

# Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Tuesday, 27 January 2026 at 2.00 pm  
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House, St. Peter's Hill,  
Grantham. NG31 6PZ

**Committee Members:** Councillor Nikki Manterfield (Chairman)  
Councillor Rhea Raysia (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor David Bellamy, Councillor Pam Bosworth, Councillor James Denniston,  
Councillor Tim Harrison, Councillor Robert Leadenham, Councillor Habib Rahman  
and Councillor Lee Steptoe

## 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](mailto: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 meeting held on 10 December 2025** (Pages 3 - 10)
5. **Updates from the previous meeting** (Page 11)  
To receive updates on actions agreed at the previous meeting.
6. **Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**
7. **Citizens Advice - South Lincolnshire presentation** (Pages 13 - 29)
8. **Food Health and Safety Enforcement Workplan presentation** (Pages 31 - 39)  
To bring the annual workplan to Rural OSC for awareness and noting.
9. **South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan** (Pages 41 - 56)  
To provide an update on the progress and delivery of the South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, and the progress of South Kesteven District Council becoming part of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities
10. **Customer Service Update - Quarter 3 (2025/26)** (To Follow)  
To provide the Committee with an update regarding customer interactions within the Customer Service team and high contact service areas for Quarter 3 during 2025/26.
11. **Work Programme 2025 - 2026** (Pages 57 - 59)  
To receive the Work Programme for 2025 – 2026
12. **Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

## Meeting of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

**Wednesday, 10 December 2025,  
10.00 am**

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Committee Members present	Cabinet Members
Councillor Nikki Manterfield (Chairman)	Councillor Phil Dilks
Councillor James Denniston	Councillor Philip Knowles
Councillor Tim Harrison	Councillor Virginia Moran
Councillor Robert Leadenham	Councillor Richard Cleaver
Councillor Habib Rahman	
Councillor Max Sawyer	
Officers	Other Members present
	Councillor Bridget Ley
	Councillor Elvis Stooke

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### 27. Public Speaking

There were none.

### 28. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pam Bosworth, Lee Steptoe, Rhea Rayside and Charmaine Morgan.

Councillor Rhea Rayside was substituted by Councillor Max Sawyer.

## **29. Disclosure of Interest**

There were none.

## **30. Minutes of the meeting held 16 October 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2025 were AGREED as an accurate record.

## **31. Updates from the previous meeting**

It was noted that the outstanding actions were completed prior to the meeting.

## **32. Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**

There were none.

## **33. Rural Crime Action Team presentation**

The Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) presentation was given by PC Chris Davis.

The presentation encapsulated the following:

- Composition of the RCAT
- Scope and specialist operations of the RCAT
- Priority delivery groups
- Examples and analysis of current operation outcomes (including court results).
- Advice relating to theft of rural property.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- It was noted that there was a widespread issue about under-reporting of theft. The RCAT representative expressed that the best way to tackle this was to publicly highlight the success that the RCAT had with recovery of items.
- The RCAT representative did not have any statistics regarding the cultural identity of those involved with rural theft.
- It was confirmed that the goods from many high value rural thefts were subsequently relocated across Europe or broken into parts. However, it was noted that the rural theft within South Kesteven largely related to small value thefts rather than larger machinery.
- Members thanked the RCAT representative for his attendance.

The Rural Crime Action Team presentation was noted.

#### **34. Corporate Plan 2024-27: Key Performance Indicators Report - Mid-Year (Q2) 2025/26**

The Corporate Plan 2024-27: Key Performance Indicators Report - Mid-Year (Q2) 2025/26 was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing.

This report was the second of the reporting cycle and covered the period July to September 2025 (Quarter 2 2025/26).

Appendix A presented the overall performance against the eight actions presented. Commentary by the responsible officer was provided for each action. Performance was summarised using a RAG system as follows:

Seven of the actions were rated Green. These were actions which were on or above target as planned.

One action was rated as Amber, these were those off target by less than 10% or where milestone achievement was delayed but with resolution in place to be achieved within a reasonable timeframe.

Zero actions were rated as Red. These were actions that are significantly below target.

Zero actions were rated as N/A. These were actions for which work had not yet meaningfully commenced e.g. being sequenced on the completion of other items, or where data was unavailable.

The Policy Officer did clarify that for Com7, on page 32 of the appendix, the cumulative total of money levered by the SK community fund was £4621.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- It was confirmed that the UKSPF did not undermine the existence of the SK Community Fund going forward. Alternatively, the UKSPF was used as a mechanism to support groups requiring funding exceeding £5000.
- Whether there was to be an upturn on the Quarter 3 and 4 results for Com7 would depend on the projects or groups that the funds were spent on.

The Corporate Plan 2024-27: Key Performance Indicators Report - Mid-Year (Q2) 2025/26 was noted by the Committee.

#### **35. Customer Service Update - Quarter 2 - 2025-26**

The Customer Service Update - Quarter 2 - 2025-26 was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing.

Appendix 1 showed the number of customer interactions so far during 2025/26, and comparison to Q2 2024/25. These interactions included all methods of contact.

In comparison to Q2 2024/25, all contact had increased slightly (2,097) with website contact increasing significantly by 300,071.

The increase in website contact was a result of increased use of online forms and online portals (such as Benefits and Council Tax), with the portal seeing over 90,000 transactions since it was launched. In addition, the waste round review resulted in an increase in contact for waste services pages, particularly during September 2025. Across the website, there was a total of 452 engagements with the 'did you find this page useful?' function – 119 stated yes (29%) and 333 stated no (71%).

During Q2 2025/26, 94% of calls were answered, with just 6% of calls being 'abandoned' to other service channels. This was an improvement from Q2 2024/25, where these figures were 81% and 19% respectively.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- It was confirmed that the Website Feedback page within the report's appendix related to individual enquiries.
- Noting that 71% of respondents stated that they did not find the web page useful, it was confirmed that improvements were made in the 12% of cases where sufficient constructive information was given.
- Reassurance was sought that Customer Service remained accessible to more vulnerable individuals. Reassurance was given that in-person appointments for vulnerable individuals was still encouraged within the Customer Service team. Furthermore, a consultation about accessibility was planned for quarter 4.

The Customer Service Update - Quarter 2 - 2025-26 was noted by the committee.

## **36. Welfare and Financial Advice Team Update – Q2 2025/26**

The Welfare and Financial Advice Team Update – Q2 2025/26 was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Housing.

The initial amount of Household Support Funding for SKDC was £458,452, totalling 14% of the county allocation. Although this was subject to change should other districts be unable to allocate their funding.

