

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Wednesday, 10 July 2024 at 10.00 am
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House,
St. Peter's Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Committee Members: Councillor Nikki Manterfield (Chairman)
Councillor Steven Cunnington (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Pam Byrd, Councillor James Denniston, Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren, Councillor Robert Leadenham, Councillor Habibur Rahman, Councillor Vanessa Smith and Councillor Peter Stephens

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 Interest**
Members are asked to disclose any interest in matters for consideration at the meeting.

4. **Minutes from the Joint Meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 March 2024** (Pages 3 - 9)
5. **Minutes from the meeting held on 28 March 2024** (Pages 11 - 26)
6. **Updates from the previous meeting**
There were no actions agreed at the previous meeting.
7. **Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**
8. **Police and Crime Panel Update**
A verbal update to be provided by Councillor Sarah Trotter.
9. **Corporate Plan 2020-23 Key Performance Indicators End-of-Plan and 2023/24 End-Year (Q4) Report** (Pages 27 - 44)
This report outlines South Kesteven District Council's performance against the Corporate Plan 2020-23 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from January-March 2024, and presents a summary of overall performance over the lifecycle of the Corporate Plan 2020-23.
10. **UKSPF Update** (Pages 45 - 52)
The report provides an update on the UKSPF Rural England Prosperity Fund. It outlines the investment into South Kesteven's communities and highlights the approach for the rest of 2024/25 until the programmes closure on 31st March 2025.
11. **SK Community Fund – Proposed Amendments March 2024** (Pages 53 - 61)
To consider proposed changes to determine access to the SK Community Fund: Main Grants Scheme and provide a recommendation to the Cabinet Member on a revised eligibility criteria.
12. **Community Engagement Update** (Pages 63 - 82)
To provide an overview of community engagement for 2023/24, based on activities that promote wellbeing, positive mental health and help to reduce social isolation as outlined in the Action Plan which accompanies the Community Engagement and Development Strategy – Our People, Our Place.
13. **CCTV (Verbal Update)**
To receive a Verbal Update.
14. **Work Programme 2024-25** (Pages 83 - 87)
To receive the Work Programme for 2024-25.
15. **Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

Meeting of the Joint Meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Monday, 18 March 2024, 10.00 am

Committee Members present

Councillor Emma Baker
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Pam Byrd
Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren
Councillor Tim Harrison
Councillor Robert Leadenhamb
Councillor Bridget Ley
Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor Paul Martin
Councillor Virginia Moran
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Habibur Rahman
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Sarah Trotter
Councillor Vanessa Smith

Cabinet Members

Councillor Patsy Ellis
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor Rhys Baker
Councillor Richard Cleaver

Officers

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive
Nicola McCoy-Brown, Director of Growth and Culture
Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public
Protection) and Monitoring Officer
Sarah McQueen, Head of Service (Housing Options)
Chris Prime, Communications Manager

Phil Swinton, Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Lead
James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager (Deputy
Monitoring Officer)

14. Election of Chairman

The meeting was opened at 1001 by the Democratic Services Manager, and with the agreement of those Members present in the Council Chamber, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** until 1015 to allow those Members that had been held up by an incident on the A1 to arrive for the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 1015 and having been moved and seconded, and following a vote it was **AGREED** that Councillor Nikki Manterfield, Chairman of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny would be the Chairman for this Extraordinary meeting.

15. Election of Vice - Chairman

Having been moved and seconded, and following a vote, it was **AGREED** that Councillor Ian Selby, the Chairman of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be the Vice-Chairman for this Extraordinary meeting.

16. Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

17. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Councillor Steven Cunningham
Councillor Penny Milnes
Councillor Murray Turner

Councillors Harrish Bisnauthsing, Richard Dixon-Warren and Tim Harrison were present as substitutes.

18. Disclosure of interests

There were no disclosures of interests.

19. South Kesteven District Council's response to localised flood relating to Storm Henk

The Leader of the Council introduced the report detailing the response to 'Storm Henk'. The need for the meeting had arisen as the Deputy Leader had asked the Chairmen of both the Rural and Communities and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committees to suggest a debrief following the events of Storm Henk. As the topic of flooding was relevant to the two Committees, it was felt that a Joint Meeting was the best way forward.

Sympathy for all residents impacted by the flooding was expressed, alongside thanks to officers who had been involved with setting up an incident management room. Thanks were also extended to the Chief Executive, Corporate Management Team, and Streetscene for the roles they had played. Staff from almost every team across the Council had been involved in helping with the floor relief.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture was also highlighted as someone who had ensured the smooth running of the floor relief effort to residents.

Unprecedented levels of flood water had been seen in the district due to Storm Henk coming so soon after the impact of Storm Babet. Within an ordinary year, there were not a high instance of floods, but due to the sheer number of floods provoked by Storms Babet and Henk, several were being investigated under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Approximately 800 properties had been flooded.

The Monitoring Officer presented slides outlining the impact of the flooding. The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

- Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) was the lead flood authority in Lincolnshire and had the statutory responsibility for Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. LCC also employed an Emergency Planning Team.
- The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) was a collective of Category 1 and 2 responders as identified in the Civil Contingencies Act. It included all of the Lincolnshire districts, LCC, emergency services, flood agencies, internal drainage boards and others.
- The LRF monitored the emerging flooding situation on a County wide basis. They liaised with the LCC Emergency Planning Team and following this a Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG) and a Tactical Co-Ordination Group (YCG) was set up. The first meeting of the SCG was on 2 January 2024, with the TCG meeting later on the same day. Meetings of those bodies continued for the rest of that week until Friday 5 January 2024.
- An emergency was not declared in South Kesteven that week, so South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) decided to proceed with an emergency planning group involving the Chief Executive and Directors. The emergency group met in Grantham at SK House and utilised staffing resource from other areas of the Council.
- The group relied heavily on intelligence from a range of sources including, but not limited to, Ward Members, public, Government live mapping system, flood alerts, and feedback from SCG and TCG and

other partners. A dedicated email account was established and was overseen by dedicated administrative support.

- Every area with a live flooding risk was given a profile.
- The storm caused extensive flooding to farmland and highways, as well as commercial and residential properties; five commercial premises were significantly impacted. There was also a list of areas where reports of internal flooding had been received. SKDC made immediate contact with every Council property that had reported experiencing internal flooding. In two instances families were placed in emergency accommodation and received daily welfare checks.
- The flooding initially greatly affected the villages of Tallington and Greatford, whilst also impacting Stamford.
- A 'Rest Centre' was set up with trained staff manning the establishment, until the decision was taken that it was no longer required. Once the situation in Tallington worsened, resource was diverted and the Rest Centre was relocated.
- In Greatford some residents could not access toilet facilities, so officers established contact with a portaloo provider. The Village Hall was also opened up in order that their facilities could be used. The Deepings Round Table also opened additional toilet facilities.
- Tallington Lodge Care Home's kitchen was flooded due to water coming up through the sink alongside general flooding and water ingress. The Council maintained communication with the Care Home in view of the vulnerability of tenants, however, the home took the decision to retain tenants in the premises as the flooding was isolated to the kitchen only. The Care Home therefore made alternative provision for food and water for its residents.
- An information leaflet was produced for residents, particularly in Greatford and Tallington, as there were a number of items that needed to be carefully disposed of as a result of the flood water. Feedback from this exercise had been positive.
- On Saturday 6 January 2024 inspections were carried out on those properties where internal flooding had been reported.

Further points were highlighted during debate between Members and officers:

- Surface water flooding was not predictable; however the areas prone to surface water flooding were now known. Informed planning to prepare for this was being made in some villages.
- Informed communications between the 'Control Centre' and Ward Councillors had to be part of the information link; visibility of LRF communications was essential.
- There was an on-call status for emergency planning for officers. In addition there was a WhatsApp group containing 30 senior officers and Emergency Planning Team Members which alerted them to any major incidents involving the Council. Even if events occurred over a

weekend or a Bank Holiday officers could be called into the office to deal with a situation.

- The Emergency Services were used for incidents where deeper water was involved; SKDC officers only had standard protection clothing and were not equipped to deal with such incidents. There were however volunteers that had the use of 4x4 vehicles.
- SKDC could have declared an 'emergency', but this would not have changed the response of the officers to the flooding situation. Had officers needed it, the support was there for mutual aid, but they were able to manage with partner support. In terms of funding, it was a Government decision as to when they made funding available for Local Authorities. District Councils could claim funding, subject to a threshold. However, whilst it had become more apparent with the passage of time that the flooding was widespread across Lincolnshire, many individuals at the time did not declare that their properties were flooded.
- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue returned to normal operations on 3 January 2024.
- A lot of information was being shared through the Communications Manager by email, for ease. There were certainly lessons to be learned in terms of different means of communicating with Ward Members but it would be difficult to be adequately across many different forms of communication, especially with multiple alerts across the district.
- Storm information was taken from the Environment Agency and Met Office. In the build up to a storm there were hazard assessment teams. They decided how bad the storm could be and what needed to be done. Unfortunately, weather forecasting was still not that precise and it wasn't known exactly where storms would hit across Lincolnshire, however there were plans in place for these sorts of events. Planning was still reactive rather than proactive in terms of weather.
- LCC Emergency Planning Team were keen to work with community groups and had contacted all SKDC parish councils in October 2023 to work with them. It was an offer that SKDC followed up with a letter regarding sandbags for 'at risk' properties', which received a mixed response.
- In most cases, by the time a sandbag was deployed they were past their usefulness. Whilst they should be part of any flood response, they should not be relied upon. There were better products available for flood mitigation.
- The Chief Executive provided a £35,000 reserve through an Officer Delegated Decision to fund any works necessary as a result of the flooding. In addition, many were diverted away for their normal duties. The direct costs of the flooding to date, for items such as portaloos, skips and ancillaries was just over £5,500. However, this cost did not include the 100s of hours of staff time which was already budgeted for.
- South Kesteven was one of the worst hit districts in Lincolnshire with many different towns and villages being affected. Usually, disruption would be seen within East Lindsey given its low-lying areas, but this was not seen this time around.

- The Emergency Planning Team could only react to intelligence that had been confirmed; much of the information received by South Kesteven was very accurate.
- Issues with drainage should be reported to Lincolnshire Highways and Anglian Water.

The Monitoring Officer raised further points as part of his presentation:

- A number of areas had street cleaning arranged for 8 January. A co-ordinated waste collection included skips, and additional waste and bulky waste items collection.
- Following the flooding officers repeatedly contacted displaced families, and undertook welfare checks where necessary.
- The Government announced funding for the flood recovery network on 6 January. Any residents or businesses that were eligible for grant funding from the Government were contacted on 12 January. Where there were no contact details for groups or individuals social media was used to spread the message. Support included:
 - Community Recovery Grant
 - Business Recovery Grant
 - Council Tax Discount
 - Business Rates Relief
 - Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme
 - Farming Recovery Fund
- By 26 January direct contact had been made with 6 businesses and 41 residents. In total £73,000 of funding had been accepted. The issue of government funding would be reviewed week commencing 25 March.
- Remedial works as part of the cleanup operation were completed on 8 February. The cleanup and work of the Waste Services team was well received and helped areas return to normal.
- A review into where sandbags would be stored would take place, alongside reviewing whether there were better alternatives, such as 'aquabags'.
- Officers had committed to undertake further training in future. Some will be logists, who will contribute to accurate information reporting.
- Flooding crossed several District Ward boundaries, so it was difficult to identify the most effective way to contact elected members. Text messaging groups could be investigated as part of any review; however, email forwarding was the favoured method of communication due to its ease – each member had a South Kesteven email account.
- Town and Parish Councils were encouraged to sign up for flood alerts, and to familiarise themselves with the LRF website and the implementation of emergency plans.

Further information was highlighted when summing up the report:

- Market Deeping managed to mitigate the flooding within the town. There were two alerts on the Government website related to the town. Officers were sent out to the area and built a profile in case the situation escalated. 140 filled sandbags were provided with another 80 available as a precaution.
- A 'business card' containing vital contact details could be created.
- To send sandbags into each village and town in the District would be an extremely costly exercise, a more targeted approach was suggested.
- Any member of the public could sign up as a volunteer and be trained to support emergency responders, the link was available on the LRF website. On the Government website any member of the public could sign up for flood warnings on mobile phones, emails or landline telephones.
- A host of vulnerable people would be contacted in emergencies through the Contact Support Group. This Group had a Memorandum of Understanding that could be shared in times of emergency.
- If sandbags had not been used then the towns and parishes could retain them for future use. If the sandbags had been impacted in any way by the flooding then they should be disposed of through SKDC. Usually sandbags have a lifespan of between 3-5 years.

Having been moved and seconded, and following a vote, it was **AGREED**:

1. That the content of the report be noted.
2. That the areas for improvement identified in the report be actioned by officers and incorporated into the Council's emergency planning procedures for any future incidents.
3. That the Joint Meeting recommend to Cabinet that a fund be made available for direct costs in relation to any emergency.
4. That a report be added to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee workplan to investigate the options available to combat flooding in the future.

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

There was none.

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Minutes

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH
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DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Thursday, 28 March 2024, 2.00 pm

**Council Chamber – South
Kesteven House, St. Peter's
Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ**

Committee Members present

Councillor Nikki Manterfield (Chairman)

Councillor Pam Byrd

Councillor Robert Leadenham

Councillor Virginia Moran

Councillor Habibur Rahman

Councillor Vanessa Smith

Councillor Sarah Trotter

Councillor Tim Harrison

Councillor Peter Stephens

Cabinet Members present

Councillor Ashley Baxter (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Rhys Baker (Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste)

Councillor Phil Dilks (Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing)

Councillor Phillip Knowles (Cabinet Member for Governance and Licensing)

Councillor Rhea Raysia (Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste)

Other Members present

Councillor Ian Selby

Officers

Richard Wyles (Deputy Chief Executive, S151 Officer)

Alison Hall-Wright (Director of Housing)

Sarah McQueen (Head of Service - Housing Options)

Gyles Teasdale (Property Services Manager)

Carol Drury (Community Engagement Manager)

Ayeisha Kirkham (Head of Service – Public Protection)

Debbie Roberts (Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance)

Peter Harrison (Safer Streets Coordinator)

Kati Conway (Senior Neighbourhoods Officer)

Charles James (Policy Officer)

Mieke Alcock (LGA Graduate Trainee)

55. Public Speaking

There were none.

56. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Steve Cunningham and Councillor Penny Milnes.

Councillor Peter Stephens substituted for Councillor Penny Milnes.

Councillor Tim Harrison substituted for Councillor Steve Cunningham.

57. Disclosure of Interest

There were none.

58. Minutes from the meeting held on 1 February 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 were proposed, seconded, and **AGREED** as a correct record.

59. Updates from the previous meeting

Members noted the updates from the previous meeting.

