

MINUTES

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2024

2.00 PM



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councillor Paul Fellows Chairman
Councillor Ian Selby Vice Chairman

Councillor Matthew Bailey
Councillor Emma Baker
Councillor Rhys Baker
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Pam Bosworth
Councillor Pam Byrd
Councillor Richard Cleaver
Councillor Helen Crawford
Councillor Steven Cunningham
Councillor James Denniston
Councillor Phil Dilks
Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren
Councillor Barry Dobson
Councillor Patsy Ellis
Councillor Phil Gadd
Councillor Ben Green
Councillor Tim Harrison
Councillor Graham Jeal
Councillor Gloria Johnson
Councillor Anna Kelly
Councillor Jane Kingman
Councillor Gareth Knight
Councillor Philip Knowles
Councillor Zoe Lane

Councillor Robert Leadenhamb
Councillor Bridget Ley
Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor Paul Martin
Councillor Penny Milnes
Councillor Virginia Moran
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Chris Noon
Councillor Habibur Rahman
Councillor Rhea Rayside
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Max Sawyer
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Vanessa Smith
Councillor Lee Steptoe
Councillor Paul Stokes
Councillor Elvis Stooke
Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew
Councillor Sarah Trotter
Councillor Murray Turner
Councillor Mark Whittington
Councillor Jane Wood
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Sue Woolley

OFFICERS

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer

Alison Hall-Wright, Director of Housing

Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and

Monitoring Officer

Karen Whitfield, Assistant Director – Leisure, Culture and Place

Emma Whittaker, Assistant Director of Planning

Chris Prime, Communications Manager

Sarah McQueen, Head of Service (Housing Options)

James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Patrick Astill, Communications Officer

43. Public Open Forum

There were four questions or statements submitted to Full Council by members of the public. Questions numbered 1 and 2 were answered during the meeting as below. The questioner for numbers 3 and 4 was not present to ask their questions, and would receive a written response:

- 1) Ahilan Sivanadeyan to the Chairman of the Council

We, the Tamil Association Lincolnshire together with Tamil School Lincolnshire, representing various aspirations of the Tamils living in South Kesteven, are fully supporting individually and collectively to proclaim and declare the month of January as the “Tamil Heritage Month” in South Kesteven in recognising the Tamil language, Tamil art, Tamil culture, Tamil food, Tamil history, Tamil personalities and many more.

Our community started on 22 Oct 2023, and we celebrated our first ever Tamil heritage month in January 2024.

At the moment we are using Harrowby Lane Methodist Church in Grantham for our weekly community gathering. We have members from across South Kesteven and wider Lincolnshire who travel hours to attend.

We as the Tamil community would like to invite the Chairman of SKDC Councillor Paul Fellows to our Tamil Heritage Festival, which is called Pongal, in the month of January. I will soon share the invitation with Councillor Matthew Bailey. We hope he will accept and welcome him to our community.

The Chairman of the Council responded:

Thank you for the statement and question. It was an absolute pleasure to meet the Tamil community and once an invitation had been sent through to the Chairman’s Office email I hope to respond positively to it. Thank you for the work you are doing.

Ahilan Sivanadeyan asked a supplementary question to the Leader of the Council:

We hope that the Council can support our Tamil community which help to connect and bring more people together. Will Councillor Ashley Baxter, the Leader of South Kesteven District Council support us by thanking the Tamil community for their

contribution to South Kesteven and our country, and help us to highlight the celebration of Pongal and use the communications channels of the Council to raise awareness of our group?

The Leader of the Council responded:

It is good to see representatives of the Tamil community here today, as it is to see any community here at the Council, and I thank the Tamil community for their contribution to the lives of residents within South Kesteven. I am also grateful to Councillor Matthew Bailey for explaining some of the history of the local Tamil community prior to the meeting. I am delighted that Harrowby Lane Methodist Church are offering a venue for you to be together. I have no hesitation in highlighting the celebration of Pongal and using the Council's communications channels to promote a part of our community. We have a strong, rich and diverse community; for example, I recently had an evening with the Nepalese community in Grantham.

The day of Pongal is 14 January – I would suggest that we fly the Tamil flag on that day as part of promoting the Tamil community in South Kesteven.

Councillor Matthew Bailey proposed a motion without notice to request a verbal update to be provided to the Rural and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee from either the Cabinet Member for People and Communities or the Cabinet Member responsible for IT on the implementation of a community group awareness section on the South Kesteven District Council website.