An update was given in respect of the various methods within the scheme's delivery plan and funding distribution. The methods that were active were classed as being on track.

A total of 961 vouchers were issued during the period from 4 August 2025 to 22 September 2025, to the value of £170,364.

Regarding additional wrap-around support, the team received 1,028 referrals during Q2 (972 were processed), with £99,180 support provided.

The action plan for additional activities being undertaken by the Welfare and Financial Advice Team during 2025/26 was detailed in Appendix 1.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- It was queried and confirmed that SKDC engaged with organisations including the following: BBC Children in need, Better Housing Better Health, Bourne United Charities, Charis Grants, Citizens Advice, Department for Work and Pension, Len Pick Trust, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire District Councils, Lincolnshire Community Foundation, Money and Pension Service, Percy Bilton Charity, Shine Lincolnshire.
- Members praised the extensive work of the Welfare and Financial Advice Team and queried whether their capacity level was manageable, noting that it was a small team. The Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer Service and Community) confirmed that there were capacity pressures when the Household Support Fund was live, however, officers were transparent with applicants about the timeframes and had not received any delay-related complaints.
- It was confirmed that the scheme issued more food support than energy support as energy support was available through other means within the wrap-around support.
- The Cabinet Member for Housing noted that they were disappointed with the turnout to the mobile support stations. However, believed that they were worth continuing because of the support given to those who engaged.
- It was confirmed that details would be sent to Members of where to refer individuals for Welfare and Financial Advice Team support.

#### **ACTION**

The Welfare and Financial Advice Team Update – Q2 2025/26 was noted by the Committee.

### **37. Armed Forces Covenant Report 2025**

The Armed Forces Covenant Report 2025 was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Planning.

Appendix A of the report outlined the work of the Council's Armed Forces Officer, supported by the Council's Armed Forces Champion, to deliver the Council's advocacy and engagement commitments under its Gold Award status within the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

The appendix also gave an overview of the events and activities undertaken during 2025 and actions for delivery of those in 2026.

A pictorial presentation accompanied the report.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- Attention was drawn to Mr Peter Foxon's story on SKDC's YouTube channel and the [soldiersfromthesky.co.uk](http://soldiersfromthesky.co.uk) website, exhibiting insightful Armed Forces historic material.
- It was confirmed that SKDC were compliant in meeting the three statutory principles of housing, health and education.
- It was noted that the 45-person strong Armed Forces Covenant Partnership ensured a joint approach between services.
- The Armed Forces Champion thanked the Armed Forces Officer for their dedication, confirmed that 16% of veterans in South Kesteven were female, and noted that Councillor training was being introduced from February about the Armed Forces Covenant.

Following discussions, it was proposed, seconded, and AGREED to recommend the Cabinet Member for Planning to publish the information within the report at the earliest opportunity,

### **38. Small unmanned aircraft (Drone) Policy**

*Councillors Moran and Dilks left the meeting.*

It was proposed, seconded, and AGREED for the Small unmanned aircraft (Drone) Policy to be redirected for consideration by the Governance and Audit Committee.

### **39. LCC Health Scrutiny update**

*Councillor Manterfield declared an interest as an NHS employee.*

It was agreed for the LCC Health Scrutiny update to be emailed to Members.

### **40. Work Programme 2025 - 2026**

It was noted that the following amendments would be made to the Work Programme:

Health & Wellbeing Action Plan	- Added to January meeting
Citizens Advice Bureaux South Lincolnshire Presentation	- Added to January meeting
Community Engagement Strategy Action Plan	- Moved to March meeting
Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue 'Firestoppers' Presentation	- Added as unscheduled

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

There was none.

*The Chairman concluded the meeting at 11.45 am.*

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# Action Sheet

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Actions from meeting of 10 December 2025

Min no	Agenda item	Action	Assigned to	Comments/Status	Deadline
36	<b>Welfare and Financial Advice Team Update – Q2 2025/26</b>	It was confirmed that details would be sent to Members of where to refer individuals for Welfare and Financial Advice Team support.	Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer Service and Community)	Completed	

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# Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire

Working in partnership with South Kesteven District Council to meet the needs of their citizens

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Stephen Cheetham  
CEO



South  
Lincolnshire

Agenda Item 7

# Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire

## About us

- Local Charity working across SKDC and SHDC
- **NOT** a national charity, but a member of a federated structure
- Supported over 14,000 clients last year
- Enabled financial gains of £7m
- 25% of our funding comes from District and County councils

This has been vital in leveraging more funding/income:

- 60% of our funding comes from national contracts
- 15% of our funding comes from charitable trusts, Town Councils and Parish Councils



# Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire

What changed in 2025:

- New leadership
- New staff structure
- New service delivery model

5



South  
Lincolnshire

# The services we deliver

- Core Service\*
- Advice Line\*
- Outreach
- Debt

\*SKDC funded



South  
Lincolnshire

# Core Service

- Face to Face
  - Drop In
  - Booked Appointments
- Telephone
  - Call Back
  - Booked Appointments
- Grantham
- Stamford



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# Advice Line

- Telephone service
- Monday to Thursday
- Resolution at first point of contact
- Referral to other CASL support
- Referral to other third-party specialist support

88



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# Outreach

- Rural nature of South Kesteven
- Accessibility
- Aging population

6

- Bourne
- Market Deeping
- Deeping St James



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# Debt

- National Contracts
- Specialist Service
- Referral Route
- Open to South Kesteven residents
- Mon-Fri 52 weeks per year



# Who we deliver services to in SKDC

- 91% White British
- Mostly 30-59 years old (54%)
- Largest group is 60-64 years old (11%)
- 60% women
- 50% Disability/Long-term health



# What the issues are for people in SKDC

- Benefits (31%)
- Housing (11%)
- Debt (9%)
- Employment (8%)
- Relationships and family (8%)
- Legal (6%)
- Charitable Support (5%)
- Utilities (4%)
- Consumer goods (4%)
- Immigration and asylum (3%)



# The difference CASL services make

- Core and Adviceline
  - April 2025 – Dec 2025
  - 1,415 people seen
  - 3,284 issues dealt with
  - £1.2m Financial gain
- All CASL services
  - April 2025 – Dec 2025
  - 1,982 people seen
  - 6,436 issues dealt with
  - £2.6m Financial gain



# Case Study 1

- ‘Jane’ – energy bills
- Vulnerable and on low income
- Addressed immediate need
- Identified and established additional support
- Empowered ‘Jane’ to discuss with energy provider