The Chairman confirmed that the action from the 'Cost of Living' item was complete.

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

There were none.

61. Changing Places Update

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste introduced the report.

In July 2021 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced the opening for Expressions of Interest bids for a share of a £30M pot to provide Changing Places toilets in existing, publicly accessible buildings.

Changing Places toilets were larger accessible toileting facilities for severely disabled people, with equipment such as hoists, curtains, adult-sized changing benches and space for carers.

In March 2022 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) informed the Council that its bid had been successful and that it had been awarded the maximum £160,000. This was reported at Cabinet on 29 March 2022.

The funding is awarded to cover a two-year period for completion of the project. DLUHC has confirmed that the works will need to be completed by 31 March 2024 to avoid any of the funding being returned.

Rural and Communities were previously provided with an update on this project at their meeting on 11 October 2023. Since then, there had been significant progress made at the locations in Grantham and Bourne but sadly there will be no facility at Stamford.

An updated position for each identified location was provided:

South Street Bourne

The facility had been introduced within the closed former public conveniences at South Street, Bourne and the building has been modified to include a full changing places facility which are equipped with ceiling track hoists, privacy screens, support rails and height-adjustable, adult-sized changing benches. The facility also included reconfiguration of the former public conveniences and was scheduled to be completed and open from the end of March 2024.

Wyndham Park Grantham

This facility had been introduced within the Memorial Arch building at Wyndham Park which was being used as a grounds maintenance as an informal storage area. The new facility included a fully compliant Changing Places provision and was scheduled to open from Monday 5th February 2024.

Grantham Meres Leisure Centre Grantham

This facility had been introduced utilising a former medical space at the Meres Leisure Centre, which had been relocated as part of the works and had been operational since April 2023.

In all cases, the design and layout had complied with the Changing Places standard which has enabled the grant to be awarded to contribute towards the funding of the 3 locations.

The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the Government, whilst recognising that the allocated £40,000 per location does not meet the actual costs of installing the facility, had been unable to offer additional funding and therefore the financial shortfall has had to be met by the Council's own budgets as Stamford Town Council were unable to do so. The Officer confirmed that if there was a further phase of grant support, sites would include Stamford and the Deepings.

This report provided the final position of the Changing Places project and brings it to a conclusion. Should any further Changing Places funding announcements be made then the Committee would be notified accordingly.

Members raised the following points during discussion:

- Could the funds that were unable to be used in Stamford now be made available to assist in the refurbishment of toilets on Conduit Lane, Grantham?
- A Member noted that there were no sites at the Deepings within this project as the site previously confirmed was within the Deepings Leisure Centre.
- A Member confirmed that the Deepings Community Centre Trust were willing to upgrade their facilities, should a second phase of funding become available.
- Finding further funding remained a priority and it was unfortunate that Central Government were unable to provide enough funding at this time.

The Senior Assets Officer informed the Committee that that the funds were to be allocated by 31 March 2024 and that unfortunately there was insufficient time to incorporate the Conduit Lane refurbishment.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste confirmed that all areas within the district were to be considered where further funding streams became available.

The Deepings and Stamford will be prioritised as it should not be that people are excluded from their communities.

That the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed and noted the outcomes achieved from the Changing Places Toilets facilities project.

62. Crime Disorder and Local Partnership working update

The Head of Service for Public Protection introduced a joint presentation which included Lincolnshire Police as well as South Kesteven District Council.

The key officers within the Partnership and their roles were confirmed along with the multi-agency approach which was to consist of joint patrols and visits and a shared system of case management. CCTV played a crucial role in the partnership, particularly working to avoid criminal activity.

Quarterly Partnership meetings were held alongside regular specific group meetings.

The Committee were informed of the breakdown of Enforcement actions taken over the last year.

ECINS was a county-wide partnership case management and intelligence database. It was a secure and confidential way of sharing information across teams and the wider partnership. Multi-agency meetings were coordinated on ECINS with the use of a tasking function to support accountability and ownership. It supported compliance with Standard Operating Procedures agreed by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership and enabled seamless partnership working as both South

Kesteven and the Police used this as the primary case management system for anti-social behaviour cases.

The Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 provided a wide range of tools and powers that Police, local authorities and other agencies were able to use. This included civil and criminal remedies, such as a Criminal Behaviour Order or Public Spaces Protection Order. It promoted a victim focused and harm centred approach and incorporated the corporate Enforcement Policy to ensure our approach was proportionate.

The Senior Neighbourhoods Officer informed Members of the following case studies:

Terrys was a restaurant in a prime location in the centre of Grantham with residential flats above. As part of Op Disputes, Police identified through intelligence the premises were allowing illegal activities to take place.

A multiagency investigation commenced to disrupt the activities at the location and safeguard vulnerable people.

During the course of the investigation, a warrant was executed and 7 people were arrested including a young person. As a result of the evidence obtained, a Full Closure Order was secured for the commercial premises, Terry's, and a Partial Closure Order was obtained for the residential flat. Further safeguarding, disruption and positive interventions have taken place for the young person and other vulnerable people linked to the premises.

In another case study anti-social behaviour centred around 3 addresses on Eastwell Place, Grantham was reported to both South Kesteven District Council's Housing Team and Neighbourhoods Team and the Police.

Occupants and visitors to the 3 addresses had no regard for the other residents in the area. Their behaviours took place at all times of day and night and included shouting, screaming, fighting, drug use, street drinking, criminal damage and loud music. They also included threatening and intimidating behaviour directed at other residents. As a result of a multiagency investigation, following the Anti-Social Behaviour Incremental Approach, the following actions were taken:

- 5 CPN (Community Protection Notice) Warning's served.
- 5 CPN's served.
- 3 NOSP's served.
- 2 Full Closure Orders.
- 1 Partial Closure Order.

Due to the successful partnership working, this case is now closed.

Inspector Mark Hillson provided an overview of the crime data from the last year, confirming that shoplifting had seen the most significant increase. Crime was

reducing overall although business crime had seen a national increase. Police had been working with partners to target prolific offenders and support crime prevention. The use of face-recognition was supported by the partnership.

The Senior Neighbourhoods Officer informed Members of 'County Lines' investigations where vulnerable properties and vulnerable people were targeted. This involved developing intelligence and disrupting any activity to safeguard those who were vulnerable to exploitation. Public Protection Officers received professional curiosity and county lines training. A new 'missing and child exploitation intelligence' procedure had been introduced and that information could be used to disrupt future disappearances of young people who had gone missing regularly. A campaign involving taxi drivers to 'look closer' had sought to educate drivers to spot vulnerable young people as part of safety patrols.

17 joint visits with the Police were undertaken and 3 Section 8 warning notices were issued under the Misuse of Drugs Act. This process allowed an opportunity for the behaviour to stop before future enforcement action was taken.

The Head of Service for Public Protection informed the Committee on the progress of the Safer Street Initiative. South Kesteven had been successful in the Safer Streets Round 5 Bid from the Home Office via the Lincolnshire Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. The grant received was £172,000 with South Kesteven match funding £93,000.

The grant and match funding was to pay for:

- Upgrade of CCTV cameras, approved by Cabinet in March 2024
- New radio system for Licensed Premises and Retail Stores
- Self-defence classes for anybody over the age of 13 have already started
- Information boards in Parks regarding Safer Routes were to be erected shortly
- Promotion of the Ask Angela campaign
- Increased CCTV staffing at weekends
- Patrols of the Nighttime Economy and disrupt potential Anti-Social Behaviour

A Safer Streets Co-ordinator had been appointed to manage the project going forward.

CCTV had been successfully audited and verified against the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and British Standards and had been involved in 13,435 incidents since 1 April 2023.

The following points were raised by Members during discussion:

- How effective were the Community Protection Notices?

- Were the properties at Eastwell Terrace council-owned or private?
- How many police were on foot patrol at any one moment?
- Some of the crime overview figures were concerning, especially the rise in drug trafficking and possession of weapons.
- How efficient and timely was the process to remove tenants from their properties?
- When was the CCTV relocation to the Police Station expected to be complete?
- Were all ATMs covered by CCTV with the ability for a quick response if targeted? A recent target in the Deepings had received a less than prompt response recently.
- Did the crime data include rural communities? Many residents pay a higher percentage of Council Tax – what were they getting for their contributions?

The Senior Neighbourhoods Officer informed the Committee that the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 gave the Council civil powers. In terms of evidence in an offence, the balance of probability is used rather than proof beyond a reasonable doubt. An incremental process was undertaken. If behaviours continued, the Council could look to prosecute or seek a civil injunction. Warnings were used to mitigate further enforcement action. The Officer confirmed that the Eastwell Terrace properties were privately owned and the partnership teams had to work together to solve the issues. The Officer continued that Notices of Seeking Possession were submitted for a variety of tenancy issues as a warning. Closure Orders were to be issued at any property – whether Council-owned or private where anti-social behaviour was disruptive within the local community. Enforcement action would commence once a breach had occurred.

Inspector Hillson confirmed that there were 182 Officers within Lincolnshire as a whole and there were not enough Officers on foot patrol – the exact number was not known. There were 2 PCSOs in Grantham town centre as well as a Beat Manager. The increase in proactivity and safeguarding contributed to the increase in recorded crime. Burglaries and detection rates were reduced due to increased home security. Crime data was also influenced by the nature of evidence proving an offence had been committed and covered the whole of the district. It was acknowledged that crime levels were lower in rural areas.

The Head of Public Protection confirmed that the relocation of CCTV to the Police Station was expected to be complete within the next 4-8 months. Meetings were due imminently to start the process. Members were welcome to attend the new location in limited numbers once relocated.

The Senior Neighbourhoods Officer confirmed that not every ATM was covered with public CCTV but places that had ATMs installed had their own CCTV. The responsibility was on the owner of the ATM to protect their asset.

The Chairman thanked the Public Protection Team for their hard work and thanked Inspector Hillson for attending.

63. Draft KPIs

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing introduced the report and began by thanking the team for their hard work – naming the Corporate Policy Officer and the Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance.

The Corporate Plan 2024-2027 was adopted by Council on 25 January 2024.

Once approved, reporting on the KPIs were to be a regular part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees workplans. Mid-year (quarter 2) and end-of-year (quarter 4) reports would be presented to the OSCs. Quarterly reports were to be presented to Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team (CMT).

Effective performance management was essential to the success of the Plan. It established how delivery was to be monitored, improvements driven, and open and transparent accountability upheld.

An effective KPI suite must be able to perform three functions:

- Measure activity and performance.
- Understand experiences and outcomes.
- Use evidence to inform and drive improvement.

Meeting these functions had underpinned the approach to developing the KPI suite. To do this, two basic foundational principles had been observed:

- The selected metrics must be wholly within the Council's control, so offering accountability and stimulating continuous improvement.
- The selected metrics must be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & Timely).

The draft KPIs had been developed in close consultation with the relevant Officers for each service. It was expected that the KPI suite will experience a degree of evolution over the next four years. This improvement was to be prompted by the needs of decision makers and the scrutiny committees, and further consideration of how to best meet those needs by Officers.

During discussion, Members raised the following points:

- Some of the targets were not able to be adequately measured in terms of high amounts. For example, housing adaptations may have limited applications but the target could be that 100% of applications received were concluded.
- A Member asked that a specific target be set for safeguarding as it was a statutory responsibility and essential for protecting communities.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing clarified that Members of the Committee were able to set the KPIs as they decided to be appropriate and had the facility to change any targets set.

The Head of Public Protection clarified that the KPI for adaptations related to privately-owned homes. 100 adaptations as a target was deemed reasonable by Officers and the Team would be happy to consider a trial period working to that target.

Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance informed Members that the KPI for Safeguarding came under the remit of Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was acknowledged that safeguarding was about people and communities and the Officer informed the Committee that the Safeguarding targets could, with the agreement of the Housing Committee Chairman, be moved to within the remit of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. .

It was proposed, seconded, and **AGREED that the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

- 1. Approved the key performance indicators it wished to review associated with the actions in the Corporate Plan 2024-27.**
- 2. Noted that key performance indicators will be monitored throughout the year as determined by the Committee in agreeing its work programme.**
- 3. Noted that the KPI suite will be reviewed and if necessary revised as part of the annual review process with the safeguarding KPI to be brought under the remit of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

64. Safeguarding Annual Report

The Cabinet Member for People and Communities presented the report that provided an update on the progress of the review and the updated Safeguarding Policy 2024 – 2027 for review.

The Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014 placed responsibilities on the Council to safeguard vulnerable people from harm. As a District Council there was a general duty of care and statutory requirements in relation to the safeguarding of both children and adults. Safeguarding was the responsibility of all staff and elected members, so the Council had to ensure that staff and members had access

to support, were trained, were able to recognise signs of safeguarding issues and, most importantly, act upon concerns.

In October 2023 the Council identified the Head of Housing Services as the Designated Lead for Safeguarding.

The Community Engagement Manager informed Members that the policy had a timescale of three years and should however, be reviewed annually to ensure that it remained up to date and even more frequently if required to embed any changes to legislation. The policy was made up of 11 chapters. Updates included:

- Amendments had been made throughout Chapter 3 Safeguarding Children and Young People to reflect updates to statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- The chapters relating to Domestic Abuse (Chapter 5) and Prevent (Chapter 6) had been updated in relation to the introduction of, or changes to, the law.
- Amendments had been made to Chapter 11 – Transient Families
- Appendix B – Training Structure and Programmes had been updated to meet the requirements of the 6 year training pathways of the LSCP and the LSAB to ensure we meet national competency standards.

Working Together to Safeguard Children was statutory guidance updated in December 2023 – it was last updated in 2018. Many of the changes to Working Together related to partner organisations such as Lincolnshire County Council – Social Care, Care Leavers, Child protections etc and Health including changes around procedures relating to child death, for example.

The importance of multi-agency working was highlighted to ensure successful outcomes for children and young people. This would relate to cases of early help through to child protection.

The Domestic Abuse Act brought in a number of changes most of which related to criminal behaviour and therefore within the responsibility of the Police. From the perspective of the Council it created a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse was not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse.

Other changes were brought in that related specifically to housing and duties around providing accommodation-based support to victims of Domestic Abuse and their children.

The Safeguarding Policy covered Domestic Abuse in generic terms. It provided the definition, outlined signs of and types of abuse and gave guidance on what to do if anyone had a concern.

Any housing related responsibilities connected to the Domestic Abuse Act were covered in housing policies and the housing-specific Domestic Abuse Policy.

The Prevent Duty for local authorities had been updated. Prevent fell within the safeguarding arena. The Council's responsibilities included helping to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This was the safeguarding equivalent of grooming. The updated Duty included the need to tackle ideological causes of terrorism by limiting exposure to radicalising narratives, both online and offline and to create an environment where radicalising ideologies were challenged and not permitted to flourish. This was known under the Duty as reducing permissive environments.

