impact is unpredictable and that severe weather event flooded much on Grantham and its approaches. The town and flood plains were flooded, the A1 in a couple of places, the A52, Boston to Derby Road and the A607, Melton Road.

This situation will not improve.

So what can we do? Firstly, we simply cannot continue to build on greenfield. The proposed Price William Barracks site and the Southern Quadrant would be built on land that is already bursting with water. To build there would exacerbate run off into the Witham at Saltersford and Bridgend Road, increasing the flood risk to the town and turning the Eatch Estate, the Saltersford Estate into rivers and worsening the already critical flooding on Bridgend Road and the bottom of Somerby Hill.

Secondly, we must focus on greening our town, more trees, swales, less tidying of grass and cutting, green roofs and walls. This would not only slow down water, but increase pollinators, keep the temperature stable and absorb air pollution. Other councils do it!

In the world’s largest survey over 50% of people are more worried about climate change than they were last year. We need leadership, but the old model of leadership isn’t working for this problem.

What does the leadership propose to do?”

The Leader of the Council thanked Ms Gayfer for her question and offered the following response:

- The Leader stated that the Climate Reserve Fund had increased from £30,000 under the previous administration to £500,000 in the 2025/26 Budget.
- Whilst the Leader did concede that South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) were mandated by central Government to increase the annual housebuilding targets from 600 to 900, SKDC had also employed two dedicated Tree Officers to oversee and improve the record of SKDC’s tree management and protection.

Ms Gayfer acknowledged the Leaders response but urged Members to pursue bolder measures to create a more resilient Local Plan.

Ms Joanna Hayges – Question to the Committee, regarding her experience as a resident of Belton Lane, Grantham during the January 2025 flooding:

Ms Hayges explained that the flood water approached her property from the lower banks of Wyndham Park to Hill Avenue, across the public park, highway, pavement and towards the flood wall at the bottom of Ms Hayges' garden.

On the day of January 6th, when the flooding of Ms Hayges property occurred, Ms Hayges recalled an SKDC van driving through the flood water which momentarily exacerbated the water level towards the property. It was noted that the van did not stop to assist. Furthermore, Ms Hayges voiced her frustration that a central location was not facilitated by SKDC offering warm drinks and blankets as a refuge from standing in the water, and that sandbags were not offered to residents quickly enough.

Ms Hayges noted that Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) had previously been made aware that the path between the banks of the Whitebridge and Belton Lane Bridge were flooded after every downpour.

The personal impact of the flooding on Ms Hayges has been anxiety and other health issues, as well as family pets having to be temporarily rehomed. As a result of the recent flooding, Ms Hayges noted that she would not be able to secure flood cover on any subsequent insurance and have lost their no-claims bonus.

Following the events of the flooding, Ms Hayges confirmed that SKDC had offered a month's free council tax and 75% to pay for X amount of months to follow.

Ms Hayges concluded by asking the Committee, '*How are you going to help us as residents to protect our properties, but more deeply, our lives?*'

The Leader expressed sympathy with Ms Hayges situation and offered to speak to the Council Tax Team regarding the offer of a month's free council tax to see what other resolution can be sought in order to support. Furthermore, the Leader confirmed that SKDC would act upon the findings of the Section 19 report produced by LCC to seek to prevent such an instance from happening to the property again.

The Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Lead outlined that the response from SKDC regarding Belton Lane had been coordinated on the information received that all but one family had left Belton Lane and the remaining family had declined temporary accommodation.

A Member confirmed that contingency planning for local emergencies would fall under the remit of the newly formed Town Council going forward, particularly for aspects such as facilitating a central refuge location as Ms Hayges suggested.

The Public Speakers item concluded and the Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Lead left the Chamber to speak further with Ms Hayges and other Members of the public in attendance regarding the flooding response.

48. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Barry Dobson, substituted by Councillor Charmaine Morgan.

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Steven Cunnington, substituted by Councillor Tim Harrison.

Apologies for absence were received was received from Councillor Rhys Baker in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste.

49. Disclosure of Interests

There were none.

50. Minutes of the meeting held 10 December 2024

The minutes of the meeting held 10 December 2024 were proposed, seconded and AGREED as an accurate record.

