

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Thursday, 30 July 2026 at 10.00 am
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House,
St. Peter's Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Committee Members: Councillor Murray Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Barry Dobson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Matthew Bailey, Councillor James Denniston, Councillor Gareth Knight,
Councillor Anna Kelly, Councillor Richard Litchfield, Councillor Robert Leadenham
and Councillor Chris Noon

Agenda

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

1. Public Speaking

The Council welcomes engagement from members of the public. To speak at this meeting please register no later than 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting via democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk

2. Apologies for absence

3. Disclosure of Interests

Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.

4. Minutes from the meeting held on 12 May 2026

(Pages 3 - 11)

5. **Updates from the previous meeting** (Page 13)
6. **Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**
7. **Visit from Grantham Town Football Club**
For the Committee to receive a presentation from Grantham Town Football Club on their aspirations for the club and developing community engagement.
8. **Corporate Plan 2024-27: Key Performance Indicators Report - End-Year (Q4) 2025/26** (Pages 15 - 27)
To present the Council's performance against the Corporate Plan 2024-27 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within the remit of this Committee for Quarter Four 2025/26.
9. **LeisureSK Ltd Financial Outturn Position** (Pages 29 - 38)
To provide an update regarding the finance performance and budget position of LeisureSK Ltd covering the provisional outturn for the financial year 2025/26.
10. **Work Programme 2026/27** (Pages 39 - 41)
11. **Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

Minutes

**Culture and Leisure Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**
Tuesday, 12 May 2026



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Committee members present

Councillor Murray Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Barry Dobson (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Matthew Bailey
Councillor James Denniston
Councillor Gareth Knight
Councillor Rhea Rayside
Councillor Tim Harrison

Cabinet Members present

Councillor Paul Stokes (Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Richard Cleaver (Cabinet Member for Property and Public Engagement)

Officers

Karen Whitfield (Assistant Director for Culture, Leisure and Place)
Jade Porter (Arts and Cultural Services Manager)
Michael Chester (Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces)
Beth Goodman (Health and Wellbeing Lead)
Lucy Bonshor (Democratic Officer)

LeisureSK Ltd Directors

David Scott
Councillor Philip Knowles

59. Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

60. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Emma Baker and Chris Noon who was substituted by Councillor Tim Harrison.

61. Disclosure of Interests

Councillor Denniston indicated that depending upon discussions, he may have to declare an interest if gym refurbishment was discussed in respect of Bourne and Stamford.

The Chairman of the Committee proposed to change the Order of the agenda with the Committee's permission, he proposed that agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12 be dealt with in the following order: 11, 12, 9 and 10.

No objections were received to the proposed change of order.

62. Minutes from the meeting held on 3 February 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2026 were proposed, seconded and agreed.

63. Updates from the previous meeting

There were currently no updates to be given.

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

The Deputy Leader made two announcements. On behalf of those present in the room and himself, the Deputy Leader thanked the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the work done by the Committee particularly in the last 12 months. The Deputy Leader stated that the Committee had been very constructive and had taken a progressive approach to the issues that the Committee had looked at and he felt that this was in part due to how the Committees had been chaired.

The Deputy Leader stated that at this time the previous year the Committee had congratulated Bourne Town Football Club on their achievements, the Deputy Leader felt that this year Grantham Town Football Club should be congratulated after being promoted after winning in the playoffs and he hoped that representatives from the club would be attending the July meeting of the Committee to give an update.

65. Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

The Deputy Leader presented the report which gave a final update on the delivery of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021-26 and a summary of the achievements up to March 2026.

The Council's Leisure Team had been responsible for implementing the actions identified in the Strategy which targeted key areas, working with partners to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to live healthy, active lifestyles.

The report covered activities that had taken place since September 2025 when the Committee were last updated in respect of actions taken. Activities included physical activity initiatives for council employees, partnership and collaborative working, activities delivered at the leisure facilities and an update on the Active Life Survey data from Sport England which were shown in an infographic.

Appended to the report was a refreshed Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026-31 with work underway to deliver the refreshed strategy which would include a refreshed Action Plan that would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee were asked to note the delivery and achievements of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021-26 and to note the refreshed Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026-31 which had been adopted. Work was ongoing to develop the Action Plan which accompanied the refreshed document.

One Member asked if there were any measures in place that assessed the actual health improvements of the Strategy. The Health and Wellbeing Lead indicated that data was being measured from Fingertips, public health data sets. Previously only Active Lives data had been taken, with the Fingertips data, this could be broken down and a more in depth look at the data could be reported to the Committee going forward.