This duty extended out beyond the Safeguarding arena and into other areas of Council function. For example, we needed to ensure that the Council was not hiring a venue to a group that espoused a terrorism-related narrative and Officers also needed to ensure the Council's IT could be used to access information related to terrorism or proscribed organisations.

The Council had, separately, put together a venue hire policy that met the requirements of the Duty and were consulting with colleagues on this now and IT was working with our firewall provider to ensure we can block access to information relation to proscribed groups.

Previously the Prevent Duty had referred to vulnerable people being radicalised but it was now recognised that people didn't need to be what we would define as vulnerable in terms of safeguarding to fall victim to radicalisation. The definition now discussed people that are susceptible to radicalisation.

Chapter 11 of the Policy –titled Transient Families was previously known as Mobile Families. The basic content of this chapter was much the same as it was before, however, the title had changed and there was now a wider list of children and families that would fall within the definition of Transient Families. Transient families were identified as those who experienced frequent changes of address and included those who are in temporary accommodation.

The content was taken directly from the LSCP's policy and procedures manual which now listed children and families who moved most frequently between local authorities as:

- homeless families
- asylum seekers and refugees
- gypsy and traveller families
- looked after children
- people in the criminal justice system
- families experiencing domestic abuse

- families who move to coastal areas for the summer
- families that move within the private rented sector
- military families.

This policy of the LSCP was introduced as a direct response to a Serious Case Review which involved a Lincolnshire family.

Appendix B of the Policy related to training. This had, as previously stated, been updated to reflect training requirements outlined in the 6-year training pathways of the LSCP and the LSAB to ensure the Council met national competency standards. There were four levels of training.

This was broken down to show who, from within the Council should undertake which level of training. Those listed in group A were required to attend briefings. These were generally provided in house.

There were then 3 further lists of training related to groups:

B – Officers with limited or no direct contact with the public. This comprised a 3-year pathway. These officers required less training.

C – Officers with regular contact and likely to make referrals. This was the training undertaken by community facing/visiting officers. Statistics relating to the completion of training by these officers determined the % of completed training by 'relevant' officers in the KPIs reported to this committee.

D – Training required by Safeguarding Leads within the organisation.

Both of these follow the 6-year pathway, which included a requirement to refresh training on a three-yearly basis.

The requirements listed in the training policy had been reproduced into spreadsheets that can be used by individual officers and had been shared with managers to cascade to their teams. Managers had been requested to build Safeguarding training requirements into the appraisal process so that each year's appraisal provided a reminder to staff to complete their training and provide evidence of completion to the officer maintaining the central training map for safeguarding.

It was confirmed that there were 63 relevant officers across Housing, Public Protection and Revenues and Benefits. The current percentage of relevant officers having completed or who were undergoing year 1 training now stood at 84%.

Lincolnshire was currently in the process of its 3-yearly Section 11 Safeguarding Children Audit. This related to the Children Act 2004. It placed a statutory duty on key organisations to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions they had regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Audit had 11 sections, comprising 39 questions. The Council was required to provide an overview narrative and supporting evidence for all of these questions to prove its compliance.

The Audit had two stages – a self-assessment which was completed by the end of February. Evidence was uploaded onto a web-based toolkit and RAG rated. This was followed by peer moderation which took place in March 2024. This provided the opportunity for our self-assessment to be challenged if the moderator felt we had not provided sufficient evidence. The moderator also interviewed a member of staff to question their understanding of safeguarding, data protection, whistleblowing and information sharing procedures.

A further update to this Committee was to be provided once official confirmation of our status was received.

Members raised the following points during discussion:

- The report was welcomed and the team were thanked for their work.
- It was acknowledged that safeguarding was everyone's responsibility.
- How was the Council able to keep track of transient families?

The Community Engagement Manager confirmed that a multi-agency approach was essential in assisting transient families.

It was proposed, seconded and **AGREED** that the Committee:

- 1. Noted the contents of the report and the updated Safeguarding Policy**
- 2. Recommended to Cabinet the approval of the updated Safeguarding Policy**

65. Change4Lincs update

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning.

Change4Lincs was an initiative which had been set up to tackle rough sleeping across Lincolnshire for South Kesteven, North Kesteven, West Lindsey and South Holland. The scheme was hosted by South Kesteven District Council and was

delivered in partnership with North Kesteven District Council, West Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council from pooling the Rough Sleeper Initiative 48 funding to create this scheme. The initiative was launched in October 2020 and funding was secured until March 2025.

Regular Change4Lincs Strategic Partnership Meetings had been initiated, the last meeting took place on 21st February 2024.

Rough sleepers could be referred by each local authority as well as the general public who may have concerns about a known rough sleeper. The outreach team then sought to visit the rough sleeper onsite to capture all relevant information discuss their options and pass on to the support workers.

The package of support provided by the team was a bespoke package for each client dependant on their need. Support included help with budgeting, benefit claims, signposting to mental health services and substance misuse services. Support had the clear aim of supporting clients back into settled accommodation. As funding was only currently in place to run this service until March 2025, discussions were being held with districts in relation to the future of this service and whether the partnership will continue in its current format. Central Government were yet to announce Rough Sleeper initiative funding for 2025/2026 so once this was announced, it will be at this point that the four districts will decide if a joint bid will be submitted.

Over the past years, the number of rough sleepers had increased by 70% locally, similar to the national trend, as confirmed by the Housing Options Manager. There were many complex issues that led to rough sleeping. The solution involved more than finding accommodation. There was a small budget available to assist rough sleepers in finding accommodation but Central Government had yet to announce funding in the longer term.

During discussion, Members raised the following points:

- Was the Council able to identify genuine rough sleepers and were dogs a hinderance to someone securing accommodation?
- The work was welcomed as essential.

The Housing Options Manager confirmed that the daytime identified those who begged on the street, some of whom were accompanied by dogs but the night-time helped to identify rough sleepers through consistent engagement with the outreach team and safeguarding officers.

It was AGREED that the Committee noted the latest update for the Change4Lincs partnership initiative.

66. Work Programme 2023-24

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

The Chairman informed Members that a report on CCTV would be scheduled after the relocation had been completed.

To be scheduled within the next meetings were the following reports:

- Car Parking
- Prevent Update
- Police and Crime Panel Update
- SK Community Fund

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

There were none.

68. Close of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 16:05.

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SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Rural & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

Report of Cllr Philip Knowles, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing

Corporate Plan 2020-23 Key Performance Indicators End-of-Plan and 2023/24 End-Year (Q4) Report

Report Author

Charles James, Policy Officer

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Purpose of Report

This report outlines South Kesteven District Council's performance against the Corporate Plan 2020-23 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from January-March 2024, and presents a summary of overall performance over the lifecycle of the Corporate Plan 2020-23.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Review and scrutinise the performance against the Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators in relation to the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2020-23 priorities and outcomes.**
2. **Use this report to inform and support the ongoing work programme of the Committee.**

Decision Information	
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting Communities
Which wards are impacted?	All

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 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Completed by: Paul Sutton Interim Head of Finance (Deputy 151)

Legal and Governance

1.2 Regular reporting on agreed actions and measures is to be welcomed from a governance point of view, as it provides a transparent mechanism for reporting on performance. The report highlights that a new KPI suite has been adopted and this will be reflected in future reports.

Completed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive

2. Background to the Report

2.1 The South Kesteven Corporate Plan 2020-2023 was approved by Council on the 1st of October 2020. It was agreed by Council that actions, key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets would be developed by the relevant overview and scrutiny committee, which would retain oversight of the performance management arrangements at a strategic level. These actions and indicators were then presented to the Rural & Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee and agreed on the 12 November 2020.

2.2 Regular mid-year (Q2) and end-of-year (Q4) KPI reports were presented to the responsible Committee for scrutiny over the previous four years.

2.3 The last prior was the Mid-Year report for 2023/24, which was presented to the Committee on 14 December 2023 and outlined the performance against the Corporate Plan 2020-23 for Quarter 2 2023/24.

2.4 2023/24 was the final year of reporting on the Corporate Plan 2020-23 KPI suite. The Corporate Plan 2024-27 was adopted by Council in January 2024.

2.5 This report is the last on the Corporate Plan 2020-23, providing an update on performance for the 2023/24 financial year, and a summary overview of the Council's performance over the period 2020/21 to 2023/24.

Corporate Plan 2020-23 End-of-Plan Action Review

2.6 The Corporate Plan 2020-23 listed eight actions across the priorities Healthy & Strong Communities, and High Performing Council, which fell within the remit of this Committee. These actions set the Council's agenda for the life of that Plan.

2.7 The first round of performance reporting in 2020/21 introduced a series of criteria for what successful delivery would look like. This criterion has been used as the yardstick to judge the Council's overall performance against the stated actions.

2.8 It should be recognised that the Council is not a static organisation. Over the course of the Plan's lifecycle there were significant changes to the senior political and officer leadership. There also were challenging external conditions, from the pandemic – the longer-term impacts and legacy of which were not clear at the start of the Plan, the onset of the Ukraine conflict in February 2022 and cost of living crisis. Each development will have influenced the Council's priorities and resource allocations.

2.9 Furthermore, the stated actions had varying levels of Council control. Some were wholly within the Council's control e.g. delivering on the Council's equality objectives. Others were substantially outside the Council's control e.g. an action to work with the police to prevent and solve crime in district via the CCTV service. Finally, one action was significantly outside the Council's control: improved performance on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data in the most deprived areas of the district. The last IMD release by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) was 2019, the next release is expected for late 2025.

2.10 For these reasons, the Council's stated success conditions with the context of degree of control, rather than the individual metrics which evolved over the reporting cycle, are preferred as the simplest and most direct form of accountability.

2.11 Of the eight stated actions:

- Six were wholly within the Council's control and successfully achieved.
- One was substantially outside the Council's control and was achieved.
- One was significantly outside the Council's control and was not achieved.

2.12 A summary is set in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary Review of Corporate Plan 2020-23 Rural & Communities Actions

Action	Success Criteria	SKDC Control	End of Plan Status
Embed the work of the SK Community Hub to support volunteering and the voluntary and community sectors (VCS).	Further strengthened relationship with the VCS & increased levels of volunteering	Within SKDC control	Achieved
Work with partners from all sectors to tackle health, unemployment and other inequalities in areas of highest need.	Improve performance in IMD data for areas in most deprived 20% nationally- Earlesfield and Harrowby.	Significantly outside control	Not Achieved
Continue to work in partnership with the police and the community in tackling crime by investing in the CCTV service.	SKDC is enabled to work proactively with police and other partners to prevent and solve crime in the district	Substantially outside control	Achieved
Embrace the national mental health challenge, ensuring the council places mental wellbeing at the heart of decision-making.	Meet the Mental Health Challenge	Within SKDC control	Achieved
Make best use of different funding sources to support the voluntary and cultural sector within the district.	SKDC contributing to the activities of the VCS.	Within SKDC control	Achieved
Protect our most vulnerable residents with robust safeguarding processes.	Provision of direct support, and through partners and agencies, to secure a reduction in the number of vulnerable adults and children that suffer abuse or neglect in the district	Within SKDC control	Achieved
Promote and make progress against the council's equality objectives.	SKDC exemplifying equality and diversity principles.	Within SKDC control	Achieved
Deliver the ambitions of the Customer Experience Strategy.	Delivery of the Customer Experience Strategy	Within SKDC control	Achieved

2.13 Appendix A presents a review of the Council's performance against the actions within the remit of this Committee for the Corporate Plan 2020-23.

End-of-Year 2023/24 Update

2.14 Appendix B presents the overall performance against the six actions being presented for Q4 2023/24, as well as specific performance against the sub measures contained within those. Specific commentary is provided for each action, which is summarised as follows:

- Four of the actions are rated Green. These are actions which are on, or above target as planned.
- Two of the actions are rated Amber. These are actions which are currently below the planned target.
- Zero actions are rated Red. These are actions, which are currently significantly below the planned target.
- Two actions of the original eight are no longer reported.

Future Reporting

- 2.15 To accompany the Corporate Plan 2024-27, a new suite of KPIs was developed to reflect the priorities, ambitions, and actions of the new Plan. All the new measures are wholly within the Council's control.
- 2.16 The new KPI suite with proposed targets for 2024-27 was presented to, considered, and approved by the Committee on 28 March 2024.
- 2.17 The new KPI suite is included for the Committee's reference, incorporating the alterations and recommendations stipulated by the Committee in the March session.
- 2.18 The Committee will receive the first report on the new KPIs (mid-year 2024/25) in Quarter 3 2024/25.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 This is the last presentation of the KPIs for the Corporate Plan 2020-23. A general overview of the Council's performance displays that SKDC achieved seven of the eight stated actions within the remit of this Committee for the Corporate Plan 2020-23.
- 3.2 This is also a presentation of the end year (Q4) data for 2023/24.
- 3.3 There is commentary for each of the KPIs with an appropriate update from each area.
- 3.4 The Corporate Plan 2024-27 was adopted in January 2024. A new KPI suite to reflect the new Corporate Plan was approved by Committee in March 2024. The first report using the new KPIs will be presented in Quarter 3 2024/25.

4. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 4.1 This is a regular report where Members are invited to scrutinise and comment on performance.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix A – Corporate Plan 2020-23: Rural & Communities OSC – End of Plan Action Review

5.2 Appendix B - KPI Report: Rural & Communities OSC (Q4) 2023/24

5.3 Appendix C - Approved KPI Suite 2024-27

Corporate Plan 2020-23: Rural & Communities OSC – End of Plan Action Review								
Corporate Plan 2020-2023 Priority	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Corporate Plan 2020-2023 Action	Corporate Plan 2020-2023 Success Criteria	KPI	Target	SKDC Control	End of Plan Status	Summary Commentary
Healthy & Strong Communities	Rural & Communities	Embed the work of the SK Community Hub to support volunteering and the voluntary and community sectors (VCS).	Further strengthened relationship with the VCS & increased levels of volunteering	Number of community groups supported that provide volunteering opportunities	98 annually	Within SKDC control	Achieved	This performance indicator is reflective of the work to support groups from across the broad spectrum of the voluntary and community sector by the Community Engagement Team. Officers provide support to groups in the development and implementation of appropriate governance structures to ensure they are fit for purpose and funding ready. Officers also support groups seeking funding – both through internal funding streams and by identifying external funding sources. Groups seeking external funding will also be supported in preparing applications to increase chances of success with regional and national funding bodies.
Healthy & Strong Communities	Rural & Communities	Work with partners from all sectors to tackle health, unemployment and other inequalities in areas of highest need.	Improve performance in IMD data for areas in most deprived 20% nationally- Earlesfield and Harrowby.	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Data	IMD Ranking improvements	Significantly outside control	Not Achieved	The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the Government's standard measure of deprivation and inequality in England. The exercise was last undertaken in 2019. South Kesteven ranks amongst the 40% least deprived districts in England and nineteen ranks off a placing in the top 20% least deprived districts in England. Despite the generally low levels of deprivation in the district, there are pockets of severe deprivation. The next IMD release is expected at the end of 2025.
Healthy & Strong Communities	Rural & Communities	Continue to work in partnership with the police and the community in tackling crime by investing in the CCTV service.	SKDC is enabled to work proactively with police and other partners to prevent and solve crime in the district	Number of arrests as a percentage of overall incidents where CCTV has been proactively used.	0.27%	Within SKDC control	Achieved	The Council operates over seventy CCTV cameras across the district. In 2023, £284,000 was allocated from the UKSPF to upgrade forty cameras and to provide the opportunity for mobile coverage across more areas in the future. A project is underway to relocate the Council operated CCTV control centre.
3	Rural & Communities	Embrace the national mental health challenge, ensuring the council places mental wellbeing at the heart of decision-making.	Meet the Mental Health Challenge	Continue the development of the 5 workstreams, via the Mental Health Working Party	Continue to work	Within SKDC control	Achieved	The Council committed to the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge in 2021. An officer and Member working group was established focusing on five strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support positive mental wellbeing in our community, including neighbourhoods and workplaces. Support positive mental wellbeing within our own workforce and elected Members. Consider mental wellbeing in decision making and policy. Work with local partners including Lincolnshire County Council and the voluntary and community sector. Engage with Lincolnshire County Council strategy and activity and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board for Lincolnshire. Supporting mental health has been incorporated into the Council's internal (wellbeing) and external business as usual activities.
				Work with local partners to access external funding to support community schemes	Continue to work			
				Work with the community to develop a mental health forum in the Deepings	Establish forum			
				Deliver Mental Health First Aid Training	20 staff 5 councillors			
				Amount of funding brought into the district levered with support from SKDC funding streams	£37,000 annually (subject to available programme and budgets)	Within SKDC control	Achieved	The SK Community Fund was established in 2015 to offer financial assistance to voluntary and community groups for projects and events that benefit the residents of South Kesteven. Funding awarded through the SK Community Fund is generally used as match funding in support of applications to other funding providers. Over the course of 2020-23, £219,000 was granted to local projects through the Community Fund. In 2023 the Council established the £1 million South Kesteven Prosperity Fund (SKPF) from UKSPF monies. The fund has supported over 70 projects undertaken by towns, parishes, and community groups across the District.

Appendix A – Corporate Plan 2020-23: Rural & Communities OSC – End of Plan Action Review

Corporate Plan 2020-2023 Priority	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Corporate Plan 2020-2023 Action	Corporate Plan 2020-2023 Success Criteria	KPI	Target	SKDC Control	End of Plan Status	Summary Commentary
Healthy & Strong Communities	Rural & Communities	Protect our most vulnerable residents with robust safeguarding processes.	Provision of direct support, and through partners and agencies, to secure a reduction in the number of vulnerable adults and children that suffer abuse or neglect in the district	Number of relevant staff trained in applying effective safeguarding processes	80%	Within SKDC control	Achieved	The Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014 place responsibilities on the Council to safeguard vulnerable people from harm. Safeguarding policy and practices are tested on a three-year cycle by means of self-assessment/peer moderated audits coordinated by Lincolnshire's Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board. The Safeguarding Adults Audit took place in 2022. The Council achieved green status across all relevant categories.
				Meet the requirements placed upon the local authority under the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014	Achieve outstanding standard under the S11 Audit for the safeguarding of children and young people			The Section 11 Safeguarding Children Audit took place in 2023/24. The Council achieved green status across all relevant categories. The final report from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will be received later in 2024 and will confirm the agreed status.
Healthy & Strong Communities	Rural & Communities	Promote and make progress against the council's equality objectives.	SKDC exemplifying equality and diversity principles.	Delivery of the action plan	Completion of Action Plan	Within SKDC control	Achieved	The Council has a responsibility to meet the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which is set by law as part of the Equality Act 2010. The PSED requires the Council to publish information to show compliance with the Equality Duty and set and publish equality objectives at least every four years. The Council has produced and presented Annual Position Statements to this Committee (most recently in October 2023). The Council set three equality objectives to cover the period 2020-23. By the end of 2023 these had been achieved. New objectives have been set to accompany the Corporate Plan 2024-27.
High Performing Council	Rural & Communities	Deliver the ambitions of the Customer Experience Strategy.	Delivery of the Customer Experience Strategy	Delivery of strategy	Completion of Action Plan			The Customer Experience Strategy 2020-24 was adopted in January 2020. Since then, the accompanying high level action plan has been completed. A review of the current strategy is currently underway in order to produce a new Customer Experience Strategy and Customer Standards.

Healthy & Strong Communities

Priority Number	Action	Priority Status	Action Status
35	1 Invest in sustainable, high quality leisure facilities across the district.	Reported Q2 2023-24	On Target
	2 Embed the work of the SK Community Hub to support volunteering and the Voluntary & Community Sector.	Reported Q2 2023-24	On Target
	3 Work with partners from all sectors to tackle health, employment, and other inequalities in areas of highest need.	No Longer Reported	Not Reported
	4 Continue to work in partnership with the police and the community in tackling crime, investing in the CCTV service	Reported Q2 2023-24	Below Target
	5 Celebrate and enhance the rich history of the District.	Replaced with 13	Not Reported
	6 Adopt a new Cultural Strategy for the District, including the local Arts, Events and Festivals programme.	Replaced with 13	Not Reported
	7 Develop and adopt a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.	Replaced with 14	Not Reported
	8 Meet the Mental Health Challenge	Reported Q2 2023-24	On Target
	9 Make best use of different funding sources to support the voluntary and cultural sector within the District.	Reported Q2 2023-24	On Target
	10 Protect our most vulnerable residents with robust safeguarding processes.	Reported Q2 2023-24	Below Target
	11 Improve and invest in the local arts & cultural venues across the District.	Reported Q2 2023-24	On Target
	12 Promote and make progress against the Council's Equality Objectives	Reported Q4 2022-23	On Target
	13 Review Arts services within the district with ambition to provide improved, efficient and accessible arts within the district.	Reported Q2 2023-24	On Target
	14 Develop and adopt a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.	Reported Q2 2023-24	On Target

Priority ▲	Measured Quarterly	Responsible Director ▲ Deputy Chief Executive
<h1>Healthy And Strong Communities 2</h1>	On Target Current Status	Responsible Cabinet Member ▲ People & Safer Communities

Action

Embed the work of the SK Community Hub to support volunteering and the Voluntary & Community Sector.

Measure ▲	Target	Achieved
1. Number of community groups supported that provide volunteering opportunities.	98 Annually	131 (cumulative for yr)

36

Measure History ▲	Q1 2023-24	Q2 2023-24	Q3 2023-24	Q4 2023-24
1. Number of community groups supported that provide volunteering opportunities.	33	35	Not Reported	63

Commentary

▲

This performance indicator is reflective of the work to support groups from across the broad spectrum of the voluntary and community sector by the Community Engagement Team. Officers provide support to groups in the development and implementation of appropriate governance structures to ensure they are fit for purpose and funding ready. Officers also support groups seeking funding – both through internal funding streams and by identifying external funding sources. Groups seeking external funding will also be supported in preparing applications to increase chances of success with regional and national funding bodies. To further assist voluntary and community groups across the District the Community Engagement Team delivers a series of funding workshops and a Funding Fair to highlight both internal and external sources of funding available to the sector. 237 people signed up to attend these events during 2023/24.

Priority



Healthy And Strong Communities 4

Measured

Quarterly

Responsible Director

Deputy Chief Executive

Below Target

Current Status

Responsible Cabinet Member

People & Safer Communities

Action

Continue to work in partnership with the police and the community in tackling crime, investing in the CCTV service

Measure



1. Number of arrests as a percentage of overall incidents where CCTV has been proactively used.

Target

Achieved

3%

1.95%

Measure



1. Number of arrests as a percentage of overall incidents where CCTV has been proactively used.

Q1 2023-24

Q2 2023-24

Q3 2023-24

Q4 2023-24

3.4%

3.18%

Not Reported

1.95%

Commentary

CCTV Incident Breakdown for period covering 01/01/2024 To 31/03/2024: Total CCTV Incidents: 3635, Operator Generated: 1,930, Pub watch: 29, Shop watch: 164, Police Incidents: 769, Police via radio 696, Police via telephone 49, Total arrests where assistance given from CCTV – 71.

Priority

Measured

Annually

Responsible Director

Growth & Culture

Healthy And Strong Communities 8

On Target

Current Status

Responsible Cabinet Member

People & Safer Communities

Action

Meet the Mental Health Challenge

Measure

1. Continue the development of the 5 workstreams, via the Mental Health Working Party
2. Work with local partners to access external funding to support community schemes
3. Work with the community to develop a mental health forum in the Deepings
4. Deliver Mental Health First Aid training

Target

Y

Achieved

Completed

Y

Completed

Forum Established

Completed

20 Staff & 5 Councillors trained

Completed

Measure History

1. Continue the development of the 5 workstreams, via the Mental Health Working Party
2. Work with local partners to access external funding to support community schemes
3. Work with the community to develop a mental health forum in the Deepings
4. Deliver Mental Health First Aid training

Q1 2023-24

Y

Q2 2023-24

Y

Q3 2023-24

Not Reported

Q4 2023-24

Completed

Y

Y

Not Reported

Completed

Forum established.

Forum Established

Not Reported

Completed

21 staff and 4 Councillors

21 staff, 4 Councillors

Not Reported

Completed

Commentary

The Mental Health working party completed it's work and deployed planned activity against all of the 5 workstreams. Latest Mental Health First Aider training has taken place with a new cohort, as well as a refresher for existing MHFAs.

Priority	Measured Quarterly	Responsible Director Deputy Chief Executive
<h1>Healthy And Strong Communities 9</h1>	On Target Current Status	Responsible Cabinet Member People & Safer Communities

Action

Make best use of different funding sources to support the voluntary and cultural sector within the District.

Measure	Target	Achieved
1. £37,000.00 Subject to available programme and budgets	£37,000.00 Subject to available programme and budgets	£90,367 (cumulat

39

Measure History	Q1 2023-24	Q2 2023-24	Q3 2023-24	Q4 2023-24
1. £37,000.00 Subject to available programme and budgets	£5,816	£10,723	Not Reported	£79,644

Commentary

This indicator represents the funding levered from other sources by the District's voluntary and community groups through supporting funding from the SK Community Fund and through direct support to groups wishing to secure funding from external sources (e.g. National Lottery) from the Community Grants and Funding Officer.

Funding awarded through the SK Community Fund is generally used as match funding in support of applications to other funding providers. Some small, grass-roots groups require very little funding in order to make a big difference within their community.

The impact of our funding is therefore stand alone in its support of local groups. By contrast, large-scale projects that require support from multiple funders often hang on an offer made on condition that all funding is secured before any award is released to the applicant. These are the projects that impact greatly on the outcome in monetary terms on this indicator. The amount of funding levered into the district will, therefore, ebb and flow dependent on the scale of projects being undertaken in the area at any time.

The total funding levered into the district for 2023/24 has been boosted by work of the Community Grants and Funding Officer's support of two groups that have secured £61k and £15k to fund projects for a village hall and a local sports group respectively.

Priority	Measured Biannually	Responsible Director Housing & Property
<h1>Healthy And Strong Communities 10</h1>	Below Target Current Status	Responsible Cabinet Member People & Safer Communities

Action

Protect our most vulnerable residents with robust safeguarding processes.

Measure	Target	Achieved
1. Number of relevant staff trained in applying effective safeguarding processes	90%	86%
2. Meet the requirements placed upon the local authority under the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014	Achieve outstanding standard under the S11 Audit for the safeguarding of adults	Achieved Sep 21

Measure History	Q2 2022-23	Q4 2022-23	Q2 2023-24	Q4 2023-24
1. Number of relevant staff trained in applying effective safeguarding processes	96%	37.05%	45%	86%
2. Meet the requirements placed upon the local authority under the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014	Achieved Sep 21	Achieved Sep 21	Not Reported	Complete

Commentary

Although the target has not been achieved during 2023/24 a significant amount of work has been undertaken in this period to bring this indicator back to an acceptable standard. The percentage is impacted by long-term sickness amongst the 'relevant' officer cohort but continues to be addressed on a daily basis to ensure officers have an effective working knowledge of safeguarding requirements - what to look out for and what to do when faced with a safeguarding concern. During 2023/24 349 e learning modules have been completed and face-to-face training sessions have been held for front line officers without access to computers. The Section 11 Safeguarding Children Audit took place in 2023/24. The 3-yearly audit which comprises 11 sections/39 questions, is in two parts - a self assessment in which the Authority must provide a narrative and evidence to support its compliance across all 39 questions and a peer moderation where the Council's submission is tested and, if required, challenged.. Each question is RAG rated. Officers submitted SKDC's audit in February 2024 and scored it green across all questions based on the evidence provided. Moderation took place in March 2024. The moderator agreed with the Council's submission. The final report from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will be received later in 2024 and will confirm the agreed status.

Priority ▲	Measured Annually	Responsible Director ▲ Growth & Culture
<h1>Healthy And Strong Communities 12</h1>	On Target Current Status	Responsible Cabinet Member ▲ People & Safer Communities

Action

Promote and make progress against the Council's Equality Objectives

Measure ▲	Target	Achieved
1. Delivery of the action plan.	75% of the action plan completed.	100
2. Creation and publication of an Annual Position Statement to evidence compliance with Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	Embed published outcome of Census 2021 into Statement to be published Sept 2022	Complete

Measure History ▲	Q4 2021-22	Q4 2022-23	Q4 2023-24
1. Delivery of the action plan.	50%	85% Completion	100
2. Creation and publication of an Annual Position Statement to evidence compliance with Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	Complete	Complete	Complete

Commentary

The action plan covered the period 2020-2024 in support of the Council's Equality Objectives which, under the Public Sector Equality Duty we are required to publish. These objectives must be prepared and published at least every 4 years and therefore new objectives have been identified to cover the period 2024-2027. These have been published in the Council's Corporate Plan which covers the same period. An action plan will be developed to deliver against the objectives.

Under the specific duties of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council is required to publish equality information at least once a year to show how it has complied with the aims of the Equality Duty. SKDC meets this duty by the production of an annual position statement which is presented in draft form to Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with authority to publish on the Council's website provided by the Cabinet Member for Communities.