51. Updates from the previous meeting

It was confirmed that the action agreed at the previous meeting had been undertaken.

52. Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service

There were none.

53. Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's) Presentation

The representative from Rowleys Commercial Energy Assessment Limited presented an overview of domestic Energy Performance Certificate's (EPCs) to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The presentation encapsulated the following key information:

- EPC bandings were cost based, rather than carbon based.
- The expiry date of the EPC was important for new tenancies and for landlords wishing to evict tenants via the Section 21 process.
- The floor area outlined on the EPC did not necessarily include the full property as it failed to account for aspects such as unheated porches, unheated garages, or “thermally separated” conservatories.
- The indicative household energy bill suggested within the EPC documentation was theoretical. It did not account for the actual cost of fuel for the occupier, the number of occupants, or the usage habits of the occupants. It was also noted that the indicative household energy bill suggested was based on the average utility cost from the year that the EPC was produced, therefore rendering the indicative cost outdated during the remaining timescale of the valid EPCs.
- The presentation also outlined methods for seeking to improve the EPC rating, such as removing secondary heating (a two-point increase), blocking open chimneys (a two to five-point increase) or perversely changing from liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) central heating to oil fired central heating (up to a thirty-point increase).
- Central Government were keen to pursue EPC ratings of C or above for domestic rental properties.

During discussions, Members discussed the following:

- It was confirmed that a log burner with a metal plate would count as a closed system, however this was still typically two-points worse off than not having the secondary heater at all.
- It was confirmed that the age or the listing of the property did not necessarily impact the EPC rating.
- Clarification was given regarding the process of getting the energy performance of a property assessed. In these instances, Members were signposted to the online Register of Assessors.

The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the presentation.

54. Flooding Q&A

The Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Lead returned to the Chamber.

The Chairman initiated the Q&A by noting that the following queries had been raised by Members of the public effected by the recent flooding:

- Causing of the flooding,
- Mitigation planned to prevent future flooding,
- Whether local building developments had exacerbated flooding issues,
- Issues regarding river blockages,
- An action plan to be shared with local residents.

Clarification was given by the Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Lead that, since the Public Speakers item, they had been in dialogue with the public speakers in attendance that had been impacted by the flooding. Following the dialogue, the Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Lead agreed to support the residents effected by chasing the responsible organisations and updating residents regularly.

A point of information was raised that new developments within the area were assessed for flooding risk and had to meet particular standards or ensure sufficient mitigation was enacted.

During discussions, Members discussed the following:

- It was queried whether the insertion of weirs and alternative adjustments made to the River Witham had impacted flooding levels. Confirmation was given that it was the view of the Environmental Agency that these had no impact.
- A Member expressed the view that specialist impact assessments should be undertaken regarding the flow of the River Witham.
- The matter was raised whether building developments had an impact on underground water levels.
- It was queried who was responsible for cleaning the dyke by Tennyson Avenue, Grantham. Confirmation was given that the work was being undertaken on the SKDC-owned section of the dike in early March.
- Clarification was given that Section 19 reports were produced by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) following instances of flooding to not only identify causing issues but also to recommend specific mitigations. It was the view of several Members that these Section 19 reports needed to be both produced and acted upon quicker. A Member offered further advice that, in their experience, it was the responsibility of the relevant County Councillor to arrange a site visit following the publication of the Section 19 report.
- Regarding the immediate response to flooding events, a Member noted that LCC request specific information when a flooding issue is reported. Therefore, the Member suggested that such information as the number of vulnerable individuals within specific areas of residence should be readily available in such exceptional circumstances to ensure a swift response.
- Clarification was sought regarding the role and operations of SKDC's Housing department during the recent flooding. The Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Lead confirmed that management within the Housing Department were a key aspect of shaping the senior management response. Furthermore, Members of the Housing teams were contacting both Council and private tenants in which temporary accommodation was offered to those whose residence was uninhabitable due to the flooding.

- The Head of Waste and Markets agreed to continue to chase LCC for an update regarding the cleaning of the drainage systems in SKDC.

ACTION

It was proposed, seconded and AGREED to invite representatives from the following key agencies during such flood responses to attend the March meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Lincolnshire County Council, the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board, and senior Planning Officers.