Congratulations were given to the Deputy Leader and Councillor Tim Harrison for their work in getting the Grantham Skatepark up and running in Wyndham Park, Grantham. It was noted that the Skatepark was well used and the Member felt that this was a sign to residents about work that was being undertaken to help improve physical activity and health.

Members noted the report.

66. Cultural Strategy Six Monthly Update

Before presenting the Cultural Strategy six monthly update to the Committee, the Deputy Leader drew Members attention to paragraph 2.22 of the report which highlighted the four concerts in respect of the Music in Quiet Places programme. The report should also have included the concert by Simon Thacker, a composer and classical guitarist which was taking place on 9 July 2026 at St Stephen's Church, Careby.

The Council's Cultural Strategy 2023-26 was the guiding document for the Council's Arts and Culture Team and underpinned the cultural activity within the Council's three artistic venues, outreach activity across the district and how the team engaged with the wider cultural sector.

The report provided a six monthly update on the delivery of the Council's Cultural Strategy and the progress made against the agreed action plan and key performance indicators. The report outlined the programmed activity undertaken within venues and included outreach activity during the period which was wide ranging.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the newly established Events Programme which had been approved at the last Committee meeting and the strong participation in both the Live and Local scheme and the Music in Quiet Places programme. The programme demonstrated the Council's commitment to increasing access to arts and culture across the district. The report also outlined positive trends in audience engagement, marketing reach and partnership working which included the Newton 300 Programme and stakeholder meetings. The next steps in refreshing the Cultural Strategy were outlined in the report ensuring that it remained responsive to the needs and ambitions of the communities in South Kesteven. The recommendation contained in the report was for the Committee to note the report and provide any feedback to inform future updates and the development of the Cultural Strategy.

One Member made reference to the Skatepark Skills event in February half-term which, unfortunately, due to the weather had been cut short and asked if there was scope for future sessions to which the Arts and Cultural Services Manager stated that further skills days had been undertaken in April and extra activities organised with a BMX session planned for September 2026.

Another Member referenced Newton 300 which was a huge opportunity to promote Grantham and the surrounding area. The Assistant Director Culture, Leisure and Place stated that work was ongoing to organise a large stakeholder group to work together to collaborate and make the most of the opportunities presented by Newton 300. A further piece of work was being done much like with the Thatcherfest events, with cross marketing to make sure clashes didn't occur and that events complimented each other.

The Arts and Cultural Manager then spoke to the Committee in relation to the Architects of Air event, which was planned as part of the Newton 300 commemorations. The Luminarium was made in Nottingham and linked really well with Newton. The Installation had travelled all over the world and was a very sensory event with natural light. The Luminarium would be in Wyndham Park for nine days and would be open for nine hours a day and she urged Members to go on line and watch videos so that they could get a sense of what it was about. The event was confirmed as taking place in the Easter Half-Term in 2027.

Members noted the report.

67. Council Investment Plan Update

The Deputy Leader presented the report which was the same report that had been presented to the recent Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 May 2026.

The report updated the Committee on Phase 1 of the Leisure Improvements Programme and followed on from the report presented to the Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 November 2025 when the funding allocation criteria had been agreed.

The scope of works had been put together by Officers, consultants and with the help of Welland Procurement to procure the works through an open tender process. Nine formal submissions were received and following evaluation Northdown Property Services were identified as the preferred contractor. At the meeting on 5 May 2026 the Cabinet approved the award of the contract to Northdown Property Services.

Northdown Property Servicers were a leading property refurbishment and property maintenance company based in Peterborough and had experience of delivering similar projects with members of the team having differing trades. The total contract value (£321,222) had come in significantly under that budgeted (£500,000) and due diligence checks had been undertaken by Officers in respect of the costs contained in the tender with most savings being seen at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre. The pricing difference (£162,778) would be carried over to Phase 2 of the programme to allow for a greater scope of works to be carried out.

It was noted that there was the opportunity to vary works slightly if the chance arose whilst works were being carried out and a delegation had been put in place for the Section 151 Officer to utilise some of the savings if necessary. Work was on going with the consultants to identify the scope of the works for Phase 2 of the programme which would be procured with the Welland Procurement Team.

The Deputy Leader reminded the Committee that refurbishment works had been discussed for two years by the Committee. It was noted that during the refurbishment works there would be “a little pain” and that meant that the Grantham Meres Leisure Pool would have to be closed for a period of time. Work at Bourne and Stamford Leisure Pools could be completed without the need for pool closures, however this was unavoidable at Grantham.

Opportunities had been looked at to overcome this but unfortunately this had not been possible. Close working was being carried out with LeisureSK Ltd to keep the closure to an absolute minimum, but a closure of the pool would have to take place at the most convenient time to LeisureSK Ltd which was likely to be after the swim school programme had closed for the summer.

