



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

3 August 2026

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and S151 Officer

Use of the HRA Priorities Reserve

To approve the use of £43k of the HRA Priorities Reserve to fund the cost of agency staff and a review of the HRA Business Plan by Savills and the associated revenue budget amendments.

Contact

Alison Hall-Wright, Director of Housing and Projects

✉ Alison.hall-wright@southkesteven.gov.uk

Decision made by:	Richard Wyles
Decision:	To approve the use of £43k of the HRA Priorities Reserve to fund the cost of agency staff and a review of the HRA Business Plan by Savills and the associated 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 There is sufficient balance within the HRA Priorities Reserve to fund this.

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.

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

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To seek approval to use £43k of the HRA Priorities Reserve to fund a review of the financial viability of the HRA Business Plan (£10k) and the cost of agency staff (£33k)
- 2.2 At its meeting on 7 May 2026 the Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the proposed action plan to respond to ongoing financial challenges faced by the HRA which included a review of the 30-year HRA Business Plan. The review has been undertaken by Savills but there is currently no budget provision, this report seeks approval for the cost of £10k to be funded by the HRA Priorities Reserve and for the revenue budget to be amended accordingly.
- 2.3 Due to staff absence/vacant posts there is/has been a requirement to use agency staff to ensure the HRA can continue to deliver services which is estimated to cost £33k. The budget from vacant posts has contributed towards this cost however there is a budget shortfall due to the cost of agency support being higher than budgeted posts. This report seeks approval to allocate up to £33k from the HRA Priorities Reserve to fund this additional cost and for the revenue budget to be amended accordingly.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council could choose not to approve the use of the HRA Priorities Reserve but there is currently no forecast budget underspend that could be transferred to cover these costs.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To use £43k of the HRA priorities reserve to fund the cost of a review of the HRA Business Plan (£10k) and the cost of agency staff (£33k).

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 To ensure the Council can fund the cost of the HRA business plan review and can continue to deliver HRA services using agency staff.

6. Local Government Reorganisation Considerations

- 6.1 These are one off costs 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**