55. Weekly Food Waste Collections Update

The Weekly Food Waste Collections Update was presented by the Head of Waste Management & Market Services.

The Head of Waste Management & Market Services outlined that the reforms Central Government were seeking to implement were under the updated Environment Act 2021. The reforms were designed to simplify the rules and make recycling easier for people in England; they enabled consistent, more streamlined collections from all households and businesses. The approach was designed to ensure the same set of materials were collected everywhere in England. The reforms sought to reduce confusion, end the postcode lottery of bin collections and ensure the correct materials were captured for recycling.

The new default requirements included four containers for:

1. Residual (non-recyclable) waste,
2. Food waste (mixed with garden waste if required),
3. Paper and card,
4. All other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal and glass).

As a result of these updated requirements, SKDC was required to introduce weekly kerbside collections, from the 31st March 2026.

During discussions, Members discussed the following:

- It was raised that the report's suggested implementation date of the kerbside collections was April 6th 2026, however, this was a bank holiday. Clarification was given that this had been an oversight and there was flexibility within the timeframes requested by central Government for this to be adjusted.
- It was noted that the scheme would require single-use plastic bags to be used rather than biodegradable ones due to the machinery at the waste site. A Member expressed concern about SKDC endorsing single-use plastic. It was outlined that there was no requirement for SKDC to supply the food waste bags, however, there was data to suggest that this would help the uptake of the scheme.

- It was raised that North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) had a reserve of eight waste vehicles for this purpose, including two spare vehicles. Therefore, it was queried why SKDC required twelve vehicles. The Head of Waste Management and Market Services confirmed that the data encompassing the previous food waste collection trial, the population of SKDC residents, and the geography of the district, had concluded that 10.5 vehicles were required. Therefore, 12 vehicles included an additional 20% to account for spare vehicles in events such as maintenance and repairs.
- It was noted that SKDC had received capital funding for the scheme but were in the process of challenging the amount received.
- A Member expressed concern that the previous food waste trial had demonstrated not only a drop-off in uptake by residents over time, but other residents would likely continue to use the general waste bin for food waste. Furthermore, in certain environments, food waste bins could risk increased levels of vermin. The Head of Waste Management & Market Services acknowledged these as being common, nationwide concerns that nationwide solutions were being sought for. However, the implementation of the service was ultimately mandated.

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Weekly Food Waste Collections Update report.

56. Communal Bins Update

The Communal Bins Update Report was presented by the Head of Waste Management & Market Services.

The report outlined that changes to collections caused by the switch to twin stream recycling highlighted the following issues with communal bins and the collection of the waste from these sites:

- Lack of bin capacity – not enough bins per waste stream for the number of residents
- Improper use of bins – residents putting their waste in the wrong bins and contaminating the recycling bins,
- Attracting fly tipping – the bin stores are unmonitored and therefore both residents and non-residents used the space to dispose of large household items including sofas and beds,
- Confusion around collection schedules, especially if residents use bags.

The report also identified key locations around the South Kesteven District where these issues were particularly prevalent and outlined recommended actions.

During discussions, Members discussed the following:

- A Member expressed the nuisance that waste bins caused on narrow terrace streets for the public trying to use the pavements, particularly with pushchairs or wheelchairs. Following discussions outside the meeting, the Member clarified that they had been informed that SKDC could not impose communal bins on land not owned by SKDC, such as private terrace streets. However, the Member encouraged imaginative problem solving to tackle this issue.

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Communal Bins Update Report.

57. Update on Climate Reserve Fund

The Update on the Climate Reserve Fund Report was presented by the Sustainability and Climate Change Officer.

The Climate Change Reserve was initiated for the 2023/24 financial year in order to both help respond to the budgetary pressures driven by the increasing cost of energy, and the Council's stated ambition of carbon reduction across the Council's property portfolio. A reserve of £300,000 was established in order to respond to opportunities for inward investment and enable proactive energy savings.

The report outlined the projects for 2024/25, including cost of investment, indicative payback and expected annual savings in energy use, carbon and cost of utilities. The expected costs of the projects totaled £257,626 and included:

- Installation of a 52.955 KW solar PV system and battery storage on the existing flat roof of South Kesteven District Council's main office
- Upgrade of existing floodlights at Grantham Stadium to energy efficient LED
- Purchase of battery powered grounds maintenance equipment to replace diesel powered equipment
- Plans to upgrade circulation pumps for pool water at Bourne Leisure Centre and Stamford Leisure Pool.