# Case Study 2

- ‘Andy’ – partner had recently died
- Distressed and overwhelmed
- Came to us for advice over a couple of appointments
- Enabled him to move forward



# The value CASL adds to SKDC

- Connecting Communities
  - Tackling inequalities
  - Supporting wellbeing and reducing isolation
- Sustainable South Kesteven
  - Managing energy costs
  - Accessing 'green' schemes
- Enabling Economic Opportunity
  - Increasing household income (Increasing Benefits and reducing debts)
  - Supporting job retention
- Housing
  - Preventing homelessness through intervention
  - Promoting and supporting housing rights
- Effective Council
  - Reducing demand on council services
  - Value for money (Volunteer workforce)



# The information we provide SKDC

What we currently provide:

- Quarterly Returns
- Service Specific Information

27

What we could provide:

- Ward reports for Local Councillors
- Data more aligned to SKDC's Priorities



South  
Lincolnshire

# CASL and SKDC collaboration

Together, we are exploring the following:

- CASL presence in Customer Service Centre (short/medium term)
- Co-location in SKDC offices (long term)
- Support delivering services (Food Voucher Scheme)
- Regular updates to Scrutiny Committee



# Any questions?



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# **The Environmental Health Commercial Team**

**Christian Polzin**  
Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)

# Meet the Team

Ayeisha Kirkham  
Head of Public Protection

Christian Polzin  
Environmental Health  
Manager

Adele Convery  
Technical Support  
Officer

Claire Watson  
Food Health & Safety  
Officer

Hazel Dunthorpe  
Environmental Health  
Officer

Maciej Olbrys  
Food Health & Safety  
Officer

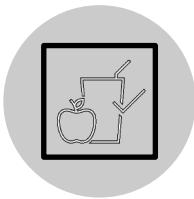
David Green  
Food Health & Safety  
Officer

Susanna Willis  
Food Health & Safety  
Officer

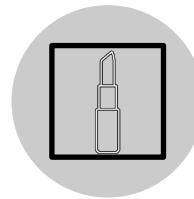
Natasha Woodford  
Degree Apprentice



# Overview of what we do



Food safety and  
Hygiene



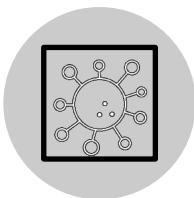
Cosmetic treatments



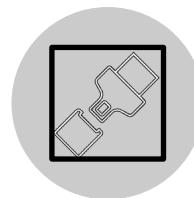
Health and safety



Private water supplies



Public health and  
infectious diseases



Other work: Event  
safety, Smokefree  
regs, tanning salon

# Examples of cases

Nursery must pay £20k over toddler 'scared for life'



GEOGRAPH

The girl's mother said her daughter had been scarred for life and she will need more surgery and more treatments as she grows up

Naj Modak

BBC News

24 July 2025

A nursery has been ordered to pay more than £20,000 in costs after a toddler was left "scared for life" by scalding water.

DAVID BOWIE: A CELEBRATION OF HIS LIFE AND LEGACY

## Lincolnshire hotel with dangerous electrics fined £220,000 for serious health and safety failures

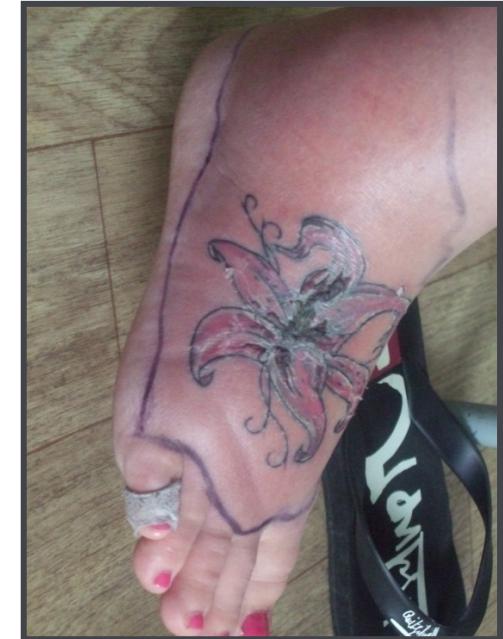
Guests and staff were exposed to risks



Comments 0

NEWS By Paul Whitelam Senior reporter

05:00, 23 Mar 2020



NEWS

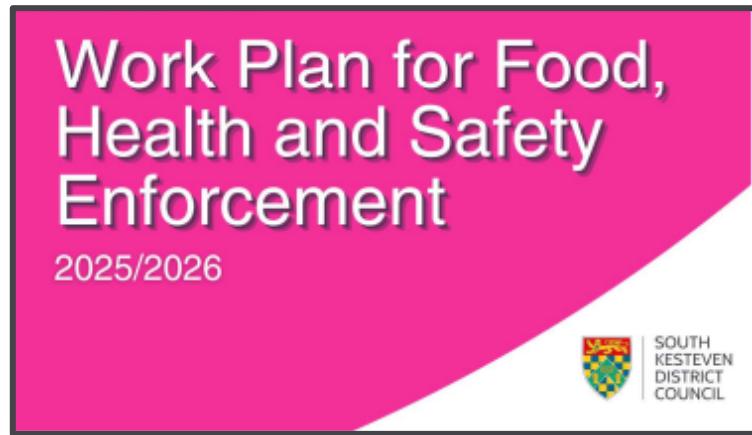
## Food safety failings cost deli £32,000

READ MORE



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# How do we plan?



[www.southkesteven.gov.uk/  
environmental-health/food-  
health-and-safety-  
enforcement-work-plan](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/environmental-health/food-health-and-safety-enforcement-work-plan)



# Collaborating our work on the National Stage

36



1

Presented at 2 national conferences

2

Blogs, scores on the doors

3

Food standard agency working groups

4

Coaching and mentoring

5

Linking with other services e.g. eco-development



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# What does the future hold?