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Code	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Action	Action Summary	Service Area	Owner/s	KPI Measure/s	Targets	Notes
COM1	Rural & Communities	Deliver the Local Health and Wellbeing Action Plan	Monitor progress of delivering document contents	Leisure, Culture & Place	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture & Place)	% of total actions in action plan on target/complete	100% complete by end of the Plan (actions delivered in accordance with the timelines set out in the action plan.)	N/A
COM7	Rural & Communities	Deliver the Community Engagement and Development Strategy and accompanying action plan.	Delivery of document and performance of community engagement team	Community Engagement	Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer Service and Community)	% of total actions on target/complete	100% complete by end of the Plan (actions delivered in accordance with the timelines set out in the action plan.)	N/A
						Number of Community Engagement events held across the district for the benefit of residents and the voluntary and community sector	15	
						£ levered by the SK Community Fund	£37,000.00 Subject to available programme and budgets	
COM8	Rural & Communities	Continue to deliver an accredited, effective and legislatively compliant CCTV service in partnership with Lincolnshire Police.	Performance of CCTV service.	Public Protection	Head of Service (Public Protection)	% Public Realm CCTV cameras working at all times (Monthly)	90% (presented as an average for quarterly reports).	N/A
						Achievement of successful annual review by Surveillance Camera Commissioner	Success - issuing of a certificate	N/A
COM9	Rural & Communities	Deliver the Safer Streets programme and seek opportunities to develop a legacy applied districtwide once the funding period ends	Delivery of Safer Streets programme.	Public Protection	Head of Service (Public Protection)	% of total actions on target/complete	100% complete by end of the Plan (actions delivered in accordance with the timelines set out in the action plan.)	N/A
						% of funding spent	100% by March 2025	N/A
HOUS2	Rural & Communities	Ensure services to support residents to remain living in their community with as much independence as possible, ideally within their own home, with the right support.	To monitor the effectiveness of supported living & adaptions	Public Protection – Private Sector Housing	Head of Service (Public Protection)	Number of Adoptions Completed	100 completed adaptions per year	N/A
COM11	Rural & Communities	Continue to support our Armed Forces Community and, as a Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (DERS) Gold Award holder, advocate for the Armed Forces Community Covenant.	Armed Forces Community Covenant	Community Engagement	Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer Service and Community)	% of total actions on target/complete (Armed Forces Covenant Action of Community Engagement and Development Strategy)	100% complete by end of the Plan (actions delivered in accordance with the timelines set out in the action plan.)	N/A
						Number of engagement events delivered annually that raise awareness of the Armed Forces community and bring together business, community and the defence sector to explore opportunities for collaboration	7	
						Number of events delivered within the district that mark national commemorations relating to the Armed Forces community	1	

Appendix C - Approved KPI Suite 2024-27 – Rural & Communities OSC

Code	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Action	Action Summary	Service Area	Owner/s	KPI Measure/s	Targets	Notes
COUN1	Rural & Communities	Continue to work in partnership with relevant partners to deliver and support targeted initiatives across the district to help communities.	Participation in and effectiveness of partnership arrangements	Public Protection	Head of Service (Public Protection)	Attendance at partnership meetings	Ensure attendance at partnership meetings- (75%)	(A list of Partnership meetings will be logged and attendance will be monitored).
COUN2	Rural & Communities	Ensure the administration of licenses and approvals relating to both national legislation and discretionary, are effective, efficient, timely and consistent.	Performance of licensing team	Public Protection – Licensing	Head of Service (Public Protection)	% of Regulatory Services service requests with an initial response within a defined timescale (5 working days)	95%	N/A
COUN5	Rural & Communities	Deliver the refreshed Customer Experience Strategy and accompanying action plan.	Customer Services performance	Customer Services	Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer Service and Community)	Approval of refreshed Customer Experience Strategy	Successful Adoption by end of 2024.	N/A
						% of total actions on target/complete	100% complete by end of the Plan (actions delivered in accordance with the timelines set out in the action plan.)	
						Volume of calls offered (% handled)	85%	
HOUS13	Rural & Communities	Protect our most vulnerable residents with robust safeguarding processes.	Safeguarding Processes	Housing Services	Housing Options Manager	Number of 3rd party support referrals	For information only	N/A
						Number of safeguarding referrals (by demographic)	For information only	N/A
						% of referrals actioned within defined timescale	TBC	N/A
						Number of FOIs (% dealt with within defined timescales)	90%	N/A
						Number SARs (% dealt with within defined timescales)	85%	N/A



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

Report of Cabinet Member for
Corporate Governance and Licensing

Update on the UKSPF Rural England Prosperity Fund

Report Author

Nick Hibberd, Head of Economic Development and Inward Investment

nick.hibberd@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

The report provides an update on the UKSPF Rural England Prosperity Fund. It outlines the investment into South Kesteven's communities and highlights the approach for the rest of 2024/25 until the programmes closure on 31st March 2025.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. Notes the progress made with the UK Shared Prosperity – Rural England Prosperity Fund and the supports opportunities identified to expedite the distribution of the funding.

Decision Information	
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting communities Sustainable South Kesteven Enabling economic opportunities Effective council
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 allocation of funding is in accordance with the grant criteria and the delegations approved by Council.

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

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no significant legal and governance implications arising from this report. Decision-making associated with the allocation of the fund will be undertaken inline with the scheme of delegation set out in the Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Council's overarching aspiration as set out in the Corporate Plan 2024-2027 is to ensure that the District is "A thriving District to live in, work and visit". A key priority is to enable and support a dynamic, resilient and growing local economy, which benefits all our communities. Continuing to distribute government grants, including the Rural Prosperity Fund will support the Council in meeting these aspirations.

2.2 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and has provided £2.6 billion of funding for local investment between April 2022 and March 2025. It aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK by investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. The UKSPF replaces the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation.

2.3 The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) is a top-up to the UKSPF and succeeds EU funding from LEADER and the Growth Programme which were part of the Rural Development Programme for England. The REPF supports capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure. The programme seeks to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities. It is complementary to funding used to support rural areas under the UKSPF, with the funding period running from April 2023 to March 2025. Lead local authorities, such as South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) have flexibility over how they deliver the UKSPF and REPF.

2.4 In respect to the REPF South Kesteven has been awarded a total of £540,460 in funding for projects which will be have to be delivered by the end of the programme, March 31st 2025.

- Year 2: £135,115 was awarded in the financial year 2023 / 2024
- Year 3: £405,345 was awarded in the financial year 2024/ 2025

2.5 The fund supports projects which take place across rural areas throughout South Kesteven. For Rural Fund purposes, rural areas are:

- towns, villages and hamlets with populations below 10,000 and the wider countryside
- market or 'hub towns' with populations of up to 30,000 that serve their surrounding rural areas as centres of employment and in providing services.

2.5 The Year 2 allocation within the REPF (1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024) is as follows:

- Supporting Rural Business
 - Intervention 1.1 - £60,115 (capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro & small enterprises in rural area.)
 - Intervention 1.3 - £25,000 (capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy)

- Supporting Rural Communities

- Intervention 2.4 - £50,000 (capital grant funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offers)

2.6 The Year 3 allocation within the REPF (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025) is as follows:

- Supporting Rural Business

- Intervention 1.1 - £180,345 (capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro & small enterprises in rural area.)
- Intervention 1.3 - £75,000 (capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy)

- Supporting Rural Communities

- Intervention 2.1 - £100,000 (capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.)
- Intervention 2.4 - £50,000 (capital grant funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer)

2.7 The key objectives for business projects (Intervention 1.1) are to increase investment in and targeted support for small and medium sized businesses for:

- innovation activities
- productivity enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques.
- to create jobs and boost community cohesion. This includes visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
- enhance rural visitor economy and rural leisure opportunities.

2.8 The key objectives for community projects are:

- Strengthen our social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities. This includes:
- community infrastructure and local green space

- community-led projects
- heritage assets

2.9 To date the UKSPF Board has recommended three applications for approval, totalling £110,301.66. A further have been deferred to return to the July 2024 board for reconsideration, totalling £140,000.

The projects are aligned to the interventions as follows:

- Supporting Rural Business

Intervention	Funding Available	Funding Committed	Funding Remaining
Intervention 1.1(capital grant funding for small scale investment	£240,460	£65,301.66	£175,158.34
Intervention 1.3 - capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy	£100,000	£0	£100,000

- Supporting Rural Communities

Intervention	Funding Available	Funding Committed	Funding Remaining
Intervention 2.1 - capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.	£100,000	£55,000	£45,000
Intervention 2.4 - capital grant funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.	£100,000	£0	£100,000

- Supported projects.

Rural projects	Summary	Committed fund
Claypole Village Store	They will install a new roof, solar panel with battery storage. wiring, suspended ceiling LED lights, new shelving. Energy efficient glass door fridge-freezer. New flooring, Epos system till. Shop front with electric sliding door etc. It's basically, it's in need of complete internal refitting required.	£55,000
Fairman Knight and Sons UK Limited	This project aims to transform Lincolnshire agriculture by introducing sustainable insect production at the industrial farm-scale, tackling the environmental and economic issues stemming from reliance on imported animal feed. With a focus on cultivating Black Soldier Flies, the initiative proposes a local, sustainable protein source and eco-friendly fertiliser, substantially reducing the carbon footprint and repurposing food waste into valuable resources at the farm level	£45,000

Vale Honey Ltd	<p>To allow for the expansion of Vale Honey new premises (Unit 1 Top Farm Foston) have been acquired.</p> <p>The aim of the project and purpose of the investment is to: refurbish the property to be compliant with regulation 852/2004 and Install commercial equipment capable of processing 15,000Kg of honey.</p>	£20,301.66
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3. Key Considerations

3.1 The REPF funding will need to be spent by 31 March 2024. We therefore have nine months to commit and spend the remaining funding. Any non-spent money will likely need to be returned to DLUHC. It is therefore imperative that we attract and process applications at the earliest opportunity. Work is underway to drive up the number of applications. Officers therefore plan to undertake a range of activities to address the issue.

- We work closely with our contacts such to identify potential projects
- We accelerate our marketing efforts and promote the programme as effectively through we can through a range of channels.
- We streamline programme bureaucracy which at present is commanding too much officer time compared to supporting application development.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1 An alternative option would be to commission an external provider to develop the bids on behalf of the Council with no local knowledge or partnership links. This option was discounted because Government have placed importance on leveraging options from the locality when selecting communities and place and supporting local business interventions to fund.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

5.1 The REPF programme has nine months left to run. If the fund is not spent then it will likely have to be returned to DLUHC. The recommendations are therefore focused on making every effort to distribute the funding to high quality projects which achieve valuable and value for money outputs in SKDC's rural communities.

7. **Background Papers**

7.1 The Rural England Prosperity Programme Prospectus.
[Rural England Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus)

South Kesteven Rural Fund

[South Kesteven Rural Fund | South Kesteven District Council](https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/our-council/committees-and-groups/south-kesteven-rural-fund)



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

Report of Councillor Rhea Rayside,
Cabinet Member for People &
Communities

SK Community Fund – Criteria Review 2024

Report Author

Carol Drury, Community Engagement Manager

 carol.drury@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To consider proposed changes to determine access to the SK Community Fund: Main Grants Scheme and provide a recommendation to the Cabinet Member on a revised eligibility criteria.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Comments on the changes proposed to the criteria of the SK Community Fund.**
2. **Recommends the Cabinet Member for People and Communities approves the changes proposed to the criteria of the SK Community Fund.**

Decision Information	
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	N
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting Communities
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 financial implications are set out within the report and are related to criteria setting for an established budget.

Completed by: Paul Sutton Interim Head of Finance (Deputy 151)

Legal and Governance

1.2 There are no significant legal or governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

2.1 The Council has a strong record in supporting the voluntary and community sector by helping to enable communities to be more self-sufficient. This continues to be a key priority for the Council and is evidenced through its Corporate Plan aim of Connecting Communities. Working with and providing support for the voluntary and community sector is central to achieving this.

2.2 In support of such groups, the Council introduced the SK Community Fund in 2015 to offer grants to constituted community groups, charities and social enterprise organisations. This scheme has operated under three specific strands since that time:

- **Small Grants Fund:** Awards of up to £2,000 for eligible groups and projects, where 100% of required funding can be applied for. Fees for sessional workers (freelance workers, not on the usual staff of the applying group/agency) could be considered for small community event applications
- **Main Grants Scheme** covering:
 - **Community Projects:** Capital funding only. Up to 80% of required funding to a maximum of £5,000 for eligible groups and projects. 20% match funding required from the applicant
 - **Community Events:** Generally capital funding, but fees for sessional workers (freelance workers, not on the usual staff of the applying group/agency) could be considered for community events. Up to 80% of required funding to a maximum of £5,000 for eligible groups and projects. 20% match funding required from the applicant.

2.3 Since its introduction, grants in excess of £768,000 have been awarded for projects or events within South Kesteven. A report was presented to Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 March 2023 recommending changes to the scheme's eligibility criteria which included the removal the 'Community Buildings' category to avoid the potential for double funding with the introduction of UKSPF funding. Prior to this change, 30% of applications to the SK Community Fund had related to the development or refurbishment of community venues. The removal of this category was always intended to be temporary to cover the duration of alternative funding available through UKSPF. As this fund is now in its final year, it is considered timely that the Community Buildings category is re-introduced to the SK Community Fund's eligibility criteria.

2.4 Funding through the SK Community Fund is generally used to support or act as match funding for larger funding bids made by the voluntary and community sector to external funders. The ability to use the SK Community Fund for this purpose therefore helps lever in additional funding to benefit the communities. For example: if a project costs £20,000, the maximum award from the SK Community Fund is £5,000. In order to deliver the project, further applications to other, external, funders would need to be made by the community group carrying out the project. Using this example, an additional £15,000 of external funding would be brought into the District which therefore impacts positively on the economy of South Kesteven.

2.5 Other proposed changes to the SK Community Fund include:

- the introduction of an additional offer within the Community Amenities category to cover monuments and war memorials
- a tightening up on eligibility for projects related to highways to remove such items as speed signage/cameras and village signs from the criteria at the request of the Awarding Panel

- a tightening up on eligibility of applications from Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings to state that projects that are parish-specific should be supported through the Precept process

3. Key Considerations

3.1 Members of Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are therefore asked to consider the proposed changes to the criteria of the SK Community Fund as outlined above. For clarity, these proposed changes are:

- The re-introduction of the Community Buildings category
- The introduction of an eligibility to allow applications relating to monuments and war memorials within the Community Amenities category
- The restriction of applications relating to such items as speed signs/cameras and village signs
- A tightening up on applications from Parish and Town Councils which should be funded via the Precept process

3.2 A copy of the draft, amended criteria can be found at **Appendix A**.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1 The Fund's criteria could remain unchanged. The proposed amendments, however, allow for increased opportunities and greater clarity/transparency.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

5.1 The recommendations will improve opportunities offered by the SK Community Fund for the voluntary and community sector of South Kesteven

6. Background Papers

6.1 The following background papers are available to support this report:
[Report to Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee 16.3.23](#)

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix A – Draft Criteria, Application Process and Conditions document.