As part of the financial outturn report for 2023/24, the balance on the Climate Change Reserve was increased to £300,000 for 2024/25 to allow a continued pipeline of investment in identified projects. A 2025/26 budget proposal was been put forward to increase the level of the reserve to a maximum of £500,000.

During discussions, Members discussed the following:

- Members praised the quality of the report.
- It was suggested that analysis of the contribution to attaining SKDC's target CO2 rates could be included within subsequent reports.
- Confirmation was given that the £21,032 cost of the battery electric grounds maintenance equipment was for outright purchase.
- It was queried whether sensorial streetlights were still being considered within the district. It was confirmed that there would be an update at the March Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee NOTED the Update on the Climate Reserve Fund report.

58. Work Programme 2024 - 2025

It was requested that an update on recently published Section 19 reports was added to the Work Programme.

59. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent

A Member requested an electronic copy of the EPC presentation slides to be sent to them by Democratic Services.

Action Sheet

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Actions from meeting of 10 February 2025

Min no	Agenda item	Action	Assigned to	Comments/Status	Deadline
	FLOODING Q&A	Chase LCC for an update regarding the cleaning of drainage systems within SKDC.	Kayleigh Boasman		

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Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 18th March 2025

Report of Councillor Rhys Baker
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Waste

Update on South Kesteven District Council's Climate Action Plan

Report Author

Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager

serena.brown@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To provide an update to the Committee on South Kesteven District Council's development of a Climate Action Plan.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to note the update on the Climate Action Plan

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication? No

What are the relevant corporate priorities? Sustainable South Kesteven

Which wards are impacted? (All Wards);

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The Council has an existing Climate Change Reserve of £300k for the 2024/25 financial year, which was established to help respond to the budgetary pressures driven by the increasing cost of energy, and the Council's stated ambition of carbon reduction across the Council's property portfolio. The Climate Action Strategy sets the framework for further investment in a variety of projects against each of the Themes included within the Strategy.
- 1.2 The development of the Climate Action Plan, following publication of this Climate Action Strategy, will need to carefully review financial implications of all proposed projects including any sources of grant funding support or cost implications to the Council.
- 1.3 The Council has shown further commitment by increasing the Climate Change Reserve for 2025/26 to £500,000 to accelerate some of the projects and show carbon reduction across the portfolios.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy s151 officer)

Legal and Governance

- 1.4 South Kesteven District Council is one of the local authorities to have formally declared a climate emergency, which set carbon reduction targets for Council operations. The climate emergency declaration also noted the wider leadership potential of the Council to help fulfil the UK government's national target to reach net zero by 2050, and this activity helps to clarify that role.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Climate Change

- 1.5 The South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy sets out the Council's role in facilitating the transition to net zero carbon for the whole district of South Kesteven. The Climate Action Strategy is crucial for formally setting ambition to both reduce carbon emissions from within the district, and to adapt to the expected impacts of a changing climate.

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. There is a clear role for local government to shape, drive, and deliver local action on climate change. South Kesteven District Council made a formal declaration of climate emergency on 26 September 2019 with cross party support. Alongside this, the Council confirmed the political ambition to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030, and to endeavour to become net-zero as soon as viable before 2050. Over three-quarters of local authorities in the UK have now taken the step of declaring a climate emergency
- 2.2. Following this declaration of climate emergency, the Council's updated carbon footprint was established, using baseline data from 2018/19, which was presented to [Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21st July 2020](#). This signalled some of the major categories of carbon emissions arising from council operations and highlighted projects to pursue to reduce carbon emissions.
- 2.3. South Kesteven District Council has continued to publish updates on progress towards the outlined carbon emissions target from the 2018/19 year onwards. The latest report covering the 2023/24 period reported a total carbon emissions reduction of 25.27%, discussed in detail at a meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on [7th October 2024](#).
- 2.4. A Climate Change Reserve was put in place from the 2023/24 financial year in order to both help respond to the budgetary pressures driven by the increasing cost of energy, and the Council's stated ambition of carbon reduction across the Council's property portfolio. South Kesteven District Council has made significant progress in addressing carbon emissions from its own operations. Some of these major achievements which will have a major impact on the Council's carbon emissions include:
 - Establishment of a programme of £1m to upgrade all Council streetlights to energy efficient LEDs with dimming
 - Securing over £3.5m of funding via the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (phase 3c) to install a new low-carbon heating system at Grantham Meres leisure centre
 - Installation of additional solar PV panels at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre as well as at the Council's main offices at The Picture House
 - Overall reduction in electricity consumption and associated carbon emissions across the Council's portfolio of buildings
 - Development of a new Green Fleet Strategy to agree a way forward to decarbonise the Council's vehicles

