I introduce this summary of what North Kesteven District Council does in support of our District of Flourishing Communities by saying how proud and privileged I am to be Leader of such a great council.

Through this leaflet you will gain a sense of how we work effectively and efficiently in the interests of our wonderful District: councillors, officers and partners in the service of our communities; reaching for the highest standards in the delivery of excellent services that are relevant in people's lives.

In NK we make great efforts in making the Council central to the lives of our residents; adding real value and fostering wellbeing and prosperity within safe, clean communities.

We do this by ensuring that NKDC remains at the heart of our community. And that is the purpose of this Discover NK engagement, continuing a tradition of listening, responding and respecting the views of residents in shaping bold, resilient and responsive actions.

I sincerely hope that you discover – or deepen – a sense of what lies behind North Kesteven's success as 'A District of Flourishing Communities.'

And that you discover that your District Council is about so much more than emptying your bins weekly, running elections, managing planning applications and providing leisure centres – all of which we do, and do well.

Discover more about the ways in which we safeguard and create jobs; promote inward investment; build, run and support quality housing options; shape safe, vibrant communities; ensure food outlets, taxis and pubs are safe and properly licensed; protect the public; and encourage healthier lifestyles.

Discover how all of this activity is prioritised to achieve a stronger economy, better homes, vibrant communities and efficiently-run Council services.

Discover how little you pay for what you receive: on average £2.56 a week.

A record response to our residents’ survey this year showed consistently high satisfaction for the way the Council runs things, the quality of its services and the value for money it represents, which of course I welcome.

However, the challenge before us is to push even harder in ensuring our services, support and leadership are efficient and of the high standards residents expect of us – to the point that should you ever be asked to choose your council, you would still choose us.

I firmly believe that to remain at the very top of our game, we must – as a Council – listen to our communities, pursue only the highest standards at best possible value and perform as well as we can, delivering against the clear unambiguous goals set out in the NK Plan.

Your input is critical in this and I welcome your thoughts, compliments and any concerns you may have.

Cllr Richard Wright
Leader of North Kesteven District Council
North Kesteven District Council is a council that delivers a difference: a difference that impacts positively on the daily lives of its 111,000-plus residents in 50,000-plus homes and those working in 4,000-plus businesses.

This difference is what defines North Kesteven as the country’s safest place to live; with high levels of life satisfaction, quality of life, contentment, happiness and wellbeing – as verified by various studies in the past year.

It has high levels of businesses start-up success, investor confidence, sports take-up and active participation and some of the best council homes built through a highly-regarded and robust programme for developing social housing.

Small in size, but big on impact, it is highly effective and highly efficient; operating with a clear vision and commitment to deliver excellence in all it does.

This is achieved not only through the foresight and direction of its 43 dedicated councillors, the commitment and consideration of responsible council officers, and the strong and resilient partnerships which help to shape responsive and regarded services; but through a mutually-respectful relationship with residents, businesses and community influencers.

This includes you, as together we make North Kesteven what it is – a District of Flourishing Communities.

Together we shape those communities; we pioneer initiatives, ideas and investments; we show foresight, care and compassion; and we actively support and enhance our neighbourhoods.

This level of positivity and engagement underpins the NK Plan, the Council and community’s shared three-yearly rolling programme of targeted ambitions and aspirations geared towards responding to need, challenges and opportunities.

Fully-funded and backed by the community through consultation and political endorsement, it ensures that the Council continues to deliver the excellent services expected of residents, in support of the District’s Flourishing Communities.

The Plan for this year and a flavour of the successes delivered against it over the past year can be seen over the following pages.

Further detail can be found at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk or contact your Councillor, details on the back cover.
What your District Council has achieved

Each year North Kesteven District Council sets targets to ensure it delivers for the Flourishing Communities it serves. Some of the key figures for the last year are featured on this page, and throughout your newsnk.

