



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

5 January 2024

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive



Flood Response and Recovery Fund

To create a flood response and recovery fund to fund the costs associated with supporting areas of South Kesteven that have been badly affected by the heavy flooding in the aftermath of Storm Henk

Contact

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer

 richard.wyles@southkesteven.gov.uk

Decision made by:	Karen Bradford in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Cllr Richard Cleaver
Decision:	To create a Flood Response and Recovery Fund
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	n/a
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	In accordance with the financial regulations there is provision to create a fund to make emergency payments and in response to the recent flooding in parts of the district is proposed to create a fund of £35k. Provision can be found at Appendix A of the Financial Regulations under 'Emergency Payments'

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

- 1.1 This report requests the creation of a Flood Response and Recovery Fund of £35k which can be funded from the Local Priorities Reserve which currently has an unallocated balance of £3.152m.

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

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 In addition to the financial thresholds set out in the Financial Regulations within the Constitution, the Head of Paid Service also has delegated authorisation (subject to financial thresholds) to *'take any and all actions considered appropriate in an emergency to protect and/or further the best interests of the Council, the District of South Kesteven and/or the public, subject to:*

- a) Consultation with the Leader of the Council or in his or her absence the Deputy Leader and any appropriate Cabinet Member*
- b) A report of the action taken and the reasons behind it being presented to the next meeting of the Cabinet, Council or relevant Committee*
- c) Informing the Opposition Group Leader of the action that has been taken'*

Any use of this reserve will be monitored by the S151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Economic Development.

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

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 Parts of South Kesteven have been badly affected from heavy flooding in the aftermath of Storm Henk. Particular areas affected were parts of Stamford, Tallington, Deeping St James, Market Deeping, Greatford, Corby Glen, Creeton, Little Bytham, Baston and an area to the west of the South Forty Foot Drain.
- 2.2 The Council responded in a proactive way and led the coordination of the response setting up a dedicated incident room to monitor the continuing impact of the storm and how it might be affecting communities in order to co-ordinate its response.
- 2.3 Officers also undertake extensive visits to the affected areas to assess the situation on the ground and to offer advice and support to those adversely affected.
- 2.4 Hundreds of sandbags were distributed to the worst affected areas focussing predominately on our residents to help protect their homes.
- 2.5 As the work now moves to recovery phase which will include helping residents dispose of their damaged items, the cleaning up of the affected areas and responding to any other requirements that will help the communities recover, it is recommended that a specific reserve of £35k is created. The use of this reserve will be monitored by the S151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Economic Development.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council could choose to not create a Flood Response and Recovery Fund.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To create a Flood Response and Recovery Fund of £35k.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 To ensure funding is available for expenditure relating to the Flood Response and Recovery works.

Signed by: Karen Bradford, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