The Team Leader Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces informed the Committee that meetings had recently taken place with the contractor to finalise options and to see about keeping the Meres Leisure Pool open, but it was looking increasingly likely that the pool would have to close for a period of time due to health and safety issues whilst the refurbishment work was being undertaken.

One Member made reference to the previous meeting of the Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee where keeping the pools open had been discussed and he thanked the Deputy Leader for looking at whether this could be done and that they had looked to minimise closure where possible.

A further Member asked for more clarity around the health and safety issues and why the pool could not be kept open during the refurbishment works with various options being put forward, to which the Team Leader Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces responded.

A question in respect of the proposed refurbishment works at the Grantham Stadium was requested to which the Team Leader Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces responded. The works included improvements to the home and away changing areas, the main stand, ceiling replacements, new grids, improvement to shower areas, internal decorations, lighting replacements, ironmongery, new furniture and deep cleaning to the changing rooms. In Annex B the outside toilets would be refurbished in both the north and south stands and the main flooring in the corridor.

A further question was asked in respect of investment and challenges at the Stadium and the Chairman stated that lease discussions were still on going. A further comment was made in respect of the proposed pool closures making sure those with memberships are aware of this and it was stated that officers were liaising with LeisureSK Ltd and financial implications had been taken into account.

The Committee noted the report.

68. Work Programme 2025/26

One Member asked if the Grantham Canal Partnership could be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee to give a short presentation. It was stated that Members needed to be clear with regard to the remit of the Committee. The Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead informed the Committee that work was being carried out with the Canal Society and the Grantham Canal Partnership in respect of an event taking place on 6 June 2026.

One Member asked if it would be possible to have an update in respect of what was happening with regard to the Deepings Leisure Centre to which the Deputy Leader indicated that he would speak to the Leader to see when a proper update could come before the Committee.

69. LeisureSK Ltd Performance Report - Quarter's 3 and 4 2025/26

The Deputy Leader presented the report which provided the Committee with an update on the financial performance of LeisureSK Ltd for the period quarter 3 and quarter 4 2025/26. The performance requirements were as set in the Leisure Management contract objectives as per the new agency agreement which commenced in April 2025.

It was noted that some of the KPI's had changed from the previous Leisure Management contract. The data collected during year 1 would be used as baseline data going forward, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report, and would be used to assess the performance of LeisureSK Ltd going forward. Officers continued to undertake regular monitoring visits of each of the leisure centres and the sports stadium raising any issues requiring rectification whether this was the responsibility of LeisureSK Ltd Management Team or for the Council to rectify. The report was for noting.

One Member made reference to the NPS score and what was being done to accurately collect customer experience feedback at the leisure centres regularly rather than once a year.

The Team Leader Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces stated that as part of the wider contract with LeisureSK Ltd they had recently appointed a new Business Development and Customer Experience Manager and part of their role was to look at the customer journey and how they can improve this such as having a Customer Charter in place.

One of the Directors of LeisureSK Ltd confirmed this to the Committee and stated that he would feedback the Members request to the next Board meeting. Data and information was collated from different sources including Councillors, especially if something was not going right and the Board would look at how this could be addressed going forward and get on the "front foot" which the new Manager role would help with.

A further question was asked about the repayment terms of the loans, the length of repayment to which the Director of LeisureSK Ltd responded that the terms were seven years. In respect of Bourne the time was 2027 and Grantham was 2032.

70. LeisureSK Ltd Finance Update

The Chairman reminded the Committee that if there were questions in respect of the exempt papers attached to the report then the meeting would need to go in to private session to discuss them due their commercial sensitivity.

The Director of LeisureSK Ltd gave an overview to the Committee of the provisional financial year end 2025/26 for LeisureSK Ltd, the final Outturn Position report would come before the Committee in July 2026.

Costs projected from February forward showed an operating surplus of £136,000 which was an additional £65,000 over the surplus that had originally been budgeted for. A lot of the surplus was from income generated from events at Grantham. Challenges were around membership numbers at some of the sites and an increase was being felt with numbers slowly increasing. Savings had also been had from utilities; with a warm summer helping keep the pools warm and the Net Zero Pod would help with this going forward.

The LSK Business Plan for 2026/27 had showed at surplus of £184,000 when it was approved in December 2025 for the current financial year, which included the repayments on the loans previously mentioned by a Member of the Committee.

The Capital Programme contained money for improvements at Stamford around the gym area and work was on going looking at options for the best use of this space due to the challenges being encountered at Stamford due to other competition within the town.

The report showed a positive position with LeisureSK Ltd going forward and the Director appreciated the positive comments made by Members in respect of that.

