



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Cabinet


Tuesday, 10 February 2026

Report of Councillor Richard Cleaver -
Cabinet Member for Property and
Public Engagement

Acceptance of funding for Cyber Security Enhancements

Report Author

Gary Andrew, IT Services Manager

 g.andrew@Southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

This report recommends the acceptance of £200,000 from the Local Digital Cyber Team to support our continued progress against the Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) for local government.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1. Approve the acceptance of £200k of funding to support the continued progress and improvements against the Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF).**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive & s151 Officer to allocate funding in accordance with the agreed criteria.**

Decision Information

Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Effective council
Which wards are impacted?	N/A

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 use of the funding can only be in accordance with the agreed criteria and grant conditions. Once approval has been given to accept the grant, then specific budgets will need to be developed in order to monitor the spend proposals.

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

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The funding is over the Key Decision threshold and therefore it is Cabinet that are asked to consider accepting it.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. Cabinet at their meeting on 7th October 2025 approved an updated ICT Strategy and Cyber Security Strategy.
- 2.2 The Strategy sets out the approach for protecting our information systems and the data we hold to ensure the services we provide are secure and our residents, businesses and stakeholders can safely transact with us.
- 2.3 The Strategy sets out the operational framework that is implemented to strengthen the Council's resilience against cyber-attacks from external forces. These threats continue to evolve, and we need to work at pace in order to respond and adapt defences against such attacks.
- 2.4 Against this backdrop, the Council has worked with the Local Digital Cyber Team at Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to secure additional funding to invest in cyber security interventions.
- 2.5 The high-level criteria that is set out is as follows:
 - Focus on delivering a Cyber Assessment Framework and supporting Implementation Plan.

- Continue building cyber maturity, including moving towards assessing critical systems and implementing cyber protections
 - Share insights and lessons learnt to support wider sector improvement, and
 - Take part in research and testing where relevant.
- 2.6 Following approval of the funding, officers will develop an action plan to deliver the agreed objectives within a specified timeframe. This expenditure may span financial years and so some of the budget allocation may need to be transferred to 2026/2027.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 Cyber-crime is one of the biggest risks to the Council and the funding is offered to carry out changes and improvements identified by the Council as part of the adopted Strategy.
- 3.2 The Council's approved Strategic Risk Register identifies cyber security as one of SKDC's most significant risks. Therefore, this funding is a welcome addition to enable to the Council to strengthen its cyber security defences,

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 Reject the funding offer and use existing finances for cyber improvements. This is not considered good value for money as Government funding is being made available.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. The Council has a great opportunity to improve its cyber security by utilising the funding and the additional support that is being offered.
- 5.2. The funding is offered to progress and implement projects that have been identified as business critical.
- 5.3. Cyber threats to local government are constantly evolving. This funding will help the Council continue to improve and secure its systems and protect customer information.