Maintaining successes, KPIs, government returns, staffing

LGR – in particular food and feed 'standards' and trading standards

Challenges around food fraud and imports/exports – especially supporting businesses

New regulations – supporting SIA around Martyn's Law, new licensing regime for non surgical cosmetic treatments (Botox, fillers, BBL)

Hopefully not another pandemic





**Thank you for listening  
- any questions?**



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# Commercial Team : reflecting on 2024/25

The Food, Health and Safety functions at SKDC support residents to live happy, safe and thriving lives. They support the economy, protect the environment and ensure public health and safety across South Kesteven



The Environmental Health Commercial Team supports new businesses in the early planning stages, getting them off to the best possible start



Supporting safety planning at large scale public events

Checking gas safety in food outlets, resulting in some businesses being closed and made safe

99 official infectious disease notifications, almost double that of the previous year

The team responded to a large international outbreak of gastroenteritis linked to a youth activity centre in the district

“Everything I would expect from a great team, approachable, informative, knowledgeable and Consistent. Our experience with the officer from SKDC has been professional and helpful all the way” - Alan Buck, Proprietor, The Craftier Cafe, Fulbeck

Investigated all NHS sites and care homes in response to an urgent UK Listeriosis incident. 3 deaths and serious illness triggered the removal of products from the food chain

The district is home to 163 skin piercing premises and 380 individual operators (an increase of 15%)



Undertaking visits to funeral homes as part of an urgent national response, ensuring lawful funerals & cremations



The investigation of a serious scalding accident at a children's nursery involving a young child, leading to court action

Health and Safety is enforced in around 2310 premises

75 private water supplies are monitored by SKDC

15 enforcement notices served

During 2024/25 100% of food businesses achieved at least a '3' rating at their first inspection

“We are proud to collaborate with SKDC in our shared commitment to maintaining a safe, clean, and welcoming resort environment. This partnership reflects our dedication not only to the well-being of our team and guests but also to the wider community, whose support and engagement are integral to the resort's continued success” - Michael Stenson, General Manager, Belton Woods Hotel & Resort

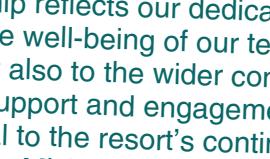
“As a new hospitality business we've found the support from SKDC's Public Protection team invaluable. They were clear, approachable and genuinely wanted to help us get things right from the start. The guidance they gave us helped us with our confidence in meeting good safety standards” - Becky, Owner, The Fighting Cocks, Corby Glen

540 food hygiene inspections taken place

5 food hygiene ratings achieved

4 food hygiene ratings achieved

3 food hygiene ratings achieved



81% of food businesses achieved the top 5' hygiene rating



“As a new hospitality business we've found the support from SKDC's Public Protection team invaluable. They were clear, approachable and genuinely wanted to help us get things right from the start. The guidance they gave us helped us with our confidence in meeting good safety standards” - Becky, Owner, The Fighting Cocks, Corby Glen



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## Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 27 January 2026

Report of Councillor Richard Cleaver,  
Cabinet Member for Property and  
Public Engagement

## South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan

### Report Author

Bethany Goodman, Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead

 [bethany.goodman@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:bethany.goodman@southkesteven.gov.uk)

### Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the progress and delivery of the South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, and to provide an update on the progress of the work being undertaken in South Kesteven as part of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities.

### Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1. Note the information provided within this report and suggest any enhancements to the extent and clarity of the information produced for the next six-monthly update.**

### 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 financial implications for the Council in relation to this report. The work completed to date has been undertaken within identified budgets. If any initiatives are identified which require budget or investment, then an appropriate business case will be developed which identifies the cost and the associated benefit to the community.

*Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer*

### ***Legal and Governance***

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

*Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager*

### ***Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion***

- 1.3 The Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination based on a range of characteristics, one of which is age. The Health and Wellbeing Action Plan covers activity for people of all ages and abilities regardless of any additional protected characteristic and every effort is made to meet the needs of participants in, and beneficiaries of, the work which is undertaken to meet our health and wellbeing commitments.
- 1.4 In addition to the legal duty, there are many advantages to providing an environment in which people can grow old well and feel supported. Feeling disconnected from society can have an adverse effect on people's mental and physical health, which in turn can lead to increased support being required from the Council and community health services.
- 1.5 The ability to grow old well and live an independent life does not only rely on an individual's personal capability but also on the social and physical environments in which they live. Ensuring the district provides a supportive environment can play an important role in assisting older residents to maintain activity levels and their independence for longer.

*Completed by: Carol Drury, Community Engagement Manager*

## 2. Background to the Report

2.1. This report is broken down into two key areas as follows for ease of reading:

- An overview of South Kesteven's Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and progress made to date.
- An update on the progress of Age Friendly Communities work in South Kesteven.

**A. An overview of South Kesteven's Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and progress made to date.**

2.2. The Council's Corporate Plan (2024-2027) identifies Connecting Communities as a key priority. This includes an ambition to work effectively with partners in the voluntary, private and public sectors to tackle inequalities including those relating to health and unemployment, especially in areas of highest need.

2.3. The Action Plan is aimed at achieving improved health and wellbeing outcomes for the residents of South Kesteven and is structured around five lever areas:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Activity and Wellbeing
- Environment and Climate
- Economic Inclusion
- Working with Communities

2.4. Officers continue to work collaboratively across service areas to deliver the actions identified, with the Lead Officers for each of the five lever areas providing an update on progress.

2.5. Since June 2025, Officers have continued delivering the actions on the Action Plan which can be found at **Appendix One** of this report.

2.6. It is worth noting that many of the actions within the Action Plan are considered as 'ongoing' as some of these are continuous or span several years. The commentary provides a clearer picture of the great work that is being delivered across the district.

2.7. The seven Lincolnshire districts continue to work together, with representatives from each district meeting regularly to provide updates and share ideas. The working group continues to work alongside partners and stakeholders via representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board, to develop and deliver plans to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

**B. An update on the progress of Age Friendly Communities work in South Kesteven**

- 2.8. Within the Council's Corporate Plan (2024 - 2027) the Council has identified its mission to be 'A thriving District to live in, work and visit'. This is under-pinned by the priority of Connecting Communities which aims to enhance the strength, wellbeing and capacity of communities across the district, and work towards providing a cohesive society that all our residents can be proud to belong to. Particularly pertinent to this report, the Corporate Plan recognises that South Kesteven has an ageing population.
- 2.9. The Council will need to follow the four-step programme as set out by the World Health Organisation (WHO), with the first step being 'Engage and Understand'. As political commitment has already been obtained, the next steps are to form a committee of stakeholders and gather findings.
- 2.10. The Council has engaged with organisations that work directly with, or support, older adults with a survey which was launched in July 2025. A total of 44 organisations responded.
- 2.11. A further survey is due to be circulated in early 2026 to residents aged over 50 within the district, to understand what it is like to live, work and age within South Kesteven. The Centre for Ageing Better note that inequalities start to form in individuals aged 50 and over.
- 2.12. This survey will gather insights from people in specific geographic areas. The data will be reviewed, and this will form our three priority domains for the work that is undertaken within South Kesteven over the next 4 years. Three further subgroups will be formed with older people to focus on each priority.
- 2.13. Walking audits in each market town and select rural destinations is due to take place in early 2026, monitoring what it is like to walk through a neighbourhood. The aim is to identify any barriers such as uneven paths, poor crossings and lack of seating, whilst also identifying strengths such as safety and accessibility.
- 2.14. The baseline profile for South Kesteven will be finalised by March 2026 and this will lead the direction of future work that will be undertaken.