2.5. The Council published its first Climate Action Strategy, endorsed by Cabinet in [November 2023](#), following an extensive consultation exercise and engagement with Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Strategy was developed to set out South Kesteven District Council's aspirations to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change within the whole district.

2.6. The Climate Action Strategy sets out eight key themes, reflecting the broad scope of work needed to effectively address climate change for South Kesteven. Each of these Themes has a supporting Vision which delivery of the Climate Action Plan will set out to achieve:

Theme	Vision
Built Environment	Buildings across South Kesteven have high energy efficiency, reduced dependence on fossil fuel heating systems and are better adapted to the impacts of climate change
Power	South Kesteven has increased renewable energy generation and is more self-sufficient for energy
Growing our Green Economy	South Kesteven has a strong low-carbon economy and there are more low-carbon employment opportunities
Natural Environment	Wildlife habitats are valued, maintained, enhanced and created in South Kesteven and biodiversity is restored
Transport	Emissions from transport are reduced throughout South Kesteven and there are more flexible and low carbon travel options
Resources	Waste is valued as a resource and circular economy principles are in practice, water efficiency and management is improved
Communities	People are more aware of the value of a clean and healthy environment and we are better adapted to a changing climate and extremes of weather
Decision Making	Climate and net zero considerations are fully embedded within South Kesteven District Council's decision making at every level

2.7. An executive summary of the Climate Action Strategy is included at Appendix A that sets out further detail and areas of focus relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

2.8. A Climate Action Plan is now under development, which will set out specific projects and actions to be delivered under each of the above eight Themes. This will be presented to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at an upcoming meeting in autumn 2025.

- 2.9. The Climate Action Plan will require leadership and activity across all areas of the Council for successful implementation, alongside a careful review of financial implications of all proposed projects, including any sources of grant funding or cost implication for the Council.
- 2.10. Partnership working will also be a crucial element to the successful delivery of many Climate Action projects, particularly those outside of the direct remit of the Council.
- 2.11. More widely linking into key themes within the Climate Action Strategy, a Trees and Woodland Strategy for South Kesteven was published and endorsed by Cabinet in [May 2024](#). The ambitions within this Strategy and associated action plan particularly support the climate resilience and adaptation aspirations for the district.
- 2.12. A separate Biodiversity Action Plan is also under development in 2025, following a new expectation for public authorities as set out in the Environment Act 2021. Further detail on this can be seen in an update presented to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in [December 2023](#). The Biodiversity Action Plan will set out specific targets and actions the Council will pursue within its operational remit to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity for the district.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. This report is provided to update Members on the development of a Climate Action Plan in support of the existing Climate Action Strategy.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. No further options are set out within this report which is provided to update Members on the development of a Climate Action Plan in support of the existing Climate Action Strategy.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. This report is provided as an update on the Climate Action Plan.

6. Background papers

- 6.1 Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21st July 2020 - [CarbonFootprintReportEnvOSC_Final.pdf](#)
- 6.2 Cabinet 7th November 2023 - [Update on Climate Action Strategy for South Kesteven.pdf](#)

- 6.3 Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12th December 2023 - [Update on Local Authority Biodiversity duties Report.pdf](#)
- 6.4 Cabinet 12th May 2024 - [Trees and Woodland Strategy 2024-2034.pdf](#)

7 Appendices

- 7.1. Appendix A – Climate Action Strategy Executive Summary.