The motion was seconded. As it was a matter raised within a public question it proceeded straight to a vote and was **AGREED**.

2) Karen Oliver to the Cabinet Member for Housing

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing confirm the numbers of homeless people in Grantham at a given period of time e.g. July 2024 and explain how those numbers are calculated?

The Cabinet Member for Housing responded:

The Council dealt with 'invisible homelessness' with individuals or families that were homeless or threatened with homelessness. Between the period May 2024 to October 2024 the average number of active homeless applications was 299, ranging from 329 active applications in May 2024 to 275 in August and September 2024.

The number of new homelessness approaches in July was 204, the highest it had been in the six-month period between May and October 2024. The lowest number of new approaches seen was 154 in September. Some approaches resulted in people being placed in temporary accommodation: in July 2024 this was at its highest at 62, with September seeing the lowest figure of 48.

These figures may give the impression of a large disparity between the numbers of homeless people and those housed in temporary accommodation. However, there were lots of reasons for this disparity. For example, in the Market Deeping Ward a resident got in touch from the private rented sector, they had received a Section 21 notice. This had been preceded by the landlord ringing her to request that she moved out. A valuer had attended the property and a 'sold' sign had been displayed.

The resident came to the Cabinet Member for advice, who then in turn spoke to Homelessness officers at the Council. The individual's personal circumstances included suffering from PTSD and paranoia and being a single mother. After looking at the Section 21 notice, it was quickly established that the landlord did not have the power to evict, he could only sell with a sitting tenant. That tenant was now on the choice-based lettings system.

There was a strict process when a Section 21 Notice was issued. The landlord still had to go to court and obtain an eviction notice. Anyone registered as homeless who received a Section 21 notice could contact the Council and look into alternative accommodation; this process could span around 3 months.

The number of homeless people in the District at any one time was calculated from the homelessness case system.

Karen Oliver asked a supplementary question of the Cabinet Member for Housing:

South Kesteven District Council implemented their Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) on Tuesday 19 November. Peterborough implemented their protocol on Monday 18 November even though their weather was warmer.

Negative feedback given to SKDC had not previously been welcomed. Would Councillors agree that the Council should refer themselves to a regulator for the numerous cases of failing homelessness in Grantham?

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Chief Executive responded:

It was unclear whether there was a regulator that dealt directly with homelessness; the housing regulator would regulate on consumer standards. The housing team continue to work with the housing regulator, and they met frequently with the Council's Chief Executive. During their next inspection they will look at every service the housing team provides and may wish to focus on homelessness. The primary area the regulator looked at was housing compliance, which currently was rated at very close to 100% compliance.

- 3) Nigel Eveleigh to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste for a written response:

A consistent theme arising from comments to my Facebook posts relating to South Fen Road, Bourne, is the access and organisation of Bourne's recycling centre - the 'tip'. The following are points that are frequently made - and in no particular order -

include: extending the opening hours to include extra days; the ability of residents to dispose of tyres; the organisation of the centre itself which frequently leads to tiresome and lengthy queues at peak times. I would also add that the recycling rates, which seem to hover around 75%, are perhaps not as high as they could be. What can be done to address these serious and persistent points and so avoid endemic fly-tipping in the area and generally improve the accessibility and efficiency of the recycling centre?

- 4) Nigel Eveleigh to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste for a written response:

What can SKDC do to influence LCC to mend those sections of South Fen Road which are clearly and positively warping and disintegrating such that they provide a real and present danger to all road uses?

44. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor David Bellamy
Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Penny Robins
Councillor Rob Shorrock
Councillor Ian Stokes

Councillors Charmaine Morgan, Rosemary Trollope-Bellew and Sue Woolley were running late and joined the meeting later in proceedings.

45. Disclosure of Interests

No interests were disclosed.

46. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2024 were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record.

47. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

The Council noted the Chairman's engagements. The moving events related to Remembrance weekend were highlighted by the Chairman.

The following updates were provided by Cabinet Members:

Deputy Leader

- The works to complete Bourne Leisure Centre's wave machine would take place around the New Year and were not completed as reported to Full Council back in September. There had been three complaints about the wave

machine being unavailable; however, the number of swimmers at Bourne had increased.

Cabinet Member for Property and Public Engagement

- Contracts had been exchanged at St. Martin's Park, Stamford.
- The Planning Committee had approved planning permission for an additional 140 spaces at the Stamford Cattle Market Car Park.
- The planned new depot in Grantham was looking to attract a new contractor.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

- Waste Services at South Kesteven were finalists at the national APSE Performance Networks Awards, in the category of 'Most Improved Performer'. The awards ceremony would take place on 4 December 2024.