### **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1. The adoption of a bespoke local action plan for South Kesteven has allowed the Council to tackle health inequalities across the district in line with the Council's Corporate ambitions and has ensured actions are targeted to drive improvements at a local level.
- 3.2. Continuing to work collaboratively with the other six Lincolnshire district authorities provides the opportunity to identify synergies across Lincolnshire and allows district colleagues to share best practice and learn from each other.

3.3. Becoming an Age Friendly Community allows the Council and its residents to access tools, support and guidance from the Centre for Ageing Better and other networks across the UK. It also supports the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic ambition to coordinate a county-wide response to the opportunities and challenges presented by ageing.

#### **4. Other Options Considered**

4.1. South Kesteven District Council is committed to developing an ambitious agenda for improving health and wellbeing across the district. Continuing to work on and deliver the actions identified will drive forward these results. In addition, Members of the Cabinet have approved the Council working towards becoming an Age Friendly Community. Therefore, the 'do nothing' option was discounted.

#### **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

5.1. The local action plan has been developed to ensure the identified activity to improve health and wellbeing outcomes across South Kesteven aligns with the Council's corporate vision and will deliver benefits for district residents.

5.2. Members are requested to monitor progress on the delivery of the identified actions to ensure the positive outcomes the Council is seeking, are delivered.

#### **6. Appendices**

6.1. **Appendix One** – South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan – Update as of December 2025.

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*Overall objective: Improve the supply, quality and coordination of services to meet housing needs and demands.*

Housing and Homelessness: Identified Action	South Kestevens Action Plan	By When	By Whom	Completion Status	Progress as of December 2025
Coordinate the effective delivery of homelessness services through a partnership driven and evidence-based homelessness strategy.	Continue to provide the statutory homelessness function which delivers on the priorities as set out in The Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy	Ongoing	Sarah McQueen	Ongoing	Initiatives for utilising the Homelessness Prevent grant funding in new and innovative ways are being explored
Establish future investment strategies to meet current and emerging needs for care and support.	Focus on support initiatives to increase the number of homelessness preventions	Ongoing	Sarah McQueen	Ongoing	We have recently awarded a new contract for a 'Move on Service' with a third party. This will focus on early homelessness prevention and support
Bring more empty homes into use in order to improve the supply of properties available within the county.	Work collaboratively with colleagues in council tax to identify available empty properties	Ongoing	Tom Amblin-Lightowler	Ongoing	Council tax empty property list is now reviewed monthly to identify empty properties and look at which properties to target.
	Build stronger relationships with landlords to offer support and advice to enable properties to be brought back into use	Ongoing	Tom Amblin-Lightowler	Ongoing	SKDC hosted a Landlord Forum on the 7th November 2025 and will be hosting further next year.
	Explore options around bringing those properties back into use.	Ongoing	Tom Amblin-Lightowler	Ongoing	Processes have been established and the Empty Homes Officer is now working with empty home owners to tackle long term empties.
Deliver new housing to meet housing needs and demands, meeting zero carbon targets and recognising all levels of affordability.	Ensure a responsive and robust approach to any reports of properties in poor repair in private sector.	Ongoing	Tom Amblin-Lightowler	Ongoing	The Private Sector Housing Team continues to undertake this work and review working processes. The team is currently getting ready for the Renters Rights Act 2025 burdens
Improve the quality of existing properties across all tenures and reduce the cost of poor housing to health, care and society.	Ensure that all Council Homes meet decent Homes standards	Ongoing	Sarah McQueen	Ongoing	Our recently adopted Housing Strategy details out priority of 'Continual improvement of the quality, standard and safety of homes.' Our ambition is to ensure that all our stock complies with the decent homes standard
Reduce levels of overcrowding as a means of reducing health risks.	Additional priority given to households in overcrowded conditions on the housing register.	Ongoing	Sarah McQueen	Ongoing	Continue to give priority to those households in overcrowded conditions
Improve services to extend people's housing choices in preparation for later life	Ensure our aids and adaptations process is fit for purpose and applied consistently	Ongoing	Sarah McQueen	Ongoing	Aids and adaptations process in place, steps to be taken to review this and adopt as a policy
Ensure services to support people to remain living in their current home complement each other as a system-wide approach.	Effective management of the DFG application service	Ongoing	Tom Amblin-Lightowler	Ongoing	The team continues to improve working practices and the latest figures demonstrate significant gains in the way applications are managed
	Work collaboratively with partner agencies to support and enable people to continue to live in their current home	Ongoing	Tom Amblin-Lightowler	Ongoing	The collaborative working continues and SKDC representatives now chair the LHAHG

Overall objective: To address inactivity across the county - improving access and opportunity for all residents to be active and participate.

Activity and Wellbeing: Identified Action	South Kestevens Action Plan 2025-2026	By When	By Whom	Completion Status	Progress as of December 2025
<b>Active Place:</b> Develop a plan to be able to positively influence the planning system/external decision making in the area	Openly share the SKDC Sport and Physical Activity Strategy with partners to achieve common goals.	Ongoing	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	Currently refreshing the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy which is due to be presented to Culture and Leisure OSC in February 2026 and Cabinet in March 2026.
	Work with the partners in the Playing Pitch Strategy to access funding opportunities for the identified requirements.	Ongoing	Leisure	Ongoing	This work is ongoing and relies on funding applications being accepted. The identified requirements in the playing pitch strategy increases the likelihood of funding being accepted.
	Work with partners to review and refresh the current Sport and Physical Activity Strategy ahead of 2026.	Mar-26	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	Currently refreshing the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy which is due to be presented to Culture and Leisure OSC in February 2026 and Cabinet in March 2026.
<b>Active Place:</b> Make better use of green spaces across Lincolnshire and maximise opportunities for residents and visitors to be active in Lincolnshire	Upskill volunteers to deliver Our Parks sessions to deliver free outdoor fitness classes in SKDC open spaces	Dec-25	Beth Goodman/Parks	Completed	Free 'Our Parks' sessions launched in November at Wyndham Park Visitor Centre.
	Promote outdoor gym use working with Active Lincolnshire ensuring the maps in the district are displayed on the outdoor gym finder/Lets Move Lincolnshire.	Ongoing	Alison Lewis	Completed	The outdoor gym finder has been updated on the Active Lincolnshire website to display the new outdoor gyms within the district
	Promote open spaces and outdoor leisure provision.	Ongoing	Leisure/Planning	Ongoing	The Leisure and Parks teams continue to work together with promotion of outdoor activities as well as promotion on social media and SKDC website
	Retain Green Flag status in the parks.	July, 2025	Sharon Haythorn	Completed	This was successfully achieved across the Grantham Parks in 2025. A new Senior Parks and Cemetery Officer has joined the team following Sharon Haythorn's retirement
	Work closely with local organisations to promote cycling opportunities in the district	Summer 2025	Beth Goodman	Completed	Through the 'Health and Wellness Day's', local cycling clubs will be engaged with to promote their clubs. During Great Big Green Week in June 2025, the local cycling clubs were invited to attend the roadshow.
	Continue to promote green spaces as a positive place to promote mental and physical wellbeing, working with partners	Ongoing	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	The Leisure and Parks teams continue to work together with promotion of outdoor activities as well as promotion on social media and SKDC website