SK Community Fund

Criteria, Application Process and Conditions of Funding

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact the Community Engagement Team on Tel: **01476 406080** (extn 6161) or e mail: communityfund@southkesteven.gov.uk

Please read these guidance notes carefully and refer to them when completing the application form.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The South Kesteven Community Fund has been established to support and develop community initiatives within South Kesteven District. South Kesteven District Council's Community Engagement Team administers this fund. The Team will also be able to assist groups with all aspects involved in choosing the correct fund and completing the application forms.
- 1.2 Grants are available for constituted groups and organisations involved in community projects and events that benefit the residents and communities in the district. Groups and organisations must demonstrate how their project or event will deliver wide benefit, contributing to the sustainability, vitality and well-being of South Kesteven's communities and the Fund's priorities.

2. How much money is available and what can be funded?

- 2.1 The fund total of £85,000 is available annually and it is intended that the full amount will be awarded. Funding is allocated for projects that meet with the Fund's priorities to tackle issues of loneliness, social and rural isolation and mental health and wellbeing.
- 2.2 80% of total eligible costs up to a maximum award of £5000 can be applied for towards the cost of community projects or events. The minimum contribution (match funding) required from applicants is 20%. This can be made up of own cash contribution, donations, grants and sponsorship.
- 2.3 Any volunteer in-kind time should be calculated at the average hourly pay rate of £13.70.
- 2.4 The kinds of projects and events that can be supported by the Community Fund are shown in the table below.
- 2.5 Awards towards the maximum figure available will require significant levels of match funding and demonstrable community need and support.

Project Category	Types of Projects Supported
Supporting Communities	Supporting the work of organisations that support communities. Projects that support communities to tackle issues of loneliness, social or rural isolation, mental health and wellbeing.
Community Buildings	Repairs, maintenance and alterations to village halls and other public buildings, contributions to new build community buildings and the purchase of equipment to be used in community buildings
Community Amenities	Including monuments and war memorials and outdoor facilities such as 'Multi-Use Games Areas', community shelters, recreation areas, community orchards etc.
Community Events	Community celebrations, open to all sports events, street festivals, arts and cultural events. Applications for recurring events <u>must</u> have a significantly new or different aspect and must also be able to evidence how they can become self-sustaining.

3. What will not be funded?

3.1 The SK Community Fund is not open to applications from clubs, groups or organisations that require people to pay a membership fee in order to participate, closed groups e.g. residents' associations, patient participation groups etc (set up costs for new groups and free, open-access events may be eligible). Other events/projects that will not be supported include:

- Projects or events that are for private gain.
- Projects or events that are deemed to be within the 'business as usual' of groups and organisations or, in the case of Parish and Town Councils or Parish Meetings, projects or events that are parish-specific and should be supported through the Precept process.
- Events primarily intended to pass on surplus income to other organisations, e.g. charity concerts.
- Revenue costs - salaries, project officer or other employee costs, rents, statutory training etc. (Sessional worker fees requested as part of an Events application may be considered. Sessional worker fees do not include fees for existing or regular employees or owners of the commissioning agency).
- Car Parks, footpaths and roadways or any other project related to highways (including village signs or speed signage/cameras etc)
- Projects or events that already receive SKDC District Council funding (e.g. Food Support Fund, Section 106, UK Shared Prosperity Funding etc).
- Event costs incurred for catering/refreshments
- General appeals or sponsorship
- Activities of a mainly political or religious nature, monuments, improvements to the fabric of church buildings, and its fixtures and fittings (**non-religious community activities**, held within a place of worship, may be eligible).
- Contingency funds, income deficits, bridging loans or security against a loan.

4. Criteria for funding

4.1 We welcome applications from constituted community and voluntary groups, charities and social enterprises to deliver projects or events that benefit communities in South Kesteven District. **We do not accept applications from individuals.**

4.2 Applications will be assessed on their ability to:

- Deliver wide community benefit, contributing to the sustainability, vitality and well-being of SKDC's communities, such as encouraging volunteering and participation
- Contribute to locally identified community needs and priorities (such as loneliness, social or rural isolation, mental health and wellbeing etc.)
- Contribute to the priorities of the SK Community Fund
- Demonstrate value for money (through obtaining written quotes and estimates)
- Measure the success of a project or event
- Demonstrate equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination.

4.3 To apply to the SK Community Fund your group or organisation must have:

- A written governing document or constitution
- A bank or building society account in the name of your group or organisation with at least two signatories who are unrelated and do not live at the same address
- Relevant policies and procedures
- The written endorsement of the District Councillor in whose Ward the project/event will take place. If the project/event has a district-wide remit, applicants should seek endorsement from the serving Chairman of SKDC.
- Where possible, photographic evidence should be supplied with your application.

4.4 You are required to provide all necessary documentation to support your application including copies of two written quotes for each item of expenditure of £50 - £5,000 (incl VAT). The written quotes and estimates must display the relevant company names and addresses and be less than six months old. Your chosen quotation should be highlighted and should **exactly match the amount on your application form.** We will not accept invoices as a substitute for any required quotation.

4.5 Applications for events at which performers or artists are commissioned must include evidence of performers/artists being at least provisionally booked along with a cost of their participation in the event. This can be in the form of an email confirmation from the performer/artist. No application will be considered without this evidence.

4.6 Grants will not be awarded retrospectively (i.e. for work or equipment already purchased or events which have already taken place).

4.7 We will not make more than one award in a financial year to the same organisation or group.

4.8 Previously funded projects must have been completed, all required completion documents received and closed off by SKDC prior to the submission of any subsequent application. If a project is not completed within the financial year the award was made (1st April - 31st March), no application for further funding can be made until the financial year after the project was completed and closed off.

4.9 It is unlikely that the SK Community Fund will be able to provide grants for all potentially eligible applications. Therefore, we reserve the right to prioritise applications to achieve best value for money. We also reserve the right to decline applications that do not meet the stated criteria.

4.10 Financial information provided along with any application is open to question by the Awarding Panel. The Panel reserves the right to question an applicant's non-commitment of funds if a bank statement shows sufficient funds are available to support a project without a grant being given. The Panel will also question a stated commitment of funds when there is insufficient evidence to show such funds are available to the applicant.

5. How your application is dealt with

- 5.1 On receipt of your application we will make an initial assessment to check that your group or organisation and project or event are eligible and that all required supporting documentation has been provided. The Community Engagement Team may contact you to obtain missing information, documentation or to seek clarification regarding your application. The responsibility is on the applying organisation to ensure the application is complete and accurate.
- 5.2 The Community Engagement Team will aim to acknowledge receipt of your application within five working days of receiving it. This will be by email where you have provided an email address but otherwise will be by letter.
- 5.3 Eligible applications that are accompanied by the required supporting documentation will be put before the Awarding Panel for consideration. The Panel is a forum of elected members capable of decision making for community bids. Projects and events must provide wide community benefit and contribute to the sustainability, vitality and well-being of communities in the South Kesteven district.
- 5.4 Failure to provide any of the required documentation and quotations will render the application ineligible.
- 5.5 Applications will not be considered without the endorsement of the relevant District Councillor(s).
- 5.6 We will not accept hand-written applications.
- 5.7 The Panel will meet quarterly to review applications. It is expected Panel meetings will take place approximately 2-3 weeks after the closing date for applications being submitted for consideration.
- 5.8 Applicants will be informed (usually by email) within five working days of the meeting taking place whether or not the Panel has recommended their project or event to receive a grant..
- 5.9 South Kesteven District Council's Awarding Panel's decision is final and cannot be changed (no appeals or discussions will be entered into).
- 5.10 Successful applicants will receive grant payments in two stages, with 75% of the grant being paid prior to commencement of the project or event and 25% after completion.

6. Conditions of funding

- 6.1 Grants awarded must be spent on the purpose stated in the application. If, for any reason, your circumstances change or you wish to vary the way in which you spend your grant, you are required to contact the Community Engagement Team to request written permission to do so.
- 6.2 Groups will only be able to draw down awards from the SK Community Fund when confirmation of the success of any supporting grants from other funders is received and evidenced.
- 6.3 In the event of a group or organisation ceasing to operate or failing to undertake or complete the project or event for which the grant was offered, South Kesteven District Council reserves the right to withhold payment, to reduce an award or seek its recovery.
- 6.4 Your group or organisation must ensure that its project or event operates within the requirements of all legislation.
- 6.5 Your group or organisation should ensure equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination in the delivery of its project or event.

- 6.6 You are required to inform the Council when your project or event has been completed. A Project Completion Form must be completed and submitted by the applicant **within three months** of the project/event completion date (as stated in the application) in order to draw down the final 25% payment.
- 6.7 You will also need to provide relevant invoices and bank statements showing payments made. Groups or organisations that do not complete and return a satisfactory Project Completion Form and provide the required documentation within the agreed timetable will not be eligible to draw-down the final 25% of any grant awarded and may be required to return the funding paid to them at the outset of the project. **Groups that do not fulfil this obligation will not be considered for future funding** (no appeals or discussions will be entered into).
- 6.8 Grants must be spent within a maximum of one year of an award being made (from the date on the grant offer letter). The Community Engagement Team must be informed of any slippage on the completion date stated within the application and terms agreed for any changes required to the project/event timeline to guarantee final payment of any grant.
- 6.9 Financial support provided by South Kesteven District Council should be acknowledged on all relevant printed publicity, on websites and in information given to the press. Relevant guidance will be provided to applicants at the time of a grant offer being made.

7. Application timetable

Applications will be assessed at regular intervals. Please refer to South Kesteven District Council's website for current timelines and dates. <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk>

Contact the Community Engagement Team:

The Community Engagement Team
 South Kesteven District Council
 The Picture House
 St Catherine's Road
 Grantham
 Lincolnshire
 NG31 6TT

Tel: 01476 406080 (extn 6161)
Email: communityfund@southkesteven.gov.uk

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SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

Report of Councillor Rhea Rayside,
Cabinet Member for People &
Communities

Community Engagement Update

Report Author

Carol Drury, Community Engagement Manager

 carol.drury@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of community engagement for 2023/24, based on activities that promote wellbeing, positive mental health and help to reduce social isolation as outlined in the Action Plan which accompanies the Community Engagement and Development Strategy – Our People, Our Place.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. Notes the content of the report and provides comment on the activity contained.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting communities
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 There are no specific financial comments arising from this report.

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

Legal and Governance

1.2 There are no significant legal and governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: Graham Watts (Monitoring Officer)

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 South Kesteven District Council recognises the importance of the network of voluntary and community groups within South Kesteven and is appreciative of their contribution and commitment to local society.
- 2.2 To fulfil the Council's commitment, a Community Engagement and Development Strategy was produced, which is included as a link for information in the background papers in paragraph 5.1 of this report. The strategy, Our People, Our Place, is supported by an accompanying action plan. An updated copy of this plan can be found at Appendix B.
- 2.3 The aim of the strategy, and the action plan which supports it, is to provide a framework to guide community engagement and development activity within South

Kesteven which complements the Council's Corporate Plan and its ambition for "Connecting Communities" by:

- Enabling opportunities for increased public dialogue and engagement to empower and connect our communities.
- Working in partnership with the voluntary, private and public sectors to deliver effective and responsive support services to meet the needs of all our communities.

2.4 As outlined in previous reports to this Committee, the Council's role in community engagement and community development is not to tell communities what they must do, rather to support and advise in the delivery of what they want and where they want it. It was vital therefore, while we were in the process of developing the strategy, that the communities of South Kesteven were given the opportunity to input via public and direct consultation.

2.5 The strategy was put in place to build on existing engagement and development activity, and this report provides an update on work carried out during 2023/2024 to support and provide community projects and events across the district that support wellbeing, positive mental health and the reduction of social isolation.

Wellbeing

2.6 The Community Engagement Team is involved in a number of ways with groups and organisations that provide mental health and wellbeing support to people in South Kesteven. It commissioned its first community mental health project in 2023/24 which focused on young people. This project came about as a response to an incredible amount of consultation with young people (nationally) about their mental health and the impact of a lack of community support for young people.

2.7 Social prescribing is an NHS approach that connects people to activities, groups, and services in their community, to meet the practical, social and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing. In social prescribing, local agencies such as local charities, social care and health services refer people to a link worker who then supports people to take control of their health and wellbeing. Unfortunately social prescribing support is only available to people aged 18+ at this time.

2.8 Community Engagement commissioned Inspire+ to deliver a young people's wellbeing project and mentoring scheme, which included sessions designed to build confidence, develop resilience, and positively impact on the health and wellbeing of young people. The scheme, delivered in key stage 2, 3 and 4 (aged 7-16) helped young people develop mental resilience whilst positively impacting emotional wellbeing, enabling them to feel well, be happy and help them achieve their goals and ambitions. This project was delivered summer/autumn 2023.

2.9 The wellbeing project was offered to young people from 6 local secondary schools across the district with sessions also delivered as part of the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) camps, for young people aged 5-16 during the summer holidays.

Camps were held in Bourne, Deepings, Grantham and Stamford, providing opportunities for young people from all over the district to access wellbeing activities.

- 2.10 Across the duration of the project participation by young people was:
 - Secondary school session participants: 72
 - HAF programme delivery (community): 423
- 2.11 The secondary school sessions were more ‘targeted’, whereas the HAF sessions were to the whole group (but delivered in smaller sub groups). Young people aged 4-16 are eligible for HAF if they receive benefits-related free school meals, have a special educational need or disability, children who live locally through the Homes for Ukraine and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and children from low income households that do not receive benefits-related free school meals.
- 2.12 A survey was completed with young people that participated in the programme:
 - 98% reported an increase in confidence after attending the sessions.
 - 98% said that they found the programme to be positive and rewarding.
 - 95% said they felt better prepared to deal with mental health and wellbeing issues as they have learnt new and more positive coping mechanisms as part of the project – including the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.
 - 90% felt more comfortable talking with their peers about their worries/concerns after attending the sessions.
 - There was an increase in overall mental health and wellbeing score for all participants who completed the wellbeing programme.
 - There was an overall reduction in social isolation – giving young people the chance to talk to peers in similar situations was beneficial.
 - There was a reported increase in growth opportunities – giving young people freedom to talk and discuss, and provide them with the opportunity to support and grow.
 - There were reported improvements in attitudes, routines and life choices made by young people (parent feedback).
- 2.13 The final report for this project is available at Appendix A.
- 2.14 Shine Lincolnshire is a county-wide charity that aims to support people with poor mental health to live well through accessing a range of support services including those delivered by the voluntary and community sector. Shine also works with grass roots and community organisations to implement wellbeing support through grant administration.
- 2.15 Shine launched the next round of its Mental Health and Wellbeing Investment Fund during 2023/24 as part of the Community Mental Health Transformation Programme. The fund, which is distributed annually, is split into two parts: Innovation and Sustainability. Both funds are to support growth and innovation of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations, to deliver projects for people experiencing a mental health illness or wellbeing need.

