



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

# Officer Delegated Decision

20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Richard Wyles – Deputy Chief Executive and  
s151 Officer

## To seek approval to provide additional funding for essential repairs and safety works to Grantham Canal

### Contact

Gyles Teasdale  
Head of Property Services & ICT



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<b>Decision made by:</b>	Richard Wyles – Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer.
<b>Decision:</b>	To seek approval to provide further funding for repairs to the water level control features and means of safe access to the canal in Grantham
<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>	Part 3(c) of the Constitution: 20 - Management of Services To manage services: Provides the Deputy Chief Executive delegated authority. a) In accordance with any policy decisions made by, or guidelines issued by, the Council b) Within budgets made or approved by the Council c) In compliance with all Rules of Procedure and Codes set out in the Constitution

And to take such decisions or actions as they are required or authorised to take in:  
d) Understanding orders adopted and decision made by the Council for implementation e) Their role as proper officers of the Council as defined in Section 270(3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

## 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 There is an approved budget allocation of £100,000 in the General Fund revenue budget in order to allow the works to the canal to progress. SKDC has undertaken surveys and further assessments of the work required and they are more extensive than originally estimated. Additional works are required to install water level control features and enable safe means of access to them. The total budget required is £283,000 of which £183,000 is the amount of additional funding to be approved. This additional amount will be transferred from the property maintenance Reserve.

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

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

- 1.2 The delegation within the Constitution allows the Deputy Chief Executive to sign this decision.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

### ***Procurement***

- 1.3 The funding will enable the project to proceed which will mitigate the risk of the canal bank failing. SKDC will tender for the construction works through Welland Procurement based on a specification and design drawings produced by JBA Consultants.

Completed by: Helen Baldwin (Procurement Lead)

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

- 2.1 To seek approval for the release of further funding to enable us to instruct the specialist consultant to prepare the tender documents and to undertake the works to the canal once the tender has been undertaken.

## **3. Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 Option 1 – Approve the funding so that these essential water level control, health and safety works can be procured and undertaken in reasonable time to avoid further deterioration of the canal banks.
- 3.2 Option 2 – Not to award the funding for the work. This is not a recommended option as there will be a risk of further deterioration of the stability of the canal bank and a risk to SKDC and supplier staff who need to safely access the existing infrastructure of the canal.

## **4. Preferred Option**

- 4.1 Option 1 – Provide additional funding in order that essential water level management and health and safety works can be undertaken.

## **5. Reasons for the Decision**

- 5.1 There have been incidences of water seepage in 2024 through the canal bank adjacent to Trent Road which caused water to flow across an adjoining owner's car park. This resulted in SKDC commissioning JBA Consulting to undertake surveys and a report into the causes of the seepage and the condition of the canal banks along the length of canal SKDC own which is between Swingbridge Road and Earlesfield Lane.
- 5.2 A finding of the Consultant report was that the seepage is caused during times of high-water level by water seeping through fissures in the canal bank including along tree roots. The Consultant's advice was that this seepage will increase over time and could potentially lead to a failure of the canal bank with consequent flooding of the adjoining area, which would clearly be a risk to life and property.
- 5.3 The risk from this seepage can be mitigated in the immediate term by controlling the level of water in the canal through the installation of stop logs at Swingbridge Road, Trent Road and Earlesfield Lane. Stop logs are vertical aluminium sections that are placed in a concrete frame to act as a barrier, thereby controlling the amount of water in the canal. The height of water can be controlled by the number of stop log sections placed in the concrete frame. It should be noted this method has been used in the past on the canal by SKDC, and, although the concrete frame is still in place and in good condition, the stop logs are missing.

- 5.4 There will be a requirement to attend site by SKDC staff and contractors to either remove or place these aluminium sections to control the water level depending on the amount of rainfall. A GPS operated water level monitor will send a notification to an SKDC Officer when water levels have either risen or fallen, so that the Officer can then instigate adjustments to the number of stop logs. However, there is no safe means of accessing these water level control installations. The works therefore include installing railing and access platforms to facilitate this access.
- 5.5 Regular maintenance of the tree growth and vegetation along the banks will be required and this will be carried out by SKDC.
- 5.6 This approval request includes the costs for JBA Consulting to develop the detailed specification and design of the works, produce pre-construction information, design and public safety risk assessments, undertake the required ecology and environment assessments, obtain planning and other consents required and to support the technical evaluation of the tenders.
- 5.7 The resources to manage the project for SKDC and undertake the role of Principal Designer during are assumed to be included within the existing property Team structure.
- 5.8 Cabinet approved the award of the contract for the works at the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026. [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 10th February, 2026, 4.00 pm | South Kesteven District Council](#)

Signed by: Richard Wyles

Dated: 20.2.26