<b>Active Place:</b> Widen the focus from commercial leisure offer and asset-based physical activity to activity outside, in the home and in the workplace	Regularly connect with Lincolnshire County Council/Active Travel England to positively influence Active Travel, encouraging the planning team to apply for funding provision and developments of public footpaths and cycleways.	Ongoing	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	Quarterly meetings with LCC continue to take place and plans are being made to arrange walking audits of each market town to assess the pavements, drop kerbs etc. primarily to identify how suitable they are for older adults to move through our towns.
	Look at costings and accessibility of leisure centres to break down barriers of accessing health facilities.	Ongoing	Michael Chester	Ongoing	DDA audits currently being completed across the leisure facilities. Once completed these will be reviewed and where appropriate actions taken. Findings will be taken into consideration as part of the Leisure Investment programme of works.
	Work with Lincolnshire County Council to create maps of community assets with the benefits of being active linking the green spaces, community foot and cycle paths alongside displaying the benefits of active travel on climate change.	Mar-26	Beth Goodman/Serena Brown	Ongoing	This links in with the Environment and Climate lever and officers continue to work with LCC. Walking audits are scheduled for each market town which links in well with the Age Friendly Communities work.
	Continue to work on the actions identified in the condition surveys and undertake feasibility studies with the UKSPF to ensure facilities remain attractive, accessible, and available to residents.	Ongoing	Leisure/Property	Ongoing	Programme of works in place focussing on category D and C items from the condition surveys. An additional Leisure Investment Reserve of £500k has been created which will focus on cosmetic improvements of the changing room facilities at each centre and the stadium during 2026.
<b>Active People:</b> Provide Opportunities and programmes across communities to enable residents to take part in regular activity	Increase awareness and benefits of physical activity in South Kesteven through networking and marketing, including the use of the Activity Finder on the Let's Move Lincolnshire platform.	Ongoing	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	The activity finder is promoted at each external event that is delivered and continues to be promoted on social media and the website.
	Work with stakeholders to provide ample opportunities and programmes within South Kesteven, targeting all ages/abilities by hosting 'Give it a Go' days.	Ongoing	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	The Grantham Health and Wellness Day took place on 1st November 2025, with future events being scheduled for early 2026 in other market towns across the district.
	Continue to develop Lincolnshire Co-op Wellbeing Walks to ensure there are opportunities in each market town	Ongoing	Lincs Coop	Completed	There are opportunities for Wellbeing Walks in each market town including more rural parts of the district.
	Work with the Centre for Ageing Better and the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities to create a baseline profile	Mar-26	Age Friendly Working Group	Ongoing	A organisation survey was held in 2025 and a survey for residents (over 50) is due to go live shortly. A baseline profile is currently being created and we aim to have this completed by March 2026.

	Use the Workforce Wellbeing Plan to deliver a range of initiatives for council employees.	Ongoing	Wellbeing Team	Ongoing	Work continues to deliver a range of wellbeing initiatives to SKDC employees.
<b>Active System:</b> Creating leadership, governance and partnerships, and workforce capabilities across sectors to use resources in a more coordinated way to reduce inactivity.	Work with local leisure providers to deliver rehabilitation programmes for those living with long term health conditions and older adults.	Ongoing	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	Working with Lincoln City Foundation, LeisureSK and SHEAC (Stamford Health Educational Awareness Charity), a new 'Fighting Fit' cancer class is due to take place in early 2026 in Stamford at the Rugby Club.
<b>Active System:</b> Each district council to develop opportunities to positively influence internal/corporate decision making in their local area and embed in governance processes	Regularly meet with the First Aiders for Mental Health	Ongoing	Wellbeing Team	Ongoing	Quarterly network meetings with the First Aiders for mental Health continue to take place. Other work continues to take place through the 'importance of physical activity' conversations.
<b>Active System:</b> Proactive and inclusive approach to sharing learning, best practice and opportunities for collaboration.	Join the wellbeing network groups with local connectors to cover the district.	Ongoing	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	Part of the Grantham Mental Health Partnership Board which meet monthly and share ideas with local connectors.
<b>Active System:</b> Proactivity engage across the NHS to encourage innovation and creativity to enable health, wellbeing and physical activity within planning consultations.	Work with PCNs, Neighborhood leads and social prescribers to create successful partnerships to share best practice and opportunities.	Ongoing	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	Continue to meet regularly and explore ideas, ensuring all opportunities are promoted.
	Research and develop a plan for place-based partnerships and opportunities with partners.	Mar-26	Beth Goodman/Active Lincolnshire	Completed	Active Lincolnshire have successfully obtained 500k for a Universal Place Offer with planning and delivery taking place from January 2026
	All activities planned through all organisations should deliver on the five ways to wellbeing; be active, connect, take notice, keep learning, and give.	Ongoing	Beth Goodman/All	Ongoing	All work that is delivered continues to be focused around the five ways to wellbeing.

Overall objective: Improve understanding of the links between environment and health and maximise opportunities to deliver on both.