The Chairman commented on the improvement of LeisureSK Ltd under the Directorship of Mr Scott and Councillor Knowles and the Teams guidance.

The other LeisureSK Ltd Director present, Councillor Philip Knowles asked if, rather than have the same reports go to two separate Committees whether a joint meeting of the Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee could be arranged. He appreciated that in the past there were concerns with how LeisureSK Ltd was performing but felt that time had now passed. The Chairman of the Committee acknowledged the comments made and indicated that this would be looked at going forward.

A Member asked what the Director of LeisureSK Ltd considered the biggest risks at the moment and whether Bourne was sustainable due to the nature of the building.

The Director of LeisureSK Ltd stated that one of the biggest issues was the up keep of the sites and working closely with Officers from the Council was a key area to ensure the sites remained health and safety compliant. Income stability was another area with reference being made to the investment in gym equipment previously at the Bourne site which unlike Stamford did not have the competition challenges. Having the right staff resources was another important

area within the organisation there were key people and it was important that resilience was there within the staff resource at all the sites. Due to the current climate fuel was also a risk at the present time.

A comment was made in respect of the meetings being held jointly also a question was raised about staffing costs to which the Director of LeisureSK Ltd responded.

A question was asked around membership sales and it was stated that due to the commercial sensitivity of the information this would be circulated to Members outside of the meeting.

➤ **Action**

Membership numbers to be circulated to Members outside of the meeting.

Various comments were made in respect of the Stamford site and the size of the gym, the Assistant Director Leisure, Culture and Place stated that extending the site had been looked at as an option, however it was not progressed due to the cost and investment that would be involved.

Members noted the report.

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

The Deputy Leader made reference to the following events congratulating those who were involved in the events not all of which were provided by the Council:

Deepings Literacy Festival
Bourne Outdoor Swimming Pool
Craft market held at Bourne Leisure Centre every third Sunday
Stamford Friday Market
Car Show to be held in Wyndham Park, Grantham 16 May 2026
Music in Quiet Places concerts

The LeisureSK Ltd Director confirmed membership numbers in respect of Grantham Meres Leisure Centre which had seen a steady increase following a request made earlier in the meeting.

72. Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at 3:12pm.

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Action Sheet

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Actions from meeting of 12 May 2026

Min no	Agenda item	Action	Assigned to	Comments/Status	Deadline
70	LeisureSK Ltd Finance Update	Membership numbers to be circulated to Members outside of the meeting.	David Scott (Director for LeisureSK Ltd)	The Director for LeisureSK Ltd provided membership numbers during the meeting.	Complete

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Culture & Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 30 July 2026

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

Corporate Plan 2024-2027: Key Performance Indicators Report - End-Year (Q4) 2025/26

Report Author

Charles James, Policy Officer

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Purpose of Report

To present the Council's performance against the Corporate Plan 2024-2027 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within the remit of this Committee for Quarter Four 2025/26.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. Notes and scrutinises the performance against the Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators in relation to the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2024-2027.

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 significant financial implications arising from this report.

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

Legal and Governance

- 1.1 Regular monitoring of service area performance is to be welcomed and represents good governance. This report is for noting and there are no significant legal or governance implications arising from the report.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan 2024-2027 was adopted by Council on 25 January 2024. It was proposed actions, key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets would be developed by the relevant Member led Committees, which would retain oversight of the performance management arrangements at a strategic level.
- 2.2 The actions within the remit of this Committee with accompanying measures were presented to and agreed by the Committee on 26 March 2024.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 This report is the fourth of the reporting cycle and covers the period January to March 2026 (Quarter 4 2025/26).

- 3.2 Appendix A presents the overall performance against the eight actions being presented in this session. Commentary by the responsible officer is provided for each action. Performance is summarised using a RAG system as follows:
- 3.3 Five of the actions are rated Green. These are actions which are on or above target as planned.
- 3.4 Three actions are rated as Amber, these are those off target by less than 10% or where milestone achievement is delayed but with resolution in place to be achieved within a reasonable timeframe.
- 3.5 Zero actions are rated as Red. These are actions that are significantly below target.
- 3.6 Zero actions are rated as N/A. These are actions for which work has not yet meaningfully commenced e.g. being sequenced on the completion of other items, or where data is unavailable.
- 3.7 The KPIs have been developed in close consultation with the relevant Officers for each service. It is expected that the KPI suite will experience a degree of evolution over the next four years. This improvement will be prompted by the needs of decision makers and the Committees, and further consideration of how to best meet those needs by Officers.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 As Council has agreed the Committees will lead monitoring performance, there are no viable alternatives. An absence of performance arrangements would mean the delivery of the Corporate Plan is unmonitored and prevent continuous improvement. A purely internal KPI suite would prevent effective and transparent scrutiny and accountability.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