Cabinet Member for People and Communities

- Members and officers were thanked for their work on the SK Community Awards.
- A consultation was taking place on the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), and members were encouraged to engage with this.
- Stamford Christmas lights were being turned on in the evening of 21 November by Craig Revel Horwood.

Leader of the Council

- St. Mary's Street in Stamford had been named the best for independent shopping in the UK. Stamford was a great place to live with a thriving market, an arts centre, and many independent shopkeepers.

48. Proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution

Members considered a recommendation from the Governance and Audit Committee to make amendments to the Council's Constitution.

Note: The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm to allow a test of the electronic voting system. The meeting reconvened at 2:46pm.

The following points were highlighted during debate:

- This report outlined the option for a committee Chairman to discern when a vote may be contentious and therefore opt for an electronic casting of votes.
- Councillors took the decision to cease using the electronic voting buttons several years ago.
- Councillors tended to have lengthy debates, therefore it was a good option to potentially minimise the time spent voting. All votes could be recorded electronically.
- There were many 'back to back' votes, a show of hands was an open and transparent way of dealing with this issue.

- The motion did not decide which method of voting would be used at committees, but it would give permission for the Council to be able to use the electronic voting system, with the Chairman of each committee being responsible for deciding whether its use was appropriate and necessary
- The second recommendation related to the co-opted member for the Governance and Audit Committee, and clarification was given that they would not be a voting member of that Committee. Advice from external independent sources had been received.

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

DECISION

That Full Council:

1. **Approves the amendment to Council Procedure Rules in Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) of the Constitution be amended, as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report, to allow use of the electronic voting system in the Council Chamber.**
2. **Approves the amendment to Article 9 in Part 2 (Articles of the Constitution) to reflect that externally appointed Co-opted Members do not have voting rights on the Governance and Audit Committee.**

49. Establishment of a Joint Committee for District Councils

Note: Councillor Charmaine Morgan arrived.

Members considered a report requesting approval for the establishment of a District Joint Committee comprising the seven district authorities in Lincolnshire further to the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.

A new layer of government was expected to come into force in May 2025 with specific funding and powers. The decision on devolution for Greater Lincolnshire had been supported by the previous government and had so far been supported by the incumbent government. It was anticipated that the first meeting of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority Board would be early in 2025 with a mayoral election on 1 May 2025.

The Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority Board consisted of the three unitary authorities in Greater Lincolnshire who were also constituent members: Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council. As constituent members they would each have three members on the Board. The seven districts within Lincolnshire were non-constituent members and would have four members in total on the Board. District Council members of the Board would not have the same voting rights as the constituent members.

The Constitution for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority had not yet been released, which could be problematic as there was limited time to view it prior to the launch of the shadow Combined Authority. One reason for this delay was the General Election held in July 2024.

All seven districts had either decided on their membership of the District Joint Committee and agreed its terms of reference and standing orders or were shortly to do so. Agreeing to membership of the District Joint Committee would ensure South Kesteven District Council's 'seat at the table'.

There was a typographical error within the Terms of Reference at Appendix A of the report – the election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be on a biennial basis (every two years), rather than bi-annual (twice yearly).

In the opinion of the Leader of the Council, once the Combined Mayoral Authority was established, it was inevitable that local government reorganisation would follow.

The following points were highlighted during debate:

- Another tier of local government was being created. The Council had voted against devolution previously but had not been given the opportunity this time around.
- The Greater Lincolnshire Authority would receive £24 million per year for the next 30 years. However, the overall budget for Lincolnshire County Council was around £600 million per year, so £24 million was a small number in comparison. This followed approximately 14 years of reduced spending power.
- The Greater Lincolnshire Mayor would have tax raising powers.
- One member was unclear on the role of the District Joint Committee and therefore would withhold support until they had sight of the Constitution.
- Another member suggested that the creation of a Mayoral Combined Authority would take government away from local people rather than rather than bringing it down to a local level.
- The seven districts in Lincolnshire were split into: Conservative-led authorities (3), Independent-led authorities (2), Liberal Democrat-led authorities (1), Labour-led authorities (1).
- 20 sub-committee places were also to be filled as part of the governance structure supporting the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority.