Environment and Climate: Identified Action	South Kestevens Action Plan	By When	By Whom	Completion Status	Progress as of December 2025
Improve air quality, particularly in designated management areas.	To regularly review the annual air quality statement and track progress on South Kesteven monitoring sites.	Ongoing	Ayeisha Kirkham	Ongoing	An annual report is completed in June each year and reviewed by DEFRA. This annual status report is uploaded on SKDC's website.
Accelerate transition towards active travel	Continue to work with LCC. This action also links in with the Activity and Wellbeing Lever	Ongoing	Serena Brown	Ongoing	Quarterly meetings with LCC continue to take place
Promote and increase uptake of electric vehicles	New EVCPs to be installed in reinstated Cattlemarket car park in Stamford	Aug-25	Serena Brown	Completed	Further works underway to review future locations for additional EVCPs
Mobility: provision and uptake of public transport services	Continue to work with local transport boards	Ongoing	Planning	Ongoing	SKDC will continue to work with LCC and attend the local transport boards however LCC has cancelled all board meetings since May 2025
Improve domestic energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions	40 properties upgraded in South Kesteven under Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 (HUG2) funding. 318 SKDC owned properties upgraded using Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. New scheme to be launched in 2025	Ongoing	Serena Brown	Ongoing	Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund project being delivered for SKDC properties. Consortium delivery of Warm Homes: Local grant underway
Joint work to reduce carbon emissions from all Councils (Lincolnshire County Council and districts)	Carbon emissions report for 2023/24 reported a 25% reduction against baseline, target is 30% by 2030.	Mar-26	Climate Team	Ongoing	A carbon emission reduction for 29.24% for 2024/2025 was reported
Reduce Carbon Emissions across all services to meet national carbon reduction targets	Climate Action Strategy published and Climate Action Plan underway which is due to be presented in November 2025	Ongoing	Climate Team	Ongoing	Climate Action Plan was presented to Environment OSC in November 2025
Understand the local impacts of a changing climate to improve community resilience.	Actions in Climate Action Plan to understand need for climate adaptation for SKDC operations and community resilience	Ongoing	Climate Team	Ongoing	Actions to understand areas of the greatest risk from extreme and disruptive weather included in the Climate Action Plan
Reduce waste output across the county and tackle key issues	To roll out new food waste caddies	Mar-26	Waste Services	Ongoing	Comms has been circulated to residents and events have started to take place to make residents aware
Improve open space provision that recognises the role of improved biodiversity, carbon storage and wellbeing benefits	Biodiversity Action Plan under development and due to be presented in Nov 2025	Nov-25	Serena Brown	Ongoing	Biodiversity Action Plan including relevant actions presented to Environment OSC in November 2025

Influence provision of healthy and sustainable food options	Continue to work with the Healthy Weight Partnership Board	Ongoing	Beth Goodman	Ongoing	Continue to attend Healthy Weight Partnership Board and have updated SKDC's website to include a healthy section page
Maximise opportunity of Local Plan Reviews	Regulation 19 for next Local Plan targeted for late 2025 and submitted for examination for Winter 2026	Mar-26	Emma Whittaker	Ongoing	The Local Plan review work is progressing and will be submitted for examination in December 2026

Overall objective: Reducing economic inequality and alleviating poverty as a fundamental driver for improving mental and physical health and wellbeing

Economic Inclusion: Identified Action	South Kesteven Action Plan 2025-2026	By When	By Whom	Completion Status	Progress as of December 2025
Embed strong strategic narrative/understanding to promote economic inclusion and health inequality linkages that deliver better outcomes	Ensure projects/interventions to test whether appropriate health/economic inequality outcome and outputs have/can be captured or weaved into the initiative.	Ongoing	Economic Development	Ongoing	Ongoing
<b>People in Employment:</b> Work with Lincolnshire employers to improve working conditions/environment particularly within low paid and insecure employment to improve their health and wellbeing and prevent health issues developing – whilst improving business productivity.	Lead by example, through partnership working - set out how organisations can improve working conditions	Ongoing	Economic Development/HR	Ongoing	Whilst this work is ongoing, SKDC Officers will deliver a presentation titled <i>Wellbeing Works: Building Age Friendly Businesses for the Future</i> to the Grantham Business Club community in January 2026, as part of the council's pledge to support the Age Friendly Communities project and wider wellbeing objectives.
<b>People in Employment:</b> Improve skills for those currently in work, enabling career progression, greater wage levels, better job security, greater productivity development – good for people and business – part of tackling in-work poverty.	Support the Federation of Small Business in its implementation of the Local Skills Improvement Plan.	Ongoing	Economic Development	Ongoing	The Economic Development team have regular contact with FSB and attend events they deliver. Additionally, FSB delivered the keynote at the Grantham Skills Summit in February 2025, and toured the Stamford event occurring later that month. The Business and Skills Officer is now a member of the newly formed Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) Governance Group, which the FSB and GLCCA are leading.
<b>People in Employment:</b> Increase volunteering to support the community and increase well-being for the volunteers themselves.	Fully implement the Volunteering in South Kesteven Policy, ensuring that volunteers are supported in their roles and receive appropriate training and leadership. Identify increased opportunities for volunteers to be involved in Council facilities and initiatives.	Ongoing	Economic Development	Ongoing	SKDC has supported the third sector through the UKSPF Impact Booster project, delivered by Harlaxton College and subsequently the refreshed Impact Booster, Advanced Social Economy Incubator, Social Economy Network and funded the Strengthening the Social Economy of South Kesteven report through UKSPF. The Volunteering in South Kesteven Policy has been fully adopted and is now operational. Volunteer roles have been successfully introduced and are ongoing at the Wyndham Park Visitor Centre and Guildhall Arts Centre. The variety of roles available is being extended across the parks service and volunteer roles are being introduced to Stamford Arts Centre.

<p><b>Supporting those most susceptible to economic change and transition:</b> Increase core sector resilience in Lincolnshire by supporting employers to adapt and respond to economic transitions caused by the pandemic, through addressing skills gaps with employees.</p>	<p>Support the Federation of Small Business in its implementation of the Local Skills Improvement Plan.</p>	Ongoing	Economic Development	Ongoing	<p>As above; the Economic Development team have regular contact with FSB and attend events they deliver to support the LSIP, as well as ensure they are a part of activity SKDC delivers to further this agenda (eg Skills Summits)</p>
<p><b>Supporting those most susceptible to economic change and transition:</b> Employee upskilling and retaining programmes for those in industries exposed to long-term change and decline.</p>	<p>Working with LEP, partners, review Lincolnshire and national landscape ahead of developing an approach to key industries</p>	Ongoing	Economic Development	Ongoing	<p>The Economic Development team foster relationships and networks with both businesses facing change and decline, as well as education providers to support interventions. The team also respond to funding streams to tackle challenges faced, where appropriate. Finally, officers ensure they are kept up to date and continue their own learning to stay ahead and offer the best service to businesses, e.g. attending conferences informing on the 2026 legislative changes.</p>
<p><b>Digital skills programme:</b> Residents have the digital skills to access health services, everyday services and employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Support stakeholders to build on the successfully delivered Skills Bootcamp (part of the Government's Lifetime Skill Guarantee), helping people gain skills for life.</p>	Mar-26	Economic Development	Ongoing	<p>Officers support education providers by signposting businesses and stakeholders to the Skills Bootcamps.</p>
<p><b>Digital skills programme:</b> Fully enabled digital FFTP (fixed fibre premises) infrastructure across the county using place appropriate technologies.</p>	<p>Support the telecommunications industry with an 'open for business' approach to rolling out fibre broadband across the district</p>	Ongoing	Economic Development/Planning	Ongoing	<p>Whilst this work is ongoing, the Local Plan 2011 - 2036 states: Proposals to enhance information communication networks, such as superfast broadband, will be supported across the district. New developments must be served by either: a. Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) technology; or b. Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) technology enabling access to broadband speeds of up to 80 megabits per second; or c. any other emerging communication technology.</p>