- **184** jobs created as a result of Council intervention
- **96%** of the Council's business units are occupied
- **21** private sector empty properties brought back into use
- **95%** of tenants satisfied with the service provided by the Council
- **97%** of food businesses broadly compliant with legislation
- **10** new investments secured in NK for regeneration projects
- **70%** of residents feel that streets are clean within the District
- **89%** of customers found it easy to access the services they require
- **384,767** visitors to cultural venues and ArtsNK programmes
- **712,991** visitors to indoor sport and leisure facilities

North Kesteven is a Council defined as:

- **High-performing** – a highly efficient ratio of staff to residents serving a sparse rural population.
- **Resilient** – strong financial planning and preparedness mitigates against kneejerk efficiencies and cost savings.
- **Vibrant** – inherently enthusiastic, progressive and dynamic in all that we do.
- **Well-run** – highly regarded and respected by a spectrum of residents, peer authorities and agencies.
- **Customer-focused** – engaging 100s of people in setting the agenda on priorities and action.
- **Active** – investing heavily in leisure, arts and cultural facilities as well as improved housing.
The NK Plan is about making a difference for people and communities in North Kesteven.

Designed with input from partners, stakeholders and residents, the NK Plan ensures that the Council continues to deliver excellent services for flourishing communities which make up the District, while tackling the main challenges facing NK.

The plan is split into four distinct priorities – Our Economy, Our Homes, Our Communities and Our Council – and describes what we plan to do, the resources available to do that, and how success will be measured.

It is revised annually to ensure it remains fresh, with relevant ambitions and aspirations, reflecting the position in respect of strategy, budget and performance framework for the forthcoming three years.

In line with the Plan and to ensure clear, consistent delivery against it, all of the Council’s services are geared towards delivering against one or more of the 15 current ambitions.

The Council is focused on delivering the strong vision and clear priorities set out within the Plan, together with its ambitious capital programme.

It has a viable and positive financial plan for the next three years, and remains focused on making a difference for the communities of North Kesteven.

How we continued to deliver against the NK Plan in 2016/17 can be seen on the following pages.

North Kesteven is a Council defined as:

**Collaborative** – engaging with partners who share our vision in tackling the main challenges together.

**Visionary** – first to start building council houses again; and doing more than any similar authority.

**Efficient** – pioneering a range of shared service arrangements to save money and share expertise.

**Pre-emptive** – always horizon scanning and responsive to emerging challenges.

**Future-focused** – detailed short and medium term plans sit alongside long-term visioning.

**Forward-looking** – anticipating change and challenges and preparing timely responses.
‘Our Council’ is the Priority concerned principally with ensuring the efficient operation of the Council and its lost-cost, high-value, customer-focused services; maintaining balanced budgets, and resilient financial planning; and operating systems of open and accountable democracy which includes the good conduct of Council meetings and Members.

Service areas include finance, customer, public and partner engagement, technology, governance, emergency planning, democratic participation and elections.

As a proportion of net General Fund spend, it accounts for around one-third; £4,443,000 in 2016-17.

For the year ahead key activities are to:
- Progress the new Refuse Depot at Metheringham; and
- To deliver key strategies surrounding staff, services and finance as well as a new model for improving the quantity and quality of rented accommodation in the District.

Through such targeted action the Council:
- Maintains its reputation for openness and transparency;
- Improves engagement and involvement of residents;
- Ensures ease of access for customers to its services;
- Maintains a highly motivated, skilled and flexible workforce;
- Continually seeks better quality and higher value-for-money; and
- Innovates efficient and effective services that meet customers’ needs.

During 2016 the Council refreshed its website, making it easier to use on the move, more accessible, more transactional and more intuitive. It lets you contact the council when and where you choose, 24/7 – instead of having to wait for when we’re open.

316,106 users visited 1.9m pages at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk over 486,579 sessions.

There was a 235% uplift in web sessions over five years as the website improved.

At the same time Customer Services handled 1000s of phone calls and face-to-face enquiries at its reception desks.

81.4% of residents show high levels of satisfaction with the way the Council runs things.

100,198 enquiries handled by Customer Service staff by phone and 27,021 customers seen face to face in 2016/17.

94% of customers satisfied with the way their request was handled.

89% of customers find it easy to access the services they require.

11,708 people formally consulted on one thing or another in 2016/17; 3,357 through the annual household survey – a three-fold increase on 2015/16 – and 3,800 customer service surveys.

92% of the 97 total complaints responded to within 15 days.

1,145 formal ‘access to information’ requests responded to in 2016/17; 98.5% answered on time. Twice the number from five years ago.