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

DECISION

That Full Council:

1. **Approves the establishment of a District Joint Committee of the district authorities in Lincolnshire further to the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution**

Deal and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.

- 2. Approves the proposed Terms of Reference and Standing Orders for the District Joint Committee.**
- 3. Approves the Leader of the Council as South Kesteven District Council's representative on the District Joint Committee.**
- 4. Approves the Deputy Leader of the Council as the Leader's substitute on the District Joint Committee.**
- 5. Delegates any further review or amendment of the Terms of Reference or Standing Orders to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing.**

50. Members' Open Questions

Question 1 – Councillor Mark Whittington to Councillor Paul Stokes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture

Councillor Whittington asked the Cabinet Member for an update on progress at the Deepings Leisure Centre.

Councillor Paul Stokes awaited news and updates on the centre. As the Chairman of the Deepings Community Interest Company, Virginia Moran could give Councillor Whittington a further update outside of the meeting.

Question 2 – Councillor Max Sawyer to Councillor Ashley Baxter, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, HR and Economic Development

Councillor Sawyer asked whether spending c£50,000 on external solicitors was the best way of dealing with Councillor Code of Conduct complaints.

The Leader of the Council would have preferred that the money hadn't been spent, however it was for statutory officers to ensure that investigations were conducted properly. Informal discussions had taken place to try and resolve issues. There were an unprecedented number of complaints from both sides of the Council Chamber. Of those complaints scheduled to go to a Hearing Review Panel, one was from the administration, and the others were from the opposition.

Question 3 – Councillor Charmaine Morgan to Councillor Rhys Baker, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

Councillor Morgan asked the Cabinet Member whether he could work with other organisations to make a commitment to public safety in relation to fly tipping and bins.

Councillor Rhys Baker was thankful for ongoing dialogue with Councillors and other groups. Local input was required when discussing public safety. Officer time was being set aside to ensure these issues were discussed, and there was a commitment to finding a bespoke solution. Fly tipping was a blight on the district and its borders. A multi-agency approach had been agreed, involving staff from the Council's waste, street scene and environmental protection teams. The first priority was to organise a community event to aid solutions; Lincolnshire County Council would also be involved with this event.

Question 4 – Councillor Paul Wood to Councillor Lee Steptoe, Chairman of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Paul Wood asked the Chairman of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee how housing services would be actively scrutinised.

Councillor Steptoe asked Councillor Paul Wood to clarify what information he was searching for at that committee. On the issue of voids, these had been discussed at a previous Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting under an item related to Key Performance Indicators. Councillor Steptoe urged Councillor Paul Wood to remain for the whole of a committee meeting rather than leaving prior to the end.

Question 5 – Councillor Ben Green to Councillor Ian Selby, Chairman of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Green asked the Chairman of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee whether the Council should be contacting National Highways to co-ordinate litter collections from verge sides, as they were planning nighttime rolling road closures from January to March 2025.

Councillor Selby highlighted that the A1 was a treacherous stretch of road. He asked that the issue be brought forward to be added onto the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee workplan.

Question 6 – Councillor Helen Crawford to Councillor Paul Stokes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture

Councillor Crawford asked why activities in Bourne and the Deepings were not featured in the summer edition of SK:Today.

Councillor Paul Stokes pointed to the work that had been carried out with Grantham Town Council and Stamford Town Council in collating that section of SK:Today. Thoughts, ideas and communications from Bourne Town Council and Market Deeping Town Council were welcomed in order to produce lists for their towns.

Question 7 – Councillor Gareth Knight to Councillor Phil Dilks, Cabinet Member for Planning

Councillor Knight asked the Cabinet Member how concerned he was that Vistry Group were causing issues with residents, and whether their behaviour was threatening jobs and housing supply.

Councillor Dilks did not want to speculate at this time. The situation was under review.

Question 8 – Councillor Zoe Lane to Councillor Paul Stokes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture

Councillor Lane asked the Deputy Leader how the Council intended to support other football clubs across the district, in light of the £100,000 that had been awarded to Grantham Town FC for repairs.

Note: Councillor Mark Whittington declared that he was a member of the Grantham Town Supporters' Club.

Councillor Paul Stokes highlighted that the money had been awarded to repair the stadium that Grantham Town FC played in, which was not owned by them. The money had not been given directly to Grantham Town FC.