<p><b>Eliminate poor health from being a barrier to employment:</b> Create an intervention programme that supports residents with ill-health into employment.</p>	<p>Support DWP in the endeavours to help residents with ill-health towards employment</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Economic Development &amp; Community Engagement</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Whilst this work will always be ongoing, SKDC Supported Grantham College through the Employability Skills and Support Programme funded by UKSPF, which helps those furthest from the labour market, often with ill health move them closer towards sustainable employment and/or into training, learning or volunteering opportunities, as well as the Steadfast Connect2Grow programme which supports people with multiple and complex barrier, including health, that prevent them from participation in mainstream skills and employability support to access digital and vocational qualifications and guarantee interview opportunities.</p>
<p>Creating an environment to support development of the health and care sector to improve health related service provision (wide scale health attraction interventions).</p>	<p>Develop interventions with partners (including FE and college providers) to support recruitment/retention of employees within the health and care sector</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Economic Development &amp; Community Engagement</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Whilst this work is ongoing, the Skills Summit events showcase careers in the health and care sector to support recruitment into this sector.</p>

Overall objectives: Leverage unique links at place level to engage with communities

Working with Communities: Identified Action	South Kestevens Action Plan	By When	By Whom	Completion Status	Progress as of December 2025
<b>Capture and build on district community engagement knowledge and expertise:</b> Combine and codify the District's knowledge and approach to community engagement and empowerment, building on success and experience gained during the pandemic.	Series of funding and bid writing workshops to support project development and delivery by VCS across the district	Ongoing	Carol Drury	Ongoing	Workshops continue to be delivered across the district.
	Work with Harlaxton Manor on the Impact Booster programme which supports V&C sector organisations, charities and CICs to realise their goals	Feb-26	Carol Drury	Ongoing	Individual support meetings have taken place to date with five groups that participated in the Impact Booster Programme
	Council in the Community initiative to engage with residents face-to-face	Ongoing	Carol Drury	Ongoing	The Community Engagement Team continues to be a presence at community events to promote the work of the team
	Work with Armed Forces Families to help identify and provide support where needed to serving and veteran members of the military and their families	Oct-25	Paul Drury	Ongoing	Directory of support agencies produced and available in hard copy and via Connect to Support listing approx 120 agencies all working to support Armed Forces (serving and veteran) and their families
Expand district participation in current sector discussions across the wider system.	Ring-fenced financial support for Foodbanks and other food support agencies across the district	Mar-26	Carol Drury	Ongoing	The Council continues to provide funding to voluntary and community groups that provide food crisis support by means of simple application.
	Attendance at mental health groups, district health and wellbeing groups, food support groups	Ongoing	Carol Drury	Ongoing	There has been a dip in attendance at these groups due to staff shortage, however, going forward the new Community Development Officer will attend these groups and contributes on behalf of the Council
	Attendance at meetings and information sessions relating to Armed Forces Veterans	Ongoing	Debbie Nicholls/Paul Drury	Ongoing	Regular attendance at the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership and the Lincolnshire Military Veteran and Families Wellbeing Network
<b>Strengthen sector oversight and assurance:</b> Work with partners (Sector representative groups and County) to develop an agreed approach to sector oversight and assurance, harnessing community potential in a safe, effective way.	Work in collaboration with LCVS and other agencies to provide health checks and assurance relating to VCS	Ongoing	Carol Drury	Ongoing	This is an ongoing activity which is offered to newly set up groups and those which wish to expand their reach
<b>Enhance and sustain voluntary sector engagement and contribution:</b> Building on success during the pandemic, develop and formalize mechanisms to draw on volunteer capacity quickly and efficiently in response to emerging community needs e.g., flooding, pandemic.	Improve links with Parish and Town Councils	Ongoing	Carol Drury	Ongoing	The team is in regular contact with parish and town councils in relation to projects beyond their business as usual for which they are seeking funding

# Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2025/26

## WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE PRIORITY
<b>24 March 2026</b>				
<b>Crime Disorder and Local Partnership Working update - Presentation</b>	[External presenters]  Ayeisha Kirkham, Head of Service (Public Protection)	To receive a Crime Disorder and Local Partnership working update and presentation from Public Protection, Housing and Lincolnshire Police		Effective council  Connecting Communities
<b>Welfare &amp; Financial Advice Team update – Q3 2025/26</b>	Claire Moses, Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits, Customer Service and Community)	To provide the Committee with an update regarding the Household Support Fund (Q3 2025/26), and the wrap around support provided by the Welfare and Financial Advice team. This will detail the activity undertaken by the team, number of residents supported, value of support provided and an update regarding District, County and National activities		Enabling economic opportunities  Effective council
<b>Community Engagement Strategy Action Plan Update</b>	Carol Drury (Community Engagement Manager)	This report will provide an overview of activities and events which have been carried out to meet the Council's commitment to community engagement as outlined in the Community Engagement and Development Strategy – Our People, Our Place		Effective council  Connecting Communities

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE PRIORITY
		2024-2027. The report also provides an overview of plans to review and update the Strategy and its Action Plan.		

## Unscheduled Items

Report title	Issue	Originated	Corporate Priority
Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue 'Firestoppers' Presentation	To update the Committee on the work of the Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue team	10/12/2025	Connecting Communities
Small unmanned aircraft (SUA Drone) Policy	To seek comment on and recommend Cabinet approves the policy to allow officers, under strict control, to utilise small (under 250 grams) drones fitted with cameras. This would be to undertake inspections on properties to identify damage as well as pre planned maintenance inspections for works at height.		Effective Council

### 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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