NewsNK delivered to 52,500 premises, four times a year, at a cost of 15p per copy.

Social media engagements grew by an average of 15% over the year; 5m on Twitter alone.

All Council, Executive and committee meetings are open to the public to attend, with decisions shared via social media, local media, NewsNK, online minutes and recordings.

Running elections – 16 separate polls were juggled in 2016/17.

Around 300 aspiring voters engaged per year through Local Democracy Week initiatives.
85% of residents rate the quality of the Council’s services ‘highly’.

82.7% of residents feel the Council offers ‘value for money’.

9.6% – the proportion of Council Tax North Kesteven keeps for its own services.

£2.56 – the average Council Tax cost per household for all that the District Council provides.

NK’s Council Tax rate is within the lowest 25% nationwide.

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The 10th best Council Tax collection in country, out of 326 authorities – 99.1%; and 2nd highest in Lincolnshire for Business Rates – also 99.1%.

One of the lowest ratios of staff: population of any Lincolnshire council; 322 (FTE) staff to support the needs of 111,876 people.

£2.26m – the amount saved and generated as additional income to offset reduced central government funding for 2016/17.

Overall the Council is responsible for handling around £90m in gross spend every year.

For most of this the Council is merely an agent, paying it out through benefits, drainage rates, precepts for other councils, disability facilities grants etc. Although it collects around £58m in Council Tax and £24m in business rates a year, it only retains a fraction of this for spending by NKDC, with the rest passed on to other organisations.

The main area of spend on direct delivery for all residents is the Net General Fund which for 2016/17 totalled £12.020m.

The Net General Fund budget for this year is £11.298m and £11.986m for 2018/19; always striving for low cost and high value. This is chiefly funded by the retained share of Council Tax, Business Rates and service income.

The Council has an ambitious programme of improvements and enhancements which totalled £17.93m in 2016/17. The Housing Revenue Account is a ring-fenced budget of £15.3m predominantly funded through rents in support of the Council’s function as a landlord of 3,868 properties.

Although Central Government funding is rapidly declining – down 38% this year on top of a 33% cut in 2015/16 – through robust and resilient accounting, the Council is well placed to deliver on its forward vision, strategic objectives and corporate priorities through inclusive, active partnerships, pioneering initiatives and investing in growth.

1,363 planning applications received in 2016/17, plus 667 pre-application enquiries; in line with consistently high volumes.

11,703 consultations undertaken and 8,163 ‘neighbour notifications’ carried out.

327,792 hits on applications, documents and decisions via the Planning Online web portal.

100% of Major applications decided within the required 13 weeks or agreed extension;

1,110 new addresses registered; and 40 new streets named.

Police & Crime Commissioner: 12.7%
Lincolnshire County Council: 72.6%
Parish & Town Councils: 5.1%
North Kesteven DC: 9.6%

How your Council Tax payments are shared out. Parish share is averaged.
Your local councils and their responsibilities

In North Kesteven, services are provided by different councils: County, District and Town or Parish. Each has its own level of statutory and discretionary responsibilities, for which a Council Tax charge is set. This handy pullout guide will show you who does what with your money and who to speak to about any issues that may arise.

Parish and Town Councils

Most parts of the District fall within a Parish or Town Council, but some smaller areas, don’t. Such a council will incur costs varying from a few hundred to many thousands of pounds according to the range of services and operations they undertake. The Council Tax charge varies greatly for this, but on average accounts for around 5% of the overall Council Tax charge. This list includes services which can be – but don’t have to be – delivered by any Parish and Town Council.

- **Allotments**
- **Burial Grounds**
- **Bus shelters & Clocks**
- **Community centres**, village halls and public buildings.
- **Footpaths & drainage**
- **General spending** – ability to spend a limited amount on anything of benefit to the community that is not covered by other responsibilities.
- **Highways** – lighting, parking places, traffic signs and other notices, tree planting and verge maintenance.
- **Land** – acquisition and sale.
- **Litter** – litter and dog bins.
- **Planning** – parish councils must be notified of, and may comment on planning applications for the area. They can also draw up Neighbourhood Plans.
- **Telecommunication** – power to pay a subsidy to provide local services.
- **Public toilets**
- **Recreation** – provide open space, gardens, walkways, village greens, playing fields and holiday camps.
- **Rights of way** – footpath and bridleway maintenance.
- **Seats & signs**
- **Tourism** – cash contribution to a local tourist organisation.
- **Traffic calming**
- **War memorials**
- **Water supply** – power to use stream, well or spring water and provide facilities for general use.