Question 9 – Councillor Graham Jeal to Councillor Ashley Baxter, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, HR and Economic Development

Councillor Jeal set out 4 points he had suggested be met in order to informally resolve code of conduct complaints within the system, these were:

1. The deletion of offending material deemed a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct by external solicitors;
2. Publication of the reports produced by external solicitors
3. The dropping of any complaints against officers by Councillors.
4. Compliance with ongoing criminal investigations

Councillor Jeal asked why these resolutions had not yet been accepted.

The Leader of the Council had received this information by email the day before this meeting of Council, to which he had sent a reply. He asked that the Leader of the Opposition respect the advice of the Monitoring Officer given on 15 October that these complaints were confidential and ongoing. The Leader did not know the details of any complaints not involving himself that were ongoing as they were confidential.

The Leader of the Opposition was referred to an email sent by the Leader of the Council in June, where he suggested that everybody involved in these complaints withdraw the social media posts that others had found offensive. In some cases,

those posts were inaccurate. If everyone complied with that request, then the code of conduct complaints would likely be closed.

Question 10 – Councillor Ian Selby to Councillor Ashley Baxter, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, HR and Economic Development

Councillor Selby asked the Leader of the Council to join him in congratulating Deeping Rangers FC for their victory in the SK Charity Cup, which had been dedicated to Mick Massingham.

The Leader of the Council was happy to celebrate Deeping Rangers' victory and was delighted that the SK Charity Cup continued to go from strength to strength. Thanks must go to Councillor Ian Selby for this – tribute was also paid to the amount of time that volunteers gave to the project.

51. Notices of Motion

52. Councillor Ben Green

Councillor Ben Green proposed the following motion:

Motion to Phase Out Synthetic Pesticides on Council-Owned Land

*South Kesteven District Council commits to phasing out the use of all synthetic pesticides, including glyphosate, on Council-owned land by both Council operatives and third-party contractors, through the implementation of a **Pesticide Elimination Strategy** to be adopted by 2026. The development of this Strategy will be overseen by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be subject to public consultation, and will outline a detailed plan for the gradual, phased elimination of all synthetic pesticides on Council land **within 24 months of its adoption**. This motion initiates the process.*

Reasons:

- **Nature Crisis:** Recent research highlights a significant decline in insect populations across Europe, including the UK, which is one of the most nature-depleted countries globally. A study using a 'splatometer' method revealed a 50% reduction in insect splatters on vehicle registration plates between 2004 and 2019. This trend mirrors a broader decline in insect abundance, which has fallen by up to 80% at some European sites over the past two decades. We have witnessed a silent summer, with pitiful populations of butterflies and wasps, among many other species. This is troubling as decreased insect abundance threatens ecosystem health by disrupting pollination, food chains and soil fertility. Reducing synthetic pesticide use on land we control will contribute to halting this decline and support nature.
- **Public Health and Safety:** Phasing out synthetic pesticides on Council land will significantly reduce health risks for residents, particularly children and

pets, by minimising exposure to harmful chemical residues. These chemicals can linger in the environment, contaminating soil, air, and water, potentially entering the food chain and affecting public health. Pesticides also pose a serious threat to watercourses, as run-off can contaminate rivers and groundwater, harming aquatic life and degrading water quality. By reducing pesticide use, we not only protect public health but also preserve cleaner water sources and support healthier ecosystems.

- **Respect for Agricultural Practices:** *This policy focusses solely on the management of Council-owned land under the Council's responsibility and will not impact or interfere with the agricultural methods or practices employed by local farmers and private landowners. It aims to enhance the stewardship of public land while respecting existing agricultural operations. We recognise and value the essential role that pesticides play in food production and acknowledge the significant contributions of our farmers to the economy and national resilience. Lincolnshire's status as the nation's breadbasket is a point of immense pride and this policy is intended to support effective public land management without affecting agricultural productivity.*
- **Strong Precedent:** *Furthermore, it is noteworthy that numerous cities across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, and many other locations throughout Europe and the UK, including Cambridge, have successfully eliminated the use of synthetic pesticides. These serve as compelling examples of how urban areas can transition to more sustainable practices that protect public health and the environment. Their achievements highlight the viability of phasing out harmful chemicals in favour of alternative pest control methods, demonstrating that such measures not only benefit local ecosystems but also enhance the quality of life for residents. By learning from these successful initiatives, our Council can confidently pursue a similar path towards a healthier and more sustainable community.*

Implementation Plan:

- **Initiating Strategy Development:** *The heart of this motion is to formally initiate the creation of a **Pesticide Elimination Strategy**, which will outline the gradual, phased removal of synthetic pesticides, including glyphosate, from all Council-owned land.*
- **Immediate Action:** *The Council will commit to stopping synthetic pesticide use on Council land wherever possible while the Strategy is being developed.*
- **Promotion of Alternatives:** *The Council will explore and promote non-chemical alternatives for weed and pest control as part of this process.*
- **Land Management Review:** *A review of current land management practices will be conducted to ensure compliance with the objectives of the forthcoming Strategy.*

Public Consultation and Oversight: *The Pesticide Elimination Strategy will be developed under the supervision of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will include public consultation. The Strategy is to be adopted by*

2026, outlining a clear plan for the full elimination of synthetic pesticides **within 24 months of its adoption.**

The motion was seconded.

The following views were raised during the introduction to, and debate on the motion:

- Feedback from the Cabinet Members for Corporate Governance and Licensing and Environment and Waste had been incorporated into the motion.
- The Pesticides Action Network had supplied useful advice on this motion, which had in turn been endorsed by Butterfly Conservation.
- The motion wished for the Council to adopt a Pesticide Elimination Strategy by 2026, with a plan to phase out synthetic pesticides by 2028. This aimed to safeguard South Kesteven, ensuring parks and open spaces were safer for children, pets and wildlife.
- Research had linked the use of synthetic pesticides to cancers in humans and animals.
- The mover of the motion called on the Chairman of Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee to lead the development of this Strategy with public consultation and engagement. Green colleagues were implored to second this.
- This motion would affect around 7% of land in the District. There were very few problematic invasive species in the District; this motion would not make elimination of these more complex.
- Bees were very important to the environment.
- The work that farmers did to feed the nation was vital.

An amendment to the motion was moved and seconded:

That Full Council refers the matter of use of synthetic pesticides, including Glyphosate, on council lands, to the Environment OSC for thorough and exhaustive review, in collaboration with the cabinet member and the mover of the original motion, Cllr Green, other interested Members, and/or officers or bodies deemed appropriate by the Chair and Vice Chair.

This review will include, but not be limited to:

- *current use-cases*
- *volume of pesticides used,*
- *areas of use,*
- *schedules,*
- *history of complaints or misuse*
- *Any other matters the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee deem appropriate and necessary to review our current approach*

As part of this review, the stakeholder parties above will carefully and thoroughly consider any new draft policies, consultations, or policy amendments this matter.

It would be expected that the matter of synthetic pesticides be added to the Environment OSC work plan, and that the matter is reviewed and investigated in a timely fashion, the schedule of which to be determined at the first viewing by this committee.

The amendment was debated and the following points highlighted:

- The timescales referenced in the original motion were generous and were not present in the amendment.
- The mover of the amendment was happy to accept an amendment to include Rural and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee as part of the review.
- There was pre-determination within the original motion. The amendment was not pro-pesticide and had a clear direction of travel. Good governance and well-informed decisions were crucial.

Note: Councillors Lee Steptoe and Barry Dobson left the Council Chamber and did not return.

- The issue deserved a full debate on a detailed technical report from officers. The right route for this was through Overview and Scrutiny as there were differing degrees of knowledge around pesticides within the Council Chamber. A report could then return to Full Council as a well-balanced judgement.

A further amendment was suggested to include a definitive timetable, this second amendment was accepted and added to the first amendment. With this change, the mover of the original motion was content to incorporate these changes into their motion. The substantive motion now read:

That Full Council refers the matter of use of synthetic pesticides, including Glyphosate, on council lands, to a joint meeting of the Environment OSC and Rural & Communities OSC for thorough and exhaustive review, in collaboration with the cabinet member and the mover of the original motion, Councillor Green, other interested Members, and/or officers or bodies deemed appropriate by the Chairs and Vice Chairs.

This review will conclude by the end of 2025 and will include, but not be limited to:

- *current use-cases*
- *volume of pesticides used,*
- *areas of use,*
- *schedules,*
- *history of complaints or misuse*
- *Any other matters the joint meeting of the two OSCs deem appropriate and necessary to review our current approach*

As part of this review, the stakeholder parties above will carefully and thoroughly consider any new draft policies, consultations, or policy amendments this matter.

It would be expected that the matter of synthetic pesticides be added to the joint OSCs work plan, and that the matter is reviewed and investigated in a timely fashion, the schedule of which to be determined at the first viewing by these committees.

Having been moved and seconded, following a vote the substantive motion was **AGREED**.

53. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 4:27pm.