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

6. Appendices

Appendix A – Corporate Plan 2024-2027 KPI Report: Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee End-Year (Q4) 2025/26

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Corporate Plan 2024-2027: KPI Summary Report 2025/26 – Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee							
Index	Priority	Action	Owner	Quarterly Overall Status			
				2025/26			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
COM2	Connecting Communities	Deliver the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and accompanying action plan.	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place)	On Target	On Target	On Target	On Target
COM3	Connecting Communities	Deliver the Cultural Strategy and accompanying action plan	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place)	On Target	On Target	On Target	On Target
COM4	Connecting Communities	Invest in a sustainable leisure and cultural offer.	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place) / Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader	On Target	Below Target	Below Target	Below Target
COM5	Connecting Communities	Ensure that our leisure facilities and arts venues are sustainable and meet future needs.	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place) / Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader	On Target	On Target	On Target	Below Target
COM6	Connecting Communities	Enable and support a flourishing and vibrant artistic and cultural scene	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place) / Arts and Cultural Services Manager	On Target	On Target	On Target	On Target
COM10	Connecting Communities	Maintain and enhance our green areas across the District.	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place)/ Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader	On Target	On Target	On Target	On Target
ECON10	Enabling Economic Opportunity	Continue to promote and develop South Kesteven as an attractive visitor destination, focusing on our cultural and heritage strengths	Economic Development Inward Investment Manager	Below Target	Below Target	Below Target	Below Target
ENVIRO4	Sustainable South Kesteven	Improve the energy efficiency of the leisure estate and review further renewable energy opportunities.	Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader	On Target	On Target	On Target	On Target

Corporate Plan 2024-2027: KPI Summary Report Q4 2025/26 – Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee							
Index	Priority	Action	Owner	Target/s	Q4 Value	Q4 Status	Manager Commentary
COM2	Connecting Communities	Deliver the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and accompanying action plan.	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place)	Deliver 100% of the Sport and Physical Strategy action plan actions.	See Commentary	On Target	The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021-2026 ended in March 2026, and a refreshed Physical Activity Strategy 2026-2031 was adopted in March 2026. The district's second Health & Wellness Day took place in Bourne in May 2026, building on the success of the Grantham event which was delivered in November 2025.
COM3	Connecting Communities	Deliver the Cultural Strategy and accompanying action plan	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place)	Deliver 100% of the Cultural Strategy action plan actions completed.	See Commentary	On Target	During Q4, several events were delivered including 'Skate Skillz', 'Spring Skillz', 'Wassail Lantern Making' and 'Covid Memorial Tree' sculpture installations. Newton 300 planning meetings have taken place with stakeholders which include community groups, businesses and freelance producers. A bid writing workshop has taken place to support interested stakeholders to a form a consortium and bid for activity to take place. A new events programme for 2026/27 has been developed and has been specifically designed to take cultural opportunities to rural areas, reach audiences that would not usually attend the Council's arts venues, and to engage with Deepings and Bourne residents where consultation has identified there are gaps in provision.

Corporate Plan 2024-2027: KPI Summary Report Q4 2025/26 – Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee							
Index	Priority	Action	Owner	Target/s	Q4 Value	Q4 Status	Manager Commentary
COM4	Connecting Communities	Invest in a sustainable leisure and cultural offer.	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place)	Amount of Council subsidy required by Leisure Service	£0	On Target	The new 10-year agency contract commenced between the Council and LeisureSK in Q1 2025/26 with the aim of providing a sustainable leisure offering. LeisureSK Ltd no longer requires a subsidy and the council is now benefiting from the positive performance of the company with a surplus of £149,200 being returned at the end of the 2025/26 financial year. Additional energy improvements, including the replacement pool circulation pumps at Grantham Meres, have been successfully installed during Q4 which will generate electricity consumption savings to the centre. Phase one of the leisure improvements programme to improve the cosmetic appearance of the changing rooms at each of the centres was successfully tendered during Q4 and a programme of works is now being delivered. The refurbishment of the gym at Grantham towards the end of Q3 has had a positive impact on the centre during Q4 with strong membership sales being achieved.
				Amount of Council subsidy required by Arts Service.	Current subsidy: Grantham (GAC) (£) 0 (£74,858.41 credit) Stamford (SAC): (£) 0 (£81,534.87 credit) Bourne Corn Ex: £6,050.06		At the end of the 2025/26 financial year, Grantham and Stamford Arts Centres were in credit.

Corporate Plan 2024-2027: KPI Summary Report Q4 2025/26 – Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee							
Index	Priority	Action	Owner	Target/s	Q4 Value	Q4 Status	Manager Commentary
COM4 (continued)	Connecting Communities	Invest in a sustainable leisure and cultural offer.	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place)	Attendance at Leisure Centres (presented for each centre)	Grantham: Total of 89,833 (13.20% decrease on Q3, and 20.27% decrease for the same period 2024/25) Bourne: Total of 63,492 (11.79% increase on Q3, and 1.52% decrease for the same period in 2024/25) Stamford: Total of 30,780 (16% increase on Q3 and 11.24% decrease for the same period in 2024/25)	Below Target	Overall attendance across all three leisure centres was 186,814. This is a 1.45% decrease on Q1, and 13.09% decrease on Q4 2024/25. Attendance at Grantham Meres is at the lowest level since Q3 2021/22. The decline is attributed to the closures which the centre experienced to undertake the decarbonisation works.
				Social Value generated at Leisure Centres (presented for each centre)	See commentary	On Target	There has been a change in how social value is calculated with several different methodical and presentational differences, so it is not possible to compare the data to previous iterations or the model. This KPI now displays the proportion of social value directly attributable to activities within the Council's leisure centres in the last 12 months. Total Social Value generated over the last 12 months for each centre is as follows: Grantham £1,730,527 Bourne £1,758,009 Stamford £1,160,780

Corporate Plan 2024-2027: KPI Summary Report Q4 2025/26 – Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee							
Index	Priority	Action	Owner	Target/s	Q4 Value	Q4 Status	Manager Commentary
COM5	Connecting Communities	Ensure that our leisure facilities and arts venues are sustainable and meet future needs.	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place) / Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader	*Number of rectifications issued for: cleanliness and maintenance (six monthly) (presented for each centre) (For information)	Bourne: 109 cleanliness/62 maintenance Stamford: 71 cleanliness/47 maintenance Grantham Meres: 210 cleanliness/126 maintenance Grantham Stadium: 140 cleanliness/104 maintenance	Information Only	Right Directions Quest accreditation (the UK quality scheme for sport and leisure) launched a new accreditation scheme in 2026. To date, only Bourne has been audited under the revised scheme. The current centre score bandings are: Grantham - Very Good, Bourne - Good, Stamford - Good. Inspections are undertaken to ensure a high level of customer experience and standards of cleanliness. These include any maintenance items on behalf of the Council and LeisureSK Ltd. A total of 12 visits were completed during Q4. There has been a reduction in complaints received by the Council and Officers have seen an improvement in standards during their site visits. Deep cleans continue to be scheduled at Stamford Leisure Pool and decoration works have been completed at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre to improve high foot flow areas.
				Quest Plus accreditation (external sector quality assessment for each centre)	All 3 centres achieved Quest entry level and were rated as 'Good' or 'Very Good'.	On Target	
				Public satisfaction score for leisure centres broken down by overall satisfaction, Net Promoter Score (NPS), in centre activity, Cleanliness (presented for each centre)	Bourne Overall Satisfaction:84.29 Net Promoter Score:16.67 Cleanliness:55.8 Grantham Meres Overall Satisfaction:70.43 Net Promoter Score:-0.91 Cleanliness:51.3	Below Target	The annual public satisfaction score for leisure centres were completed in Q3 2025/26 through the annual Sport England Moving Communities Customer Experience Survey. Compared to the 2024/25 survey by centre: Satisfaction has slightly increased at Bourne, but declined for Grantham and Stamford (82.1%, 80% and 80.88% for 2024/25 respectively).

Corporate Plan 2024-2027: KPI Summary Report Q4 2025/26 – Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee							
Index	Priority	Action	Owner	Target/s	Q4 Value	Q4 Status	Manager Commentary
COM5 (continued)					Stamford Overall Satisfaction:74.75 Net Promoter Score:-12.12 Cleanliness:37.37	Below Target	The Net Promoter Score has increased for Bourne but has sharply decreased for Grantham and Stamford. Both centres now have negative Net Promoter Scores (30.85, 9.09 and -1.51 for 2024/25 respectively). Perception of cleanliness has decreased for Bourne and Stamford and increased at Grantham. The figures for Bourne and Stamford in 2024/25 were 65.59% and 42.65%. The Grantham figure was 37.37%.
COM6	Connecting Communities	Enable and support a flourishing and vibrant artistic and cultural scene	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place) / Arts and Cultural Services Manager	Attendance numbers at venues (presented by venue and by whether the attendee is a resident of SKDC)	Grantham 32,150 tickets sold in 2025/26 (cumulative) (annual target 28,000) Stamford 45,344 tickets sold in 2025/26 (cumulative) (16,879 performances, 28,465 film) (annual target 37,000)	On Target	Ticket sales are tracking above target for each venue. Venue Managers are using fees and charges as a basis for hire, with discounts offered for bookings in line with the Cultural Strategy, or those that complement any programming gaps. Total ticket sales for 2025/26: Stamford Arts Centre (SAC) 45,344 (annual target 37,000) of which Stamford Arts Centre film programme sold 28,465 tickets. Grantham Guildhall 32,150 (annual target 28,000). 79.3% of tickets for the Grantham Guildhall were sold to residents of South Kesteven. In Stamford 61.8% of theatre tickets were sold to South Kesteven residents and 84% of film tickets.
				Take up of Rural Touring programme across the district.	See Commentary	On Target	A review has taken place with the Rural Touring programme managers which was positive and highlighted that South Kesteven is one of the areas with the most participating venues. 14 events were delivered across the district.

Corporate Plan 2024-2027: KPI Summary Report Q4 2025/26 – Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee							
Index	Priority	Action	Owner	Target/s	Q4 Value	Q4 Status	Manager Commentary
COM6 (continued)	Connecting Communities	Enable and support a flourishing and vibrant artistic and cultural scene	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place) / Arts and Cultural Services Manager	Utilise outreach budget so organise one activity/event with SKDC in the financial year.	See Commentary		The creation of an Events budget enabled several outreach events to take place towards the end of the financial year. This included 'Skate Skillz' days, 'Spring Skillz' days, Covid Memorial Tree ceremonies and the beginning of the SKDC Walking festival. All three artistic venues are used by a variety of hirers including youth drama groups, adult dance lessons, parties, meetings and other events. Where hirers provide a cultural activity on an ongoing basis that fits the aims of the Council's Cultural Strategy and artistic programme, it may be possible to offer a discounted rate.

Corporate Plan 2024-2027: KPI Summary Report Q4 2025/26 – Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee							
Index	Priority	Action	Owner	Target/s	Q4 Value	Q4 Status	Manager Commentary
COM10	Connecting Communities	Maintain and enhance our green areas across the District.	Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place)/ Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader	*Public satisfaction score from annual surveys for: Wyndham Park, Queen Elizabeth and Dysart Park	See Commentary	On Target	All three Grantham parks have retained their Green Flag status, and Wyndham Park has also retained its Green Heritage accreditation. An opportunity for the development of a community hub in Dysart Park is being explored with the Inspire+ charity, utilising a £70,000 grant from UKSPF. The 'Our Parks' low impact exercise classes have continued to run each week in Wyndham Park. These are led by a volunteer and attract 7 participants each week on average. The Skate Park in Wyndham Park was successfully completed in January 2026 and a launch event held in February 2026. Due to weather during February 2026 half term the Skate Skills workshop had to be postponed and was then subsequently held in April 2026 across the Easter weekend. Tennis court refurbishment works have also been completed in Dysart Park with the final court painting being completed in May 2026. A multi-use games area was successfully installed in Dysart Park during Q4 and has seen a large number of users take advantage of this new facility which is being used for football, basketball and netball.
ECON10	Enabling Economic Opportunity	Continue to promote and develop South Kesteven as an attractive visitor destination, focusing on our cultural and heritage strengths	Head of Economic Development	Adoption of a tourism strategic framework	Drafting Stage	Below Target	The development of a Visitor Economy Strategy is now progressing. The revised Economic Development Strategy will align activity with the strategies of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA).

Corporate Plan 2024-2027: KPI Summary Report Q4 2025/26 – Culture & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee							
Index	Priority	Action	Owner	Target/s	Q4 Value	Q4 Status	Manager Commentary
ENVIRO4	Sustainable South Kesteven	Improve the energy efficiency of the leisure estate and review further renewable energy opportunities.	Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader	Delivery of Projects	See Commentary	On Target	Decarbonisation works were completed at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre in Q4. The Council's contractors, Leisure Energy and Alliance Leisure have started to deliver the social value elements of the project across Q3 and Q4. The net zero pod and building management system have now been fully commissioned and is operational. The project included the installation of Air Source Heat Pumps, and other improvements included replacement pool air handling units, heating valves, air handling coils, calorifier, reception heating , pool circulation pumps, pool heat exchangers, high voltage transformer, and a new substation. During the initial 12 months of the additional Solar PV being installed a total of 237,568 kWh of solar electricity has been generated providing a grid electricity saving of £36,492.

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Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 30 July 2026

Report of David Scott, Director of
LeisureSK Ltd

LeisureSK Ltd Provisional Outturn 2025/26

Report Author

David Scott, Director of LeisureSK Ltd

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Purpose of Report

To provide an update regarding the finance performance and budget position of LeisureSK Ltd covering the provisional outturn for the financial year 2025/26.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to note the provisional outturn for the financial year 2025/26 update regarding the financial performance of LeisureSK Ltd.

