



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

15 June 2026

Emma Whittaker, Assistant Director of
Planning & Growth

Acceptance of grant funding offered by the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government, (IDEA)

IDEA is awarding this Grant to the Grant Recipient for the purpose of supporting the continuation of a programme of regional design and place shaping networks across the nine English regions. South Kesteven District Council are the regional Place Advocate for the East Midlands in 2026/2027.

Contact

Richard Shaw, Principal Design Officer

 Richard.shaw@southkesteven.gov.uk

Decision made by:	Emma Whittaker, Assistant Director of Planning and Growth
Decision:	1) To formally accept the allocation of a £10,000 grant, subject to the terms and conditions. 2) To approve the setting up of a budget to enable the grant to be allocated, ringfenced, monitored and spent as required.
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	N/A
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	<i>Assistant Directors are authorised by virtue of the Council's Financial Regulations to accept external</i>

	<i>funding (subject to certain financial limits) and make the associated budget virements in line with the authorised limits set out in the regulations.</i>
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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 has been awarded funds to provide financial support towards all expenses associated with their role as the East Midlands regional Place Advocate 2026/2027. The funds (£10,000) are ringfenced to be spent on expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred during this project. It is anticipated the grant will be spent within 2026/27. In accordance with the terms and conditions, any unspent funds will need to be returned.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance Deputy S151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Assistant Director of Planning & Growth can accept the grant funding via a delegation in the Financial Procedure Rules (Virements – Revenue Budgets)

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 The IDEA is awarding this Grant for the purpose of supporting the continuation of a programme of regional design and place shaping networks across the nine English regions. As part of this programme, IDEA are supporting a regional "Place Advocate" in each of the nine regions to lead their respective regional network. PAS and MHCLG will work with Place Advocates in each region, giving some direct financial support for the role and ongoing advice to set up and deliver a network in each region.

- 2.2 The aim of the networks is to engage with local planning authorities across the country to raise awareness and support the implementing of best design practice and sharing evidence and insights into what communities like and value and recognise how MHCLG and PAS can best support local authorities (the Project).
- 2.3 The Grant Recipient agrees to use the Grant only for the delivery of the Project and in accordance with the terms and conditions of Grant set out in the Place Advocates Grant letter and Agreement (Appendix 6.1).
- 2.4 Each of the regional groups meet quarterly, usually with 3 online sessions and one in-person session. The in-person session often involves a site visit and booking of a venue and catering. The Grant could also be used to fund training on design. The programme of events is decided by each group and place advocate, as required for that region. The regional place advocates also meet quarterly to discuss progress within their region and share ideas. Further information can be found here: [Regional Place Networks & Advocates Programme | Local Government Association](#)
- 2.5 Determination**
The Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government, (IDEA) a company registered in England and Wales with company registration 3675577, whose registered office is at Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ offers the funding as set out in the Place Advocates Grant letter and Agreement (Appendix 6.1).

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 Do nothing – The Council could decide not to accept the grant funding; however, it will still incur costs in assisting with the project.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To accept the grant funding to support South Kesteven District Council with costs incurred through expenses associated with running the East Midlands regional network.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 The Council will incur costs for the work involved regardless of whether it chooses to accept the grant funding or not.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Place Advocates Grant letter and Agreement

Signed by: Emma Whittaker