



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

3 August 2026

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and S151 Officer

Use of the Homelessness Grant Reserve

To approve the use of £93k of the Homelessness Prevention Grant Reserve to fund the cost of 2 x 12-month fixed term Housing Options Officer – Tenancy Specialist posts and the associated General Fund revenue budget amendments.

Contact

Alison Hall-Wright, Director of Housing and Projects

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Decision made by:	Richard Wyles
Decision:	To approve the use of £93k of the Homelessness Grant Reserve to fund the cost of 2 x 12-month fixed term Housing Options Officer – Tenancy Specialist posts and the associated General Fund revenue budget amendments.
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 give the Chief Finance Officer approval to use discretionary reserves when the request is up to £150k.</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 on the legacy grant funding Homelessness Reserve is sufficient to fund the £93k one-off costs for the two 12-month fixed term posts.

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

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Chief Finance Officer has authority under Appendix A (Approval to use General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Reserves with the exception of the relevant Working Balances) of the Financial Regulations in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, to approve use of reserves up to the value of £150,000.
- 1.3 Officers must be satisfied that the proposed use of the reserve is consistent with the purpose for which the reserve was established and in line with any conditions attaching to the underlying funding.

Completed by: Graham Kitchen – Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To seek approval to use £93k of the Homelessness Reserve to fund the cost of two 12-month fixed term Housing Options Officer – Tenancy Specialist Posts and to amend the General Fund Revenue Budget accordingly.
- 2.2 These posts would provide targeted support to South Kesteven District Council tenants who are at risk of homelessness due to rent arrears, tenancy sustainment issues or concerns relating to property condition. The post holders would work proactively with tenants to identify risks at an early stage and deliver preventative interventions to avoid homelessness wherever possible.
- 2.3 The grant is ringfenced and one of the requirements is to spend the grant on core prevention activities so the creation of these posts would meet this condition. The posts would also work alongside rent recovery officers with the aim of creating a holistic approach in tackling both rent arrears and other issues which could lead to tenants becoming homeless.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council could choose not to approve the use of the Homelessness Reserve to fund the two 12-month fixed term posts, but this would not support the Council with supporting our tenants who are at risk of homelessness.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To approve the use of £93k of the Homelessness Reserve and the associated General Fund revenue budget amendments to fund the cost of two Housing Options Officer – Tenancy Specialist posts for a 12-month fixed term period.

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 To ensure the Council is delivering effective Homelessness Prevention activities.

6. Local Government Reorganisation Considerations

- 6.1 The cost associated with these posts is for a 12-month fixed term period so there are no Local Government Reorganisation considerations which need to be taken into account when making this decision.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

Dated: **03 August 2026**