



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

## Officer Delegated Decision

28 October 2024

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive  
and S151 Officer

### **Acceptance of grant from South Kesteven UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the Make Space for Nature Biodiversity Projects scheme – SK 2196**

This Officer Delegated Decision (ODD) report seeks approval to accept a funding grant award of up to £40,000 from the South Kesteven UK Shared Prosperity Fund and allow the Climate Change and Sustainability team to distribute the funding as detailed within the report.

#### **Contact**

Louise Case, Sustainability Project Support Officer



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<b>Decision made by:</b>	Richard Wyles – Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer
<b>Decision:</b>	To accept a funding grant of up to £40,000 to support biodiversity projects under the Make Space for Nature scheme.
<b>Public or Exempt:</b>	Public
<b>Reasons for exemption:</b>	N/A
<b>Conflicts of interest:</b>	No
<b>Policy compliant:</b>	Yes
<b>Details of delegation:</b>	The Council's Financial Regulations allow the Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer to approve grant awards within the limits set out in the Financial Regulations (Constitution).

## **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 The financial implications are detailed within the main body of the report.

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

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

1.2 The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer has the necessary delegated authority to take this decision. The Council will need to adhere to the rules and guidance for use of the grant funding.

Completed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive

## **2. The Purpose of the Report**

2.1 To overcome the ongoing degradation of our environment, the importance of integrating green infrastructure into urban environments has been identified as a crucial element of nature recovery. By altering our approach to the management of our open spaces, we can provide better habitats for wildlife, improve biodiversity, and increase amenity value.

2.2 Open spaces are excellent places for people to come together to cultivate a variety of grass, wildflower and tree species, and to use the area as a focal point for community activities. Biodiversity projects support pollinator populations and local wildlife, offering an opportunity to encourage engagement with nature recovery. It is the Council's ambition to support local biodiversity and enhance green space throughout the district.

2.3 As a result, the Council applied to the South Kesteven UK Shared Prosperity Fund for a grant of up to £40,000 to support town and parish council-led biodiversity projects. Following a proposed internal review process by the Awarding Panel, the Make Space for Nature Biodiversity Projects Scheme will fund 100% of costs associated with the implementation of biodiversity and rewilding measures within South Kesteven. Two application windows were decided: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

- 2.4 Whilst this list is not exhaustive, the funding opportunities that have been identified include funding grass and wildflower seeds, trees and hedging, ancillaries (canes, guards) and protection (e.g. fencing) as well as interpretation signage. The fund can also be used to purchase bird and bat boxes, bug hotels and hedgehog houses. Where appropriate, the fund could also be used to support the resources required for pond creation or the equipment required for building a community or kitchen garden.

### **3. Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 South Kesteven District Council could elect not to use the Shared Prosperity fund allocation for biodiversity improvement projects.

### **4. Preferred Option**

- 4.1 To accept an offer of grant funding of £40,000 from the South Kesteven UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to allow the Climate Change and Sustainability team to distribute this to successful town and parish councils following a comprehensive application review process.

### **5. Reasons for the Decision(s)**

- 5.1 To use the most appropriate financial resource to provide ongoing support to town and parish councils to deliver on biodiversity objectives and green space enhancement.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

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Dated: 28 October 2024