To contact your parish council, visit [www.n-kesteven.gov.uk](http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk) and search for ‘Parish and Town Councils’

North Kesteven District Council

North Kesteven District Council operates across 365 square miles, delivering more locally-based services to 111,876 people in 50,255 households. For the services, outlined here, on average people pay £2.56 a week. The Band D charge is £154.80 for the year, around 9% of the total bill.

- **Accessible services** – Ensuring fair, easy and equitable access to services: online, at District-wide offices and through formats suited to sight, hearing and language needs.
- **Administration** - Billing and collecting fees and charges.
- **Arts and culture** – Offering a range of arts and cultural outreach and centres.
- **Benefits** – Advice, admin and payment of various benefits.
- **Building Control** – Dealing with dangerous structures and regulation compliance.
- **Car parking** – In Sleaford and at Whisby Nature Park.
- **Community safety** – CCTV operation and dealing with anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns.
- **Conservation** – Heritage assets and tree protection.
- **Countryside access** – Includes maintenance of 140 miles of Stepping Out Walks.
- **Economic regeneration** – Wide ranging services to create jobs, stimulate inward investment, promote growth and attract funding.
- **Elections** – Registration and operation of all elections.
- **Environmental health** – Inspecting and enforcing on food safety, water quality, and workplace Health & Safety.
- **Environmental protection** – Includes air quality, stray dogs, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, graffiti removal and noise complaints.
- **FundNK** – Grants available for community projects.
- **Grass cutting** – In council-owned areas only.
- **Health trainers** – Dedicated health trainer encouraging healthier lifestyles.
- Housing – Providing nearly 4,000 of its own homes, ensuring private rentals are fit to live in; promoting re-use of empty homes for use, homelessness support and many other services.
- Land charges – Maintaining an accurate register of charges and conditions affecting land and property.
- Leisure – Operation of two leisure centres and outreach.
- Licensing – Ensuring compliance of pubs, clubs, taxis, animal breeders, kennels, venues, etc.
- Money advice – Supporting people with budgeting and debt management.
- Neighbourhood Planning – Supporting communities who want to shape the future of their local areas.
- Older people – Recreational services such as the Vitality programme, health walks, senior swim sessions and specific art events.
- Planning – Consultation and consideration of planning applications, a fully accessible, searchable and open website of all planning documentation, and long-term planning strategy.
- Safeguarding – Duties for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults against neglect and abuse.
- Strategic Partnerships – Working with public, private, voluntary and community organisations to pool resources in tackling identified local challenges.
- Street scene – Emptying litter and dog bins, except in Sleaford or on private land, street cleaning, street naming and signage.
- Sustainability – Advice and support to cut carbon, energy use and energy cost.
- Tourism – Operation of visitor attractions and direct support for tourism businesses and accommodation providers.
- Trees and hedges – Managing NKDC-owned trees, protected trees and advising on planning.
- Waste collection – Operation of an alternate weekly collection for refuse, recycling and paid for garden waste service.
- Witham Valley Country Park – Leading a project of joined-up of green spaces as a recreational hub for locals and tourists.
- Working with others – Promoting community and strategic partnership to achieve more together.
- Young people – Promoting demographic engagement and hearing young people’s voices through YouthNK.

Lincolnshire County Council serves the whole of Lincolnshire. At Band D the Council Tax charge is £1,173.42 for the coming year, accounting for more than 70% of the overall charge.

- Education – The county council retains oversight of standards, diversity, careers guidance and parental choice.
- Children’s services – Social care, school transport, free school meals, fostering and adoption, and young carers.
- Protecting vulnerable adults – Looking after a growing population of elderly residents and others in need of support. Also administration of Blue Badges and assistance with residential and respite care.
- Public health – Protecting against disease and helping achieve healthier lifestyles.
- Roads & transport – Maintaining the network of roads, cycleways, footpaths and rights of way; winter gritting; community transport initiatives; determining speed limits and traffic regulation.
- Economic regeneration – Along with district councils, working to