2.16 The charity has a network of community connectors. These are outreach workers who support groups to initiate activities or initiatives that bring about changes in response to what is needed within a community to enable positive mental health and wellbeing. The Community Engagement Team has built a strong connection with Shine's Support and Engagement Coordinator who, along with the charity's peer support workers took part in SKDC's Funding Fair in March 2024. Our Community Grants and Funding Officer also collaborates with the Community Connectors who work across South Kesteven and this has led to meeting new community groups who need support with both finding funding opportunities and writing successful bids.

2.17 Shine also hosts regular working groups across the District in which members of the Community Engagement Team are actively involved. The most recent of these has included a breakfast meeting in Grantham with groups and organisations that supports people with health and wellbeing needs in the community and a meeting in Stamford which focused on the support services available to people in the south of the District.

2.18 Through our engagement with Shine's Community Connectors, the Community Engagement team was offered a place on the panel to review applications for annual allocations. Our Community Grants and Funding Officer participated in the panel behalf of SKDC. 12 grants were awarded to projects from across South Kesteven with a further 5 county-wide projects that will also benefit the residents of the District being granted funding.

Support to help reduce social isolation and loneliness

2.19 An important part of the role of the Community Engagement Team is the management of the SK Community Fund. Through this Fund we are able to support projects and events across the District that are aimed at reducing loneliness and bringing people together to help reduce social isolation.

2.20 Throughout 2023/24 the Fund has supported eight such projects by providing funding support totalling £33,244.00. Projects have included events such as a family fun day, a diversity festival, the set-up of a community radio station, a parent and toddler group for families who struggle to interact with others, a free community event in the grounds of a National Trust property, a literary festival, free workshops hosted by a camera club to introduce people to a new hobby and a village festival. These events and projects have taken place across the district encompassing all four towns and some rural settings.

Support for Groups

2.21 The Community Engagement Team works with the voluntary and community sector on a daily basis. The importance of building relationships, growing trust and generally being available to groups should not be underestimated. Information contained in the following paragraphs provides an overview of some of the support provided to local groups over the past year.

2.22 The Team has worked with a group that offers workshops to local people giving them the opportunity to engage with others whilst learning and sharing woodwork and craft skills. Outwood promotes positive interventions to improve mental wellbeing and gain confidence to continue their personal recovery. Their projects aim is to support people with their recovery from mental health issues and to gain support in a nonclinical way, and to continue their recovery through meaningful activity.

2.23 The group had outgrown its premises due to the levels of demand for this support service so the Community Engagement Team worked with them to identify funding opportunities to support their move and their work. The group had an alternative premises in mind but this was located in a residential area and it was considered that noise from their workshops could be an issue. The Team brought together representatives from the group and other service areas of the Council to determine whether the best course of action was to carry out a noise survey and seek funding for sound proofing or whether an alternative location would be need to be sought.

2.24 The Team has supported a local school that has a high intake of vulnerable, neurodivergent young people. To provide activity to meet the needs of their pupils the school needed a means of exploring different ways of engaging and educating, other than the mainstream curriculum. One of the projects the school provides is a successful gardening project. To expand on this provision, the school needed to purchase a greenhouse to encourage growing food/gardening but didn't have the resources to do that from within its own finances. Funding for projects in schools is limited but our Community Grants and Funding Officer carried out a comprehensive funding search and provided them with a report on the findings. The Team continues to work with the school to support them through this process.

2.25 Support has also been provided to a Grantham-based faith group that was working toward setting up a bespoke toddler group. Funding from the SK Community Fund has enabled the group to provide a drop in coffee morning and a signposting service for families who live within its collective catchment who are struggling with isolation and social needs. SKDC previously funded a similar project run by the same faith group in Stamford. They used the same mental health model that was used for Seedlings at the Greenhouse Stamford and some of the group's mental health champions that were recruited as part of the original project have moved to Grantham and volunteered in setting up the new provision.

2.26 Further support has been given to BRIC. This organisation (previously known as HomeStart Lincolnshire) works with young families to ensure parents have the support they need. For example, they will work with parents struggling emotionally when a child has been diagnosed with autism or social anxiety. They offer a variety of inter-personal support but also provide activities for families to participate in. The Community Engagement Team supported them in the development of a community garden in Grantham. They have another such facility in Stamford. Both are well established. Our involvement during the past year came about because the organisation was looking to further develop both sites so the Team worked with them to identify sources of funding and also local voluntary and community groups that can provide practical help in support of the gardens.

2.27 The Butterfield Centre in Bourne provides support to older people through services such as meals on wheels. This service not only provides a hot meal to people who are socially isolated and lonely but its team of volunteers also offers a befriending service to its users. The centre now also provides a community pantry and now also hosts the local foodbank. Financial support through the Council's Food Agency Support Scheme was provided to this Centre for the first time in March 2024.

2.28 Support needed by voluntary and community sector can be anything from the set-up of a group, arranging governance, developing required policies etc through to funding a project. The Council's Community Grants and Funding Officer has supported a further 15 groups that provide venues, events and projects across South Kesteven that support wellbeing and help to reduce social isolation during the past year. 6 of these groups have gone on to secure funding from external sources with the help of this officer amounting to £130,000.

3. Key Considerations

3.1 This report is for information therefore Members are asked to note its content.

4. Reasons for the Recommendations

4.1 To keep Members of Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee informed of progress of community engagement and development activity within the District.

5. Background Papers

5.1 [Our People, Our Place – A Community Engagement and Development Strategy for South Kesteven \(2024-2027\)](#)

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – Young People’s Wellbeing Project Report.
- 6.2 Appendix B – Community Engagement and Development Action Plan

SKDC / inspire+ Wellbeing Project

Overview

inspire+ are a local sports and education charity founded in 2011. Our team are dedicated to facilitating greater health, wellbeing, and achievement for young people across South Kesteven providing opportunities for them to be healthy, happy, and active.

We have created a mentoring scheme, which includes sessions designed to build confidence, develop resilience, and positively impact on health and wellbeing. The scheme can be adapted to deliver in key stage 2, 3 and 4 (aged 7-16). The mentoring scheme helps young people develop mental resilience and positively impacts emotional wellbeing, enabling them to feel well, be happy and help them achieve their goals and ambitions.

Following funding received from SKDC, we delivered the wellbeing project with young people from 6 local secondary schools Bourne Academy, Deepings Academy, Priory Ruskin Academy, Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School, Kings School, and Walton Academy.

The sessions were also delivered as part of our community programme – our Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) camps, which saw over 3000 attendances from young people aged 5-16 during the summer holidays. This summer, our HAF camps were held in Bourne, Deepings, Grantham, and Stamford, providing opportunities for young people all over the district to access wellbeing activities. The nature of the HAF eligibility criteria ensured that children that would benefit most from accessing wellbeing activities were able to participate in the programme.

Session Content

In local secondary schools, a “care package” was offered for morning or afternoon blocks over 6 sessions, each session accommodating up to 15 young people. At our HAF camps, wellbeing was included as part of the programme during each week of the summer holidays. Each workshop consisted of a short presentation, accompanied by games, tasks and challenges to bring the initiative outcomes to life. Each workshop lasted 1 hour, and work completed by the cohort was personalised and logged in their wellbeing journals. Below is an overview of the workshops delivered.

Workshop 1

Introductions – this is a chance for the young people and mentor to get to know each other, discuss their experiences and inspire the pupils to think about their own personal journey.

Workshop 2

Young people profile themselves, how they are feeling, their traits and habits and other information about themselves. They will consider where they are currently, and where they want to be in the future.

Workshop 3

Young people are introduced to how to set goals and identify their support networks. Develop the skill of mediation and compromise, to manage relationships between family, friends, and teachers.

Workshop 4

Young people are introduced to the concept of resilience by taking part in a series of activities designed to challenge them.

Workshop 5

Discussion around management of emotional wellbeing, developing coping mechanism for stress, anxiety, and nerves. Presentation covering nutrition, hydration, sleep and mindfulness as the fundamental wellbeing jigsaw. Consideration of impact and usage of social media.

Workshop 6

Celebration and recognition of achievements. Engage in further activities that will help reinforce the messages and lessons learned. Opportunity to discuss and share thoughts about the next steps and future beyond the programme.

Participation

Across the duration of the project participation by young people was:

- Secondary school session participants: 72
- HAF programme delivery (community): 423

The secondary school sessions were more 'targeted', whereas the HAF sessions were to the whole group (but delivered in smaller sub groups). Young people aged 4-16 are eligible for HAF if they receive benefits-related free school meals, have a special educational need or disability, Homes for Ukraine children, ACRS, children deemed as at risk / vulnerable, children from low income households that do not receive benefits-related free school meals.

Impact

A survey was completed with young people that participated in the programme:

- 98% reported an increase in confidence after attending the sessions.
- 98% said that they found the programme to be positive and rewarding.
- 95% said they felt better prepared to deal with mental health and wellbeing issues as they have learnt new and more positive coping mechanisms as part of the project – including the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.
- 90% felt more comfortable talking with their peers about their worries / concerns after attending the sessions.
- There was an increase in overall mental health and wellbeing score for all participants who completed the wellbeing programme.
- There was an overall reduction in social isolation – giving young people the chance to talk to peers in similar situations was beneficial.
- There was a reported increase in growth opportunities – giving young people freedom to talk and discuss and provide them with the opportunity to support and grow.
- There were reported improvements in attitudes, routines and life choices made by young people (parent feedback).

inspire+ Mentor Feedback

“The young people that participated in the programme really seemed to grow in confidence from week 1 to week 6. To begin with, there was some resistance to share their experiences but week on week conversations grew and they were able to talk openly about things that might be worrying them.

The sessions provided a safe space to share their feelings and experiences – often talking about the pressures in their lives but also what makes them feel good, and coping mechanisms. Young people left with a toolkit of resources to support them as they transitioned through the next stages and a journal to reflect on the topics that had been discussed.”

Kai Willerton, inspire+, Community and School Team Officer

School Feedback

- *“Thank you so much for all your hard work at our school. Our young people thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and have developed in ways that are not easy to do so in the classroom. It is a testament to the incredible work that you and inspire+ do for our pupils.”*
- *“Just a bit of feedback from today’s session, the kids I spoke to loved it, so a huge thank you for doing your thing; it has been a really positive experience and made a real impact.”*
- *“Thank you for your session today. The pupils from my class that attended came back talking all about it and continued to speak with each other and ask questions about the things they had talked about.”*
- *“Thank you for your time and enthusiasm. The programme was a great success, and I thought the messages given to the young people were easy to follow, powerful and very relevant.”*
- *“Thank you very much for delivering the programme in our school. I’ve had lots of year 11 students come up to me over the course of the day to say how much they enjoyed it. All of the students who were there, as well as the staff, thought it was fantastic. There were students in there who usually struggle to concentrate for 10 minutes so for them to be hanging on your every word for the whole session was incredible.”*

Parent Feedback

- *“Thank you for the opportunity for my child to be involved in the programme. The sessions were really engaging but also fun and interactive. My child came home from the sessions with a sense of pride. We would like to thank inspire+ and SKDC for funding the programme – it was fantastic, and it has made a real difference.”*
- *“Please could you pass on my thanks to the inspire+ team. My son really looks forward to the sessions that inspire+ put on. My son tells me nothing about school or what happens, but I get a blow-by-blow account of his sessions with inspire+, whatever he is doing, thank you. Please carry on inspiring children and helping them enjoy school.”*
- *“These workshops have had a real positive influence, it has definitely lifted my children’s mood this last week.”*

Young People Feedback

- *“I found it useful to hear that all my friends have the same concerns as me, and that I am not alone.”*
- *“I enjoyed the sessions because it has helped me gain confidence. It’s good to know that everyone is worried about the same things as me and that we can share our worries.”*
- *“I have enjoyed it as I have got the chance to reflect on aspects of myself.”*
- *“I have found it useful to discuss ways I can control my behaviour.”*
- *“Setting goals has been useful so I have something to work towards.”*
- *“I have liked having the chance to share stuff in a smaller group, I have really enjoyed the sessions.”*

Future Actions

We want to continue to deliver this intervention within a school setting and will be working with both primary and secondary schools to promote the initiative. We will continue to include wellbeing sessions in our HAF programme delivery. We are open to discussion around delivering this more openly in community settings, this could involve working with GP surgeries and community groups, as well as option for self-referral, to develop a scheme for social prescribing for young people in South Kesteven.

Other Wellbeing Activity

At inspire+ we recognise that we also have a duty of care for teachers and staff working in schools, to promote their own wellbeing. We facilitate a wellbeing programme led by former Head Teacher Carol Hines which leads our efforts to drive an important agenda. This includes:

- Introducing and supporting the ‘5 ways to well-being’ for schools through Senior Leadership Team engagement and staff training.
- Various courses, such as ‘Supporting your child mindfully through SATs’.
- Advice and guidance for creating a mentally healthy school.
- Free access to teacher mindfulness courses for interested staff.

As mentioned, wellbeing features as a key theme during our Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) camps during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays. Children that attend are eligible either because they receive benefits-related free school meals or meet other eligibility criteria – including an Education Health Care Plan, children under Homes for Ukraine, Afghanistan refugees, children living in areas of deprivation and children in care (or previously in care). Sessions focus on discussion around wellbeing, often spending time outside with nature and / or creative activities that encourage relaxation and create a safe space for discussion.

