



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Officer Delegated Decision

22 April 2026

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and s151 Officer

Allocation of Funds for Luminarium Event to support Newton 300 activity

Contact

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Decision made by:	Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer
Decision:	To create a budget of £73,500 from the remaining funds in relation to the Council's contribution to the Future High Street Fund in order to host the Luminarium exhibition as part of the Newton 300 commemorative events.
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	Not applicable
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	The Deputy Chief Executive has a delegation within the Council's Constitution Part 3(b) – Executive Functions to authorise virements to revenue budgets in accordance with thresholds set out in the Council's Financial Regulations.

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 The Council's contribution to the Future High Street Fund has a remaining balance of £94,724 to be carried over from financial year 2025/26. This funding was put in place as a requirement of match funding and is intended to support Grantham specific activity.
- 1.2 An opportunity has arisen for Grantham to host the Luminarium exhibition as part of planned events to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the death of Sir Issac Newton in March 2027. £73,500 of the remaining funds can be utilised to pay the initial outlay costs of the exhibition. However, it is anticipated that a proportion of this expenditure will be offset by ticket and entrance fee income.
- 1.3 Financial modelling has been undertaken that demonstrates a number of scenarios in which the outlay will be recouped by income. This modelling is based on an assumed level of sales and assumed ticket prices.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.4 There are no legal and governance implications arising from this report. The Deputy Chief Executive has a delegation within the Council's Constitution Part 3(b) – Executive Functions to authorise virements to revenue budgets in accordance with thresholds set out in the Council's Financial Regulations. The proposed virement is £73,500 so the Chief Finance Officer can approve this.

Governance Implications reviewed by: **James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager**

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 This report provides detail on the creation of a budget to fund the Council to host the Luminarium exhibition as part of wider plans to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the death of Issac Newton in March 2027.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 **Option 1** – to utilise £73,500 of the Council's remaining contribution to the Future High Street Fund to create a budget to host the Luminarium exhibition. The allocated funding will provide:

Luminarium exhibition	£54,000
Event stewards	£10,000
Security	£5,000
Generator	£3,000
Marketing	£500
Contingency	£1,000
TOTAL	£73,500

Income will be generated from ticket sales and entrance fees to offset the expenditure.

- 3.2 **Option 2** – to fund the Luminarium exhibition from the Grantham Special Expense budget.
- 3.3 **Option 3** – not to host the Luminarium exhibition.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 **Option 1** – to utilise £73,500 of the Council's remaining contribution to the Future High Street Fund to provide a budget allocation for the Luminarium exhibition.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 The 300th anniversary of the death of Sir Issac Newton will be marked by major commemorations in the UK. There is a particular local connection to Grantham where he was educated at the King's School, and Woolsthorpe-by-Colsterworth where he was born.
- 5.2 In recognition the Council has committed to working with stakeholders and other interested parties to provide a festival of commemorative events to encourage visitors and to raise the profile of Grantham and the surrounding area.
- 5.3 Hosted by Architects of Air the Luminarium is a large-scale immersive structure that individuals enter and walk through to experience sound and natural light shining through coloured membranes. There is a clear link to Newton as the spatial exploration of light, space and shape were all key elements of his work.
- 5.4 Having toured internationally, including featuring at the Sydney Opera House, the Luminarium will be hosted in Grantham's Wyndham Park between 27 March and 4 April 2027. There will be a comprehensive marketing and publicity plan around the event to maximise the publicity and attendance.
- 5.5 Hosting the Luminarium is a high-profile event with the potential to attract a significant number of visitors to Grantham and will be the start of a series of commemorative events around Newton 300.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

Dated: **22 April 2026**
