



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

# Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 10 February 2025

Report of Councillor Rhys Baker  
Cabinet Member for Environment and  
Waste

## Update on the use of the General Fund Climate Change Reserve

### Report Author

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### Purpose of Report

To provide an update to the Committee on allocation of the Council's Climate Reserve Fund for outlined projects.

### Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1. Note the update on the projects identified and funded from the General Fund Climate Change Reserve**

### Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate priorities?  
**(delete as appropriate)**

Sustainable South Kesteven

Which wards are impacted?

(All Wards);

## **1. Implications**

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 The Climate Change Reserve has been established in order to help financially support investment proposals that respond to the increasing cost of energy and the Council's stated ambition of carbon reduction across the Council's property portfolio. All project proposals are reviewed for value for money in order to ensure a financially robust investment for the Authority.

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

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

- 1.2 As part of good governance, it is important that Members are updated on the council's projects focussed on reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions, in order to contribute towards the Council's carbon reduction targets.

*Completed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive*

### ***Climate Change***

- 1.3 All of the projects outlined within this report are expected to deliver an energy saving for the Council and contribute towards the authority's carbon reduction targets, while reducing utilities expenditure.

*Completed by: Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager*

## **2. Background to the Report**

- 2.1. South Kesteven District Council made a formal declaration of climate emergency on 26 September 2019 with cross party support. Alongside this, the Council confirmed the political ambition to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030, and to endeavour to become net-zero as soon as viable before 2050.
- 2.2. Following this declaration of climate emergency, the Council's updated carbon footprint was established, using baseline data from 2018/19. This signalled some

of the major categories of carbon emissions arising from council operations and highlighted projects to pursue to reduce carbon emissions.

- 2.3. South Kesteven District Council has continued to publish updates on progress towards the outlined carbon emissions target from the 2018/19 year onwards. The latest report covering the 2023/24 period reported a total carbon emissions reduction of 25.27%, discussed in detail at a meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on [7<sup>th</sup> October 2024](#).
- 2.4. Good progress against the carbon emissions target has been made, particularly in the leisure centre category and through reductions in gas and electricity used in the Council's corporate buildings. Nevertheless, it is important to sustain the momentum of this downward trend through a pipeline of funded projects.
- 2.5. The Climate Change Reserve was put in place for the 2023/24 financial year in order to both help respond to the budgetary pressures driven by the increasing cost of energy, and the Council's stated ambition of carbon reduction across the Council's property portfolio. A reserve of £300,000 was established in order to respond to opportunities for inward investment and enable proactive energy savings. An update on projects funded last financial year was discussed by the Committee on [15<sup>th</sup> March 2024](#).
- 2.6. An outline of projects for 2024/25 can be seen in further detail in the table below, including cost of investment, indicative payback and expected annual savings in energy use, carbon and cost of utilities. Green cells in the Expected Cost column represent firm commitments where orders for works have been raised, and white is for an expected commitment where costs may change.

Proposal	Project description	Expected cost	Indicative payback (years)	Expected annual savings		
				£	CO2	kWh
South Kesteven District Council main offices and Customer Services centre- installation of solar PV panels and battery system	Installation of solar PV on roof of SKDC main offices with battery system	£98,894	8.4	£11,781	9.9	44,144
Grantham Stadium pitch - upgrade floodlighting to energy efficient LED	Upgrade existing lamps to LED	£56,500	2.8	£19,900	18.67	82,960

Trial of battery electric grounds maintenance equipment	Purchase new battery powered grounds maintenance equipment in order to reduce fuel use and cost	£21,032	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Bourne Leisure Centre and Stamford Leisure Pool – upgrade circulation pumps for pool	Upgrade circulation pumps for pool water	£81,200	3.3	£24,672	14.8	71,218
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>£257,626</b>	-	<b>£56,353</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>198,322</b>

2.7. These projects include:

- Installation of a 52.955 KW solar PV system and battery storage on the existing flat roof of South Kesteven District Council's main office
- Upgrade of existing floodlights at Grantham Stadium to energy efficient LED
- Purchase of battery powered grounds maintenance equipment to replace diesel powered equipment
- Plans to upgrade circulation pumps for pool water at Bourne Leisure Centre and Stamford Leisure Pool

2.8. As part of the financial outturn report for 2023/24, the balance on the Climate Change Reserve was increased to £300,000 for 2024/25 to allow a continued pipeline of investment in identified projects. A 2025/26 budget proposal has been put forward to increase the level of the reserve to a maximum of £500,000.

2.9. An HRA Climate Reserve for £100k was approved as part of the Outturn Report for 2023/24.. This will run in parallel with the Council's existing HRA budgets which include the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund scheme.

### 3. Key Considerations

3.1. This report is provided to update Members on projects being considered and funded via the Climate Change Reserve.

### 4. Other Options Considered

3.1 No further options are set out within this report which is provided to update Members on projects being considered and funded via the Climate Change Reserve.

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

5.1. This report is provided as an update on the Climate Change Reserve.