South Kesteven District Council's Climate Action Strategy

Executive Summary



South Kesteven District Council is committed to responding to the global issue of climate change at a local level through developing a framework for action to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030 and to reach a net zero carbon position for the district before 2050.

To achieve this, we are focusing on:

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- 1. Continuing to reduce the carbon emissions from our own Council activities**
- 2. Supporting and facilitating partnership working of stakeholders throughout South Kesteven and Lincolnshire to achieve net zero carbon in the District**
- 3. Adapting to the impacts of climate change at a local level**

Our first Climate Action Strategy maps out the main concerns and areas of focus relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation within the district. The programme of work has been structured into three phases: short term (2023 – 2025); medium term (2025-2030); longer term (2030 and beyond).

Our framework for delivery is in three key strands: Low carbon Council, Low carbon Communities and Low carbon District. This reflects our ability to control and to influence change, as well as our need to work with others to deliver that change.

A Climate Action Plan will be developed setting out projects and plans to deliver on the goals set out in the Climate Action Strategy. Eight key Themes have been identified, demonstrating the broad scope of work needed to effectively address climate change for South Kesteven:

Built Environment

- Lead local action to deliver high quality retrofit of domestic properties, across tenure types
- Help to deliver new developments in South Kesteven in which low-carbon principles are embedded
- Continue to decarbonise public sector owned buildings, including those owned by South Kesteven District Council

Power

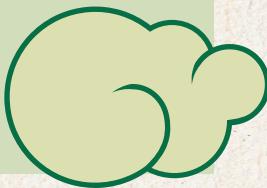
- Identify and deploy renewable energy solutions where viable for SKDC properties
- Drive partnership opportunities to support and encourage renewable energy generation in the district and unlock green growth
- Support energy efficiency opportunities across the board to reduce overall energy demand

Growing our Green Economy

- Provide a supportive structure for skills and training for low carbon and net zero businesses
- Boost the number of low carbon businesses operating within South Kesteven and work towards becoming a regional hub for low carbon business
- Ensure Council procurement activity delivers local benefits for net zero

Natural Environment

- Engage with partners to support projects boosting biodiversity and tree planting in South Kesteven
- Manage Council owned green spaces to boost biodiversity
- Embed Biodiversity Net Gain principles into new developments



Transport

- Support opportunities to reduce need to travel and unlock near term carbon reductions
- Ensure South Kesteven has a high-quality network of electric vehicle charging points that meets the needs of residents, businesses and visitors
- Work to embed public transport and active travel options for urban journeys

Resources

- Reduce the quantity of waste produced in the District
- Increase proportion of waste reused, recycled or composted to support the regional circular economy
- Ensure water is used in the most efficient way



Communities

- Lead on communications and engagement within the district on climate change, adaptation and carbon reduction
- Engage with the South Kesteven community on the Climate Action Strategy and carbon reduction aspirations
- Ensure that projects and policy from the Council addressing net zero provides a fair transition, ensuring that no resident is left behind

Decision Making

- Embed response to climate change and carbon reduction across all areas of the Council
- Review capacity to raise finance to deliver key projects for the Council and District
- Provide comprehensive training to Council staff and Councillors on climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability

Through our eight identified Themes, we also outline the multiple, wider co-benefits of pursuing action in each area:



Reducing fuel poverty



Improving health and wellbeing



Boosting jobs and growth



Improving air quality



Reducing the impact of flooding



Boosting Biodiversity



Reducing traffic congestion



Ensuring a fair society



Since the Council's declaration of climate emergency in September 2019, regular reporting into the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has taken place on our climate change work. This includes an annual report on carbon emissions arising from Council operations, a high level overview of district-wide carbon emissions, and the Climate Matters report detailing key climate projects. We will continue to report and monitor progress on the Climate Action Strategy in this way.

[Click here for the full version of South Kesteven District Council's Climate Action Strategy](#)
(including background, methodology, development and strategic framework).

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18th March 2025

Report of Councillor Rhys Baker
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Waste

Progress update on upgrade of District Council Streetlights to LED

Report Author

Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager

✉ Serena.brown@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

This report provides a progress update on the ongoing project to upgrade District Council operated streetlights to energy efficient LED units.

Recommendations

That the Committee notes the updates regarding the upgrade programme of LED streetlights

Decision Information

Does the report contain any
exempt or confidential
information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate
priorities?

