



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Officer Delegated Decision

12 August 2026

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and S151 Officer

Use of the Local Priorities Reserve

To approve the use of £88,000 of the Local Priorities Reserve to fund the cost of 2 x 3 month interim appointments in Legal and Governance.

Contact

Graham Kitchen, Director of Law & Governance

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Decision made by:	Richard Wyles
Decision:	To approve the use of £88,000 of the Local Priorities Reserve to fund the cost of 2 x 3 month interim roles in Legal and Governance.
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)	No
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	N/A
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	<i>The Financial Regulations (Appendix A) give the Chief Finance Officer approval to use discretionary reserves when the request is up to £150,000</i>

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 balance in the Local Priorities Reserve is sufficient to fund these costs.

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

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Chief Finance Officer has authority under Part 4 – Rules of Procedure – Financial Regulations, Appendix A of the Constitution to authorise reserve movements from the General Fund up to £150,000. (Part 4 – Rules of Procedure – Financial Regulations, Appendix A of the Constitution)

Completed by: Emma Powley (Interim Democratic Services Manager)

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To seek approval to use £88,000 of the Local Priorities Reserve to fund the cost of two 3 month interim positions in Legal and Governance.
- 2.2 The two roles that interim cover is required for are Principal Lawyer (Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Information Governance Officer (Deputy Data Protection Officer). The Council continues to attempt to recruit to these roles permanently, but recruitment campaigns to-date have resulted in the Council failing to appoint.
- 2.3 Both of these roles will provide necessary resilience and capacity to support the effective discharge of the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to governance, information governance and data protection.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council could choose not to appoint interims to these positions however this has the potential to create a significant governance and compliance risk by reducing the Council's resilience and capacity to discharge its statutory responsibilities, particularly during periods of absence, competing demands or increased workload.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To approve the use of £88,000 of the Local Priorities Reserve to fund the cost of two 3-month interim appointments in legal and governance, namely the vacant Principal Lawyer (Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Information Governance Officer (Deputy Data Protection Officer).

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 To ensure the Council remains effective in discharging its statutory responsibilities.

6. Local Government Reorganisation Considerations

- 6.1 The decision relates to the funding of two short-term interim appointments whilst efforts continue to permanently recruit to the vacant positions. As such there are no applicable LGR considerations.

Signed by:
