



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

3 August 2026

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and s151 Officer

Grantham Special Expense Area Tree Maintenance

To meet the increased costs in relation to tree maintenance within the Grantham Special Expense Area (SEA).

Contact

Karen Whitfield, Assistant Director – Leisure, Culture and Place

 Karen.whitfield@southkesteven.gov.uk

Decision made by:	Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer
Decision:	To release the sum of £10,000 from the Grantham Special Expense Reserve to provide an increased budget to meet the requirement to maintain trees within Grantham SEA.
Key or Non-Key? (A Key Decision has a value of 200k or over, or is a significant impact on two or more wards)	Non-Key
For call-in (only applies to Key Decisions)	N/A
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	N/A
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes

Details of delegation:

The Deputy Chief Executive has a delegation within the Council's Financial Regulations to use General Fund Reserves to fund one-off expenditure.

Approval to use General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Reserves with the exception of the relevant Working Balances.

Accessing reserves to fund specific one-off expenditure can be agreed by the Chief Finance Officer or Cabinet Member, dependent on the amount.

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 a requirement to increase the budget for tree maintenance within Grantham Special Expense Area to provide adequate funds to ensure maintenance works can proceed. This will continue to ensure the safety of residents and users of the Grantham parks.

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

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer has the appropriate delegation to move the requested funding from the Council's Local Priorities Reserve under Part 4 (10) Financial Regulations of the Council's Constitution.

Completed by: Emma Powley (Interim Democratic Services Manager)

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 In the current financial year a budget of £11,000 has been allocated for the maintenance of trees within the Grantham Special Expense Area.
- 2.2 All Council owned trees are routinely surveyed, the results of which are used to develop a maintenance schedule detailing required urgent health and safety works

together with more routine maintenance tasks. Currently the allocated budget is being prioritised to cover urgent health and safety works only.

- 2.3 Additional works have been identified in Wyndham Park where tree branches are currently disrupting the CCTV camera coverage and associated WIFI signal. Although these works are not deemed a high priority in relation to tree maintenance, they are essential to maintain public safety within Wyndham Park. The cost of remedial works is £2,100 and cannot be met from the existing budget.
- 2.4 In addition to this, due to the extended period of high temperatures, it is anticipated that additional tree works may be required within the current financial year. Extreme high temperatures and heatwaves can cause major issues for UK trees by triggering severe water stress. This can prompt early shedding of leaves and increase the risk of sudden branch failures.
- 2.5 As there is a high concentration of trees within the Grantham Special Expense Area, particularly within the three Council owned parks, further expenditure may be required to ensure the safety of residents and park users.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 Options to meet the additional costs from within existing budgets have been explored but it has been identified that the rise in costs cannot be accommodated.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To release a total of £10,000 from the Grantham Special Expense Reserve to meet the additional costs in relation to tree maintenance for financial year 2026/27.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 The Council has a duty to ensure that the trees within the Grantham Special Expense Area are adequately maintained to ensure the health and safety of residents and park users.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

Dated: **03 August 2026**