Community Engagement and Development: Action Plan 2024 - 2027

Objectives:

- 1 Building Capacity
- 2 Addressing Needs
- 3 Mutual Support
- 4 Strengthening Cohesion

Status:

- Not yet started
- Active
- Active yet paused
- Complete

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Partner/s	Target	Timeline	Success Means	Status
1 3	Deliver a series of funding workshops and an annual funding fair across the district, in support of voluntary and community sector groups and organisations	Community Grants and Funding Officer	LCVS Economic Development The National Lottery	5 funding workshops per year 1 funding fair in partnership with LCVS per year	6/7/23 21/9/23 18/1/24 21/3/24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible, well attended events that provide useful information to attendees. Follow-up assistance sought by groups	<input style="background-color: #6A994E; width: 15px; height: 15px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;" type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Complete
1 2	Provide support for groups to develop governance structures, create project plans, identify and source funding and build in resilience and sustainability	Community Grants and Funding Officer	LCVS	Support our community and voluntary groups	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resilient groups that have the capacity and capability to sustain themselves into the future	<input style="background-color: #0070C0; width: 15px; height: 15px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;" type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Active
3 4	Develop and submit funding bids to SKSPF and to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the purpose of developing an Airborne heritage trail	Armed Forces Officer		Build on the findings of the Arnhem/Airborne Trail Feasibility Study to develop funding bids to UKSPG and Heritage Lottery Fund	Oct 2023 January 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding sourced to deliver the trail	<input style="background-color: #6A994E; width: 15px; height: 15px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;" type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Complete

3 4	<p>Establish a visitor and military heritage trail to highlight the District's role in both D Day and Operation Market Garden (Arnhem).</p>	<p>Armed Forces Officer</p>	<p>Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire 1944 Arnhem Fellowship</p>	<p>Establish trail to include information points, website, arts projects, guided walks etc and develop network of local businesses in support of the trail through direct connection to boost tourism offer</p>	<p>July 2024 onward (subject to funding)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Launch of the Trail with partner buy in from local business, tourism, military, and former military sites reflecting heritage</p>	STATUS: Active
3 4	<p>Work in collaboration with other service areas to support works of art and culture in public spaces across the district</p>	<p>Community Engagement Manager Armed Forces Officer</p>	<p>Grantham Arts Economic Development PWOG</p>	<p>1 Poppy Cascade 4 Silhouettes to depict AF and civilian personnel 1 Poppy and Pebble installation Community Orchards/Woods</p>	<p>November 2023 November 2024 Throughout 2024</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delivery, in collaboration with other service areas of artwork and installations in public spaces</p>	STATUS: Active
2 3	<p>Continue to ensure the Council's compliance with the Armed Forces Act and its associated duties</p>	<p>Armed Forces Officer</p>	<p>Housing</p>	<p>Monitor latest guidance and best practice and share information with relevant service areas</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Well-informed officers and elected Members who understand what is necessary to comply with the Act</p>	STATUS: Active
1 2 3	<p>Signpost to organisations such as Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service (LCVS) to engage groups in workshops provided to get groups 'fit for funding'</p>	<p>Community Engagement Team</p>	<p>LCVS</p>	<p>Sign local groups up to Fit for Funding workshops run by LCVS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A network of groups across the district that have the knowledge and tools required to ensure their eligibility for funding from local, regional and national funders</p>	STATUS: Active

1	Develop and deliver a series of networking forums to bring together voluntary and community groups. To encourage groups to work together, sharing ideas and volunteering opportunities	Community Engagement Team	Community groups across the district	Run two online forums during the year to bring groups together to share ideas and explore joint opportunities	Autumn 2024 onwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased opportunities for collaboration on projects to support the communities of South Kesteven	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Not yet started
2	Develop an effective working relationship with the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Officer to explore opportunities for collaboration	Armed Forces Officer	Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Officer	Work in collaboration to spread good practice and information across the Armed Forces Networks of Lincolnshire	April 2024 onward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased support for the Armed Forces community – serving, veteran and their families	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Active
2	Develop an effective working relationship with the Lincolnshire County Council Armed Forces Champion	Armed Forces Champion	Lincolnshire County Council	Build an effective partnership arrangement across the County	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased support for the Armed Forces community – serving, veteran and their families	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Active
1	Explore opportunities to promote the employment of former military personnel through promotion of a new employers guide from the Office of Veteran Affairs	Armed Forces Officer	Economic Development HR	Promote the advantages of employing veterans internally and externally through business networks	January 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employers better aware of ex-military skills and how to recruit	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Not yet started
1	Work closely with Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service to promote volunteering opportunities within SKDC and with voluntary and community groups through our various communications	Community Engagement Team	Comms	Advertise volunteer opportunities every quarter through a newsletter to groups and via the SKDC website	December 2023 onwards Activity will become ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased numbers of volunteers and volunteering opportunities within the district	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Active

4	Promote and celebrate Armed Forces Week	Armed Forces Officer	Comms	Develop a week-long programme of defence-related PR and events to contribute to advocacy requirements to publicly support the defence community	24-29 June 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater awareness of the contribution of Armed Forces	█ STATUS: Complete
4	Work with other agencies to develop and deliver a series of workshops to raise awareness of Prevent	Community Engagement Manager	EveryOne	Deliver a series of 4 workshops across the district	From Sept 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved awareness within communities of Prevent and an understanding of how to report issues	█ STATUS: Active
2	Continue to deliver the Council in the Community Initiative to engage with residents face-to-face	Community Engagement Team	Appropriate service areas across SKDC	Deliver events throughout the year that are responsive to identified local need	17/8/23 8/12/23 14/8/24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct engagement with residents to address identified concerns and resolve issues	█ STATUS: Active
1 3	Initiate a series of workshops with Parish clusters to improve engagement starting with a Parish and Town Council Conference which will become an annual event	Community Engagement Team	Appropriate service areas across SKDC Lincolnshire Resilience Forum Parish/Town Councils	Deliver 4 events in Parish Cluster areas and one conference themed through learning at cluster event	Autumn 2024 onwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased engagement with Parish and Town Councils	█ STATUS: Active
2 4	Work with colleagues in other service areas to promote opportunities for equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).	Community Engagement Manager	SKDC Service Areas EDI Working Group	Develop a cross-service action plan to deliver against the Council's equality objectives	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased opportunities to embed EDI across the Council	█ STATUS: Active

1	Encourage staff within food businesses to sign up as Army catering Reserves for training/upskilling	Armed Forces Officer	Prince William of Gloucester (PWoG) barracks 167 Catering Support Regiment and Army Reserve Catering School Environmental Health	Take advantage of the central Army catering school based at PWoG to offer training opportunities	January 2025 onwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase in reservist sign-up with a focus on catering	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Not yet started
1	Encourage SKDC officers and elected Members to sign up as Army Reserves for training	Armed Forces Officer Armed Forces Champion	PWoG Barracks Army reserve units	Take advantage of training available in the range of command and control, contract management, labour support, catering and logistic support jobs available	January 2025 onwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase reservist sign up across a range of military disciplines with consequent individual, collective and organisational benefits to SKDC	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Not yet started
2	Continue to explore opportunities to become an age-friendly district in collaboration with Community Lincs	Community Grants and Funding Officer Communities Officer	Community Lincs Other service areas Local groups Businesses Older residents	Identify and help make changes in outdoor spaces, volunteering and employment, leisure and community services to support inclusivity of older people	October 2024 onwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A district where people can stay living in their homes, participate in the activities they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Not yet started
1 2	Participate in community networks across the county and district to improve reach and understanding of provisions in place and support needed	Community Engagement Team	Voluntary, faith and community groups Charities Health partners	Inclusion in existing networks and creation of further opportunities if need is identified	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effective interaction with community and voluntary sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATUS: Active

2	Support community initiatives that seek to overcome social isolation	Community Engagement Team	Voluntary, faith and community groups Health partners	Attend, support and fund groups delivering against this type of initiative	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Groups that are sustainable and can offer support for the future	█ STATUS: Active
4	Continue to enable those of other cultures and languages to participate in the community through connections with existing groups and support the development of new groups	Community Engagement Team	Voluntary, faith and community groups	Promote existing groups and help build capacity to develop further and instigate new opportunities for improved participation	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved awareness of opportunities to participate in community initiatives through existing networks of groups	█ STATUS: Active
2 3	Continue to actively participate in Mental Health Wellbeing groups across the district	Community Engagement Manager	Charities Groups Health partners	Attend and participate in meetings and initiatives promoted and delivered by the community sector whilst seeking to collaborate as appropriate	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meaningful engagement with mental health and wellbeing professionals and volunteers	█ STATUS: Active
8 1 2 3 4	Assess impact on people and communities of the events and projects funded via support from SKDC	Community Grants and Funding Officer		Develop and implement an assessment method to gain feedback on SKDC funded projects	September 2024 onwards Activity will become ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A funding system that offers value for money and provides groups with the means to make significant impact within their own communities	█ STATUS: Active
2 3	Continue to support the voluntary and community sector providing food/essentials in times of financial hardship to those in need through ring-fenced funding	Community Engagement Team	Foodbanks and other food support agencies and groups	Offer financial support annually to groups supporting residents with food and essential supplies at times of personal financial crisis	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food agencies able to continue to support people in need	█ STATUS: Active

1 3	<p>Signpost groups to LCVS to provide 'health checks' and assurance relating to the voluntary and community sector</p>	<p>Community Engagement Team</p>	<p>LCVS</p>	<p>Work with newly-formed groups to ensure effective governance is in place by referring them to LCVS for a 'health check'</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Groups that have appropriate structures, policies and terms of reference to ensure sustainability and eligibility for funding</p>	<p>█ STATUS: Active</p>
1	<p>Continue to build the database of voluntary and community sector groups operational within the district</p>	<p>Community Engagement Team</p>		<p>Creation of an ecosystem of the groups and the types of support available within the community</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An effective overview of the VCS operating within South Kesteven and a greater understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision</p>	<p>█ STATUS: Active</p>
2 3	<p>Work in collaboration with Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) and SK Emergency Planning to ensure community engagement during emergency situations within the district</p>	<p>Community Engagement Manager</p>	<p>LRF SK Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Build on the success of the SK Community Hub to ensure groups can be 'stood up' if and when required.</p>	<p>As required</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to respond effectively in an emergency situation where support from communities is required</p>	<p>█ STATUS: Active</p>
2 4	<p>Re-introduce Migrant Community Network</p>	<p>Community Engagement Team</p>	<p>Agencies and groups working to support migrant communities</p>	<p>Develop four meetings per year</p>	<p>January 2024</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved understanding of the needs of under-reached groups within the district</p>	<p>█ STATUS: Active</p>
1 3	<p>Continue to support other service areas across the Council with funding bids to enable project development and delivery</p>	<p>Community Engagement Manager Community Grants and Funding Officer</p>	<p>Other service areas</p>	<p>Responsive to need</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Successful bids to external funders</p>	<p>█ STATUS: Active</p>

1	Continue to promote funding and fund-raising opportunities offered by the Council to the voluntary, community and charity sectors	Communities Officer	Comms	Proactively publicise the funding offer available through the SK Community Fund and the fund-raising offer provided by LotterySK	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased eligible applications to the SK Community Fund and LotterySK	 STATUS: Active
3	Commemorate Remembrance 2024	Armed Forces Officer	International military associations Education establishments	Engage international partners in commemoration activities to mark the 80th anniversaries of D Day and Arnhem	June 2024 September 2024 November 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Series of events and educational workshops delivered to raise awareness of shared heritage	 STATUS: Active

“In most instances, the demographics of each community are [also] different. It follows that those living in each local community are in the best position to address local challenges. It also follows that the District Council’s Elected Members are key to providing insight into local challenges and aspirations. Their front-line knowledge and involvement is vital to the development of community”.

 Source: Place-Based Community Development - Our People, Our Place – A Community Engagement and Development Strategy for South Kesteven

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024/25

WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE PRIORITY
10 July 2024				
Police and Crime Panel Update	A verbal update to be provided by Councillor Sarah Trotter.		Agreed at previous meeting	
Corporate Plan 2020-23 Key Performance Indicators End-of-plan and 2023/24 End-Year (Q4) Report	Charles James (Policy Officer)	To outline performance against the Corporate Plan 2020-23 KPIs for Q4 2023/24 and present a summary of overall performance over the lifecycle of the Corporate Plan 2020-23.	Regular bi-annual item since 2020.	Effective Council
UKSPF Update	Nick Hibberd (Head of Economic Development)	To provide an update on the UKSPF Rural England Prosperity Fund. It outlines the investment into South Kesteven's communities and highlights the approach for the rest of 2024/25 until the programmes closure on 31 st March 2025.		
SK Community Fund	Carol Drury (Community Engagement Manager)	To provide overview information of the SK Community Fund and to seek recommendation to amend the Fund's criteria	Agreed at previous meeting	Connecting Communities

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE PRIORITY
Community Engagement Update	Carol Drury (Community Engagement Manager)	To provide an overview of the work of the Community Engagement Team in support of wellbeing in the community	Requested by the Chair at the agenda setting meeting	Connecting Communities
CCTV Update	Ayeisha Kirkham (Head of Service – Public Protection)			
16 October 2024				
Equality and Diversity Annual Position Statement	Carol Drury (Community Engagement Manager)	To provide a retrospective of 2023/24 relating to equality, diversity and inclusion to ensure the Council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Committee will be asked to recommend the document for publication to the Cabinet Member for People and Communities.	Agreed at agenda setting meeting	Effective Council
Prevent Update	Carol Drury (Community Engagement Manager)	To provide an update on Prevent to include any changes in legislation, guidance etc and activities undertaken to raise awareness of Prevent that ensure the Council's compliance with the Prevent Duty.	Agreed at agenda setting meeting	Effective Council Connecting Communities
Parish and Town Council liaison	Carol Drury (Community Engagement Manager)	To provide a review of the Parish and Town Council Conference	Agreed at agenda setting meeting	Connecting Communities

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE PRIORITY
Customer Service Update – Q1 & Q2 position	Claire Moses (Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer and Community)	To provide an update regarding Customer Service performance and specific activities impacting on Customer Service	5 July 2023	Effective Council
Cost of Living Update	Claire Moses (Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer and Community)	To provide an update on the activities undertaken by the Cost of Living Team and results achieved.	1 February 2024	Enabling Economic Opportunity Effective Council
Youth Council	Fran Beckitt (Head of Service – Human Resources and Organisational Development)			
12 December 2024				
Armed Forces Update	Debbie Nicholls (Armed Forces Officer)	To provide a retrospective of events, activity and support provided during 2023/24 relating to the Armed Forces Covenant and the Council's responsibilities under the Armed Forces Act.	Agreed at agenda setting meeting	Effective Council Connecting Communities
13 February 2025				
20 March 2025				

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE PRIORITY
Cost of Living Update	Claire Moses (Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer and Community)	It will be intended for these to be every 6 months from 2025	1 February 2024 Last reported 16 October 2024	Enabling Economic Opportunity Effective Council
Customer Service Update – Q3 position	Claire Moses (Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer and Community)	To provide an update regarding Customer Service performance and specific activities impacting on Customer Service	5 July 2023	Effective Council

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Unscheduled Items

Report title	Issue	Originated	Corporate Priority
Car Parking			

The Committee's Remit

The remit of the Rural and Communities 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:

- Allotments
- Anti-social behaviour, community safety and local policing
- Benefit claims

- Community engagement & cohesion
- Community funding and volunteering
- Community right to bid

- Community well-being
- Customer services
- Disabled facilities grant
- Equality and diversity
- Parish and town council liaison
- Public conveniences
- Safeguarding and individual wellbeing
- Shop front designs and funding
- Street furniture

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