

Minutes

Cabinet
Tuesday, 7 April 2026



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

The Leader: Councillor Ashley Baxter (Chairman)
The Deputy Leader: Councillor Paul Stokes (Vice Chairman)

Cabinet Members present

Councillor Rhys Baker, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste
Councillor Richard Cleaver, Cabinet Member for Property and Public Engagement
Councillor Philip Knowles, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing
Councillor Virginia Moran, Cabinet Member for Housing

Non-Cabinet Members present

Councillor Elvis Stooke
Councillor Tim Harrison

Officers

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive
Alison Hall-Wright, Director of Housing and Projects (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Karen Whitfield, Assistant Director (Leisure, Culture and Place)
Emma Whittaker, Assistant Director (Planning & Growth)
David Scott, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer
Ayeisha Kirkham, Head of Public Protection
Michael Chester, Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader
Carol Drury, Community Engagement & Manager
Mark Rogers, Head of Service (Technical Services)
Joshua Mann, Democratic Services Officer

129. Public Open Forum

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

130. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Phil Dilks.

131. Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest.

132. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 10 March 2026 were agreed as a correct record.

133. Award of Contract for Play Equipment Repairs and Operational Inspections

Purpose of report

To approve the award of contract to the preferred supplier for the provision of play equipment repairs, supply of new equipment and monthly operational inspections across the South Kesteven district for five years.

Decision

That Cabinet approves the award of contract to the preferred supplier for the provision of play equipment repairs, supply of new equipment and monthly operational inspections across the South Kesteven district for five years.

Other options considered

The Council could have adopted an in-house model for its monthly operational inspections should a new contract not be pursued. However, this approach would have required additional resources to complement the existing team and would not have provided the Council with independent assurance.

Reasons for the decision

The contract with KOMPAN Limited provided the Council with independent assurance on the condition, suitability and maintenance of play equipment across the district. It also assisted the Council to prioritise investment and replacement of equipment.

A compliant procurement exercise was undertaken to identify a preferred supplier and following the expiry of the appropriate standstill period the contract needed to be formally awarded.

134. Repairs and Voids Materials Contract

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the Council to enter into a contract with Huws Gray for the supply of building materials for use by our in-house repairs and voids trades teams.

Decision

The Cabinet approved for the Council to enter into a contract with Huws Gray for the supply of building materials for use by our in-house repairs and voids trades teams.

Other options considered

The Council could have chosen not to procure a new materials contractor, but this was not considered an option due the existing contract expiring. Without a contract in place the Council was not compliant with relevant procurement regulations and Council policies and procedures.

Reasons for the decision

The Council was required to ensure that a contract was in place for the procurement of materials for use by the in-house repairs and voids teams. The current contract had expired and required renewal.

This contract had been procured in accordance with relevant Council policies and procedures to ensure transparency, value for money and compliance with procurement legislation and Council policies.

Once the recommendation had been approved, the preferred bidder would be notified of the outcome, and the Council intended to execute the Contract at the conclusion of any standstill period with the intention to enter into contract on 1 May 2026.

135. Street Trading Policy

Purpose of report

To approve the adoption of the Street Trading Policy for South Kesteven District Council.

Decision

Cabinet approved the adoption of the Street Trading Policy for South Kesteven District Council and agreed to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing in consultation with the Head of Service (Public Protection) to make inconsequential amendments.

Other options considered

Cabinet could have decided to remove the Street Trading Policy in its entirety. This would have resulted in no-one within South Kesteven would needing consent to trade. However, to do this, a full public consultation would need to have been undertaken to understand the impact on businesses and residents within the district, and this impact would need to be considered.

Reasons for decision

The Policy and proposed updates supported the Council in fulfilling its duties associated with street trading. Reviewing the Policy had provided an opportunity to update the intention and enforceability of the Policy.

136. SK Community Fund

Purpose of report

To approve the proposed changes to the SK Community Fund which included amendments to grant levels and eligibility criteria. The proposed changes would allow for the Fund to re-launch for the 2026/27 financial year.

Decision

The Cabinet approved the proposed changes to the SK Community Fund which included amendments to grant levels and eligibility criteria. The proposed changes allowed for the Fund to re-launch for the 2026/27 financial year. It was also agreed to delegate authority to the Deputy Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Assistant Director for Leisure, Culture and Place, to make inconsequential amendments.

Other options considered

The Fund's criteria could have remained unchanged. The proposed amendments, however, allowed for increased opportunities which would greatly benefit civil society within South Kesteven.

UK Shared Prosperity funding had proven a need for grants which supported larger projects; hence the reasoning provided around the proposed introduction of the Large Grants Fund. Statistical information from the existing SK Community showed that, in the previous two years, 69% of awards had been for grants of £2,000 and less, therefore providing evidence of need to continue the Small Grants Fund as proposed.

Reasons for decision

The recommended changes would improve opportunities offered by the SK Community Fund.

Establishing an appropriate delegation to allow for the decision-making authority of the Assistant Director would ensure suitable governance.

The proposals for change were fully supported by the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 24th March 2026.

137. Cabinet Forward Plan

The Leader of the Council noted that consideration was being given to amending the start time of Cabinet meetings to 14.00.

It was noted that some items had been added to the Forward Plan since its publication, including consideration of the contract award for works at Wharf Road car park in Grantham.

138. Open Questions from Councillors

Councillor Elvis Stooke to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste.

Councillor Stooke requested confirmation that all residents across South Kesteven would be receiving food waste caddy bins. Confirmation was given by the relevant Cabinet Member who noted that over 55,000 caddies had been distributed and a web link would be available for residents to complete if no caddy had been received.

Councillor Elvis Stooke to the Cabinet

Councillor Stooke invited Cabinet Members to hold a meet-and-greet with residents in the Belmont Ward. The Leader of the Council accepted the invitation to be held later in the year. He also indicated that the Cabinet's next meet-and-greet would be held in the Deepings.

The meeting concluded at 16.40.