Decision Information

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

Yes - Exempt Appendix One - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – financial information.

1. Background to the Report

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2024/27 sets out the key priorities for the Council including its leisure service. Encouraging sport and physical activity to support healthy lifestyles by reducing health inequalities and delivering a sustainable leisure offer helps to support the Council's corporate ambition and provides opportunities for improved health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities.
- 1.2 The Council's leisure contract with LeisureSK Ltd focusses on embedding an approach that seeks to continuously improve service delivery and customer experience.
- 1.3 LeisureSK Ltd is committed to supporting the Council achieving its ambitions of having a sustainable leisure and cultural offer as per the Corporate Plan 2024/27.
- 1.4 The new 10-year contract between the Council and LeisureSK Ltd commenced on 1st April 2025 under agency principles.

2. Key Considerations

- 2.1 Based on the draft outturn position, LeisureSK Ltd is anticipating an operating surplus for 2025/26 of £132,200 which is an overachievement of £60,600 against the budget. Under the agency principles this will be returned to the Council. More information regarding the detailed financial performance is provided in Exempt Appendix One as outlined previously to the committee regarding commercial sensitivity.
- 2.2. It is worth noting, the continuing improvement in the current financial position of the Company, which is discussed at each Board meeting. As a result of the draft outturn position, the initial £150,000 cashflow injection provided at the beginning of the financial year has substantially been repaid now. The final balance will be covered through the positive surplus budgeted for in 2026/27. The draft outturn is broadly in line with the forecast reported to this committee at its previous meeting which outlined a predicted forecast operating surplus of £136,200.
- 2.3. Overall Income has exceeded budget due to fitness income outperforming the budget at Grantham and better than expected personal training sales at Bourne. In addition to this Events have continued to be held regularly at Grantham Meres which have generated additional income.
- 2.4. There has been an overspend on staff costs due to the need for increased lifeguards at all three sites, driven by increased attendance at family splash sessions during the summer holidays. There has also been additional management training rolled out across all sites.

- 2.5. Utility costs have continued to perform well due to reduced consumption from the favourable weather conditions in the summer months and increased solar generation at Grantham Meres reducing the electricity usage.
- 2.6. Premise costs have increased in year due to the need for additional repairs and replacement of fixture and fittings across all the sites.
- 2.7. Marketing have increased in year to push membership sales and also promote the investment made at Grantham to generate increased membership sales which will help offset this cost.
- 2.8. Additional investment has been undertaken in year regarding end-of-life ICT equipment alongside increased software maintenance costs.
- 2.9. A formal update on the current 2026/27 financial year will be provided to the committee as it next meeting of the committee on 13 October 2026 which will include the impact from any closures whilst the investment works are being undertaken over the summer period.

3. Background Papers

- 3.1. None.

4. Appendices

- 4.1. Exempt Appendix One – Financial Performance 2025/26 Provisional Outturn

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/ PRIORITY
30 July 2026				
Visit from Grantham Town FC	Lead Officer: Karen Whitfield (Assistant Director for Leisure, Culture and Place)	A presentation from Grantham Town Football Club on their aspirations for the club and developing community engagement, (Visit to take place once the lease negotiations have been concluded)	Agreed by the Chairman at the meeting of CLOSC held on 14 October 2025	
Corporate Plan 2024-27: Key Performance Indicators Report - End-Year (Q4) 2025/26	Lead Officer: Charles James (Policy Officer)			
LeisureSK Ltd Financial Outturn Position	Lead Officer: David Scott (Director for LeisureSK Ltd)	To present the budget outturn for financial year 2025/26		
13 October 2026				
Grantham Canal Partnership Presentation				

REPORT TITLE	OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/ PRIORITY
LeisureSK Ltd Performance Report - Quarter 1 2026/27	Lead Officer: Michael Chester (Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces)	To provide an update on the performance of LeisureSK Ltd during quarter 1 in financial year 2026/27 against the leisure management contract objectives.		
Play Area Strategy Action Plan	Lead Officer: Michael Chester (Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces)	To report on progress on the Action Plan accompanying the Play Area Strategy	Annual update	
Sports and Physical Activity Update	Lead Officer: Beth Goodman (Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead)	Final review of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2021 – 2026)		
15 December 2026				
FUTURE ITEMS Play Area Strategy Action Plan – September/October 2026 Grantham Canal Partnership				

REMIT

The remit of the Culture and Leisure 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, yet not limited to:

- Arts and Culture
- Heritage
- Markets and fairs
- Sport and physical activity
- Leisure SK Ltd
- Visitor Economy

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