Clean and sustainable environment

Which wards are impacted?

All wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The overall electricity spend for the Council continues to reduce following a reduction in overall consumption rates and energy prices. This invest to save initiative continues to contribute towards the overall savings to the Council.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 Councils do not have a duty to provide streetlighting, however once provided, the local authority does have a duty to maintain the system in a safe condition.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Climate Change

- 1.3 Streetlights represent the single largest area of electricity consumption for the Council. Upgrading existing lamps to LED is projected to reduce energy consumption by 75%, resulting in significant carbon savings. Annual carbon savings are included within the report which will contribute towards the Council's carbon reduction target.

Completed by: Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 South Kesteven District Council is responsible for managing a total of 3,893 streetlights within the district all of which are funded from the Council's General Fund. These lights are predominantly for providing lighting to footways, as opposed to the separate and much more significant stock of streetlights provided for highways in the district, which are managed by Lincolnshire County Council.

2.2 The majority of lights operated by the Council remain 35W (or 36W) low pressure sodium lamps. The total electricity consumption arising from the lamps result in just over 4% of the Council's total carbon emissions – the single largest category for electricity use of Council assets.

2.3 Following deliberation by [Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22nd June 2023](#), [Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th July 2023](#), and discussion by [Cabinet on 11th September 2023](#), [Council on 28th September 2023](#) agreed to approve an allocation of £1m to accelerate the replacement of Council operated streetlights with LED lamps.

2.4 A procurement exercise was completed in early 2024 and EON Energy Solutions Ltd. were appointed as the successful bidder. The specification for the upgraded lamps included:

- Replacement dimmable LED luminaires, with dimming profile set from midnight to 6AM
- Photocell controllers to activate lamp automatically at dusk and switch off at dawn
- NEMA socket to facilitate future connection to a networked system if required

2.5 Following project mobilisation, a fuller update was provided to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on [7th October 2024](#) on installations to end of August 2024. This update also shared that the supplier's project of energy saving from the new LED lanterns had improved, with expected savings of 75% for every lamp upgraded. At current electricity costs this results in a payback period of 3.7 years and an annual carbon emissions saving of 148 tonnes.

2.6 The latest year-to-year comparison for February 2025 shows that electricity consumption has reduced by 56% through lamps upgraded to date.

2.7 Regarding the upgrade programme, each upgraded streetlight is supplied with a full condition report advising the condition of the column, bracket, lantern, door & paint condition, along with an electrical test report. If required, the light is renumbered/identified.

2.8 As of 25th February 2025, a total of 2,385 streetlights have been successfully upgraded to LED. This equates to 61% of the council's total stock of streetlights.

Status		Number of Street Lights Upgraded
	Completed with no additional work required	2,267
Additional work required to complete upgrade	Column Replacement	16
	Bracket Replacement	102
	Found streetlights, not on inventory	6
Advisory work completed on upgraded lights	Bracket replacement	50
	Column Replacement	71
Columns inspected but not upgraded	Inaccessible requiring landowner permission	14
	Under investigation/LCC	9
	Ornate lanterns, requiring quotation	11
Columns not found	Removed from old wooden poles without Council knowledge	5

2.9 Of the original £1m budget allocation to the project to upgrade streetlights, £800k has been committed to date for agreed upgrades, with a further £200k to be addressed later in the year. It is expected that all upgrades will be completed by late 2025.

2.10 A list of locations where the Council has streetlight assets is provided at Appendix A. Locations which appear in green have been completed, with those locations in white awaiting some or all of the streetlights that the Council is responsible for to be upgraded.

2.11 There are a limited number of heritage style ornate lamps clustered within conservation areas in the district, which have been planned to be addressed as part of this upgrade programme.

2.12 Some of the street lighting which has been upgraded also require additional work which is classed as advisory. Whilst this is not necessarily urgent, the Council has investigated each light and raised orders if it has deemed sensible to address the problem while funds are available. This ensures that the lights are future proofed, and we benefit from a lower cost compared to a call out in the future. This work includes: proactive column upgrades; pole bracket upgrades; straightening columns and re-concreting, upgrading supply box and brackets.

2.13 The resident feedback regarding any lamps that have been upgraded to LED has been very minimal to date. A small number of requests to review the brightness of the upgraded lamps has been received, either where the lamp is perceived as providing insufficient illumination during hours of darkness or where a lamp is perceived as too bright in its surroundings. Overall feedback on the upgrade programme has been positive.

3. Key Considerations

3.1 Current unit cost for electricity remains at a historic high and there is a strong case for accelerated upgrade of the council's stock of streetlights, to maximise savings on energy costs and return on investment.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1 The report is provided for information rather than decision. Members are asked to take note of the update on the progress of the project to date.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

5.1 The report is provided for information to note of the update on the progress of the project to date.

6. Background Papers

6.1 Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee 22nd June 2023 - [Streetlights report.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#)
6.2 Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11th July 2023 - [Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th July 2023](#)
6.3 Cabinet 11th September 2023 - [Cabinet on 11th September 2023](#)
6.4 Council 28th September 2023 - [Council on 28th September 2023](#)
6.5 Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee - [Agenda for Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 7th October, 2024, 2.00 pm | South Kesteven District Council](#)

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix A: List of settlements streetlight upgrades have been completed

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VILLAGES UPGRADED LIGHTS AS AT 25.02.25

Aisby
Ancaster
Aslackby
Barkston
Barholm
Baston
Billingborough
Bitchfield
Boothby Pagnall
Braceborough
Brandon
Burton Coggles
Carlby
Carlton Scoop
Castle Bytham
Cawthorpe
Caythorpe
Claypole
Colsterworth
Corby Glen
Creeton
Deeping St James
Denton
Dowsby
Dry Doddington
Dunsby
Dyke
Edenham
Folkingham (non ornate lights only)
Foston
Frieston
Frognall
Fulbeck
Gelston
Graby
Grantham
Great Ponton
Greatford
Grimsthorpe
Gunby

Haconby
Hanthorpe
Harlaxton
Harrowby
Hawthorpe
Heydour
Honington
Horbling
Hough on the Hill
Hougham
Ingoldsby
Kirkby Underwood
Langtoft
Lenton
Little Bytham

Little Humby
Little Ponton
Londonthorpe
Long Bennington
Lound
Manthorpe Grantham
Manthorpe Nr Bourne
Market Deeping
Marston
Millthorpe
Morton
Normanton on Cliffe
North Witham
Northorpe
Oasby
Obthorpe
Old Somerby
Pickworth
Pointon
Rippingale
Ropsley
Scuttlethorpe
Sedgebrook
Sempringham
Skillington
South Witham
Stainby
Stainfield
Stamford
Stoke Rochford
Stubton
Sudbrook
Swayfield
Swinstead
Syston
Tallington
Thurlby
Toft
Twenty
Uffington

Welby
West Deeping
Westborough
Wilsthorpe
Witham on the Hill
Woolsthorpe by Belvoir
Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024/25

WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/PRIORITY
Unscheduled future items				
Restructure of Waste Collection Rounds	Kay Boasman	The report outlines the planned restructure of the waste collection rounds. The current rounds are inefficient, and the proposed changes will improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of the service without reducing the current levels of service provided.		
Communal Recycling	Kay Boasman (Head of Waste and Markets)			
Update on recently published Section 19 reports	Tom Amblin-Lightowler (Environmental Health Manager)	To review the recommendations to mitigate and prevent future flooding risks.	February 10 th 2025	
Biodiversity Update	Serena Brown	To update on the newly developed Biodiversity Action Plan.	December 2023	Clean and sustainable SK
Quality of the District's Rivers and Canals				

National Hedge Laying Association				
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The Committee's Remit

The remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be to work alongside Cabinet Members to assist with the development of policy and to scrutinise decisions in respect of, but not limited to:

- Air quality
- Animal welfare licensing (Policy)
 - Commercial, industrial, and clinical waste collection and management
 - Dog breeding and control orders
 - Domestic waste and recycling management
 - Energy efficiency
 - Environment SK Ltd
 - Environment SK Commercial Services Ltd
 - Estate and grounds maintenance
 - Flooding
 - Food hygiene and safety
 - Health and safety
 - Noise
 - Renewable energy
 - Scrap metal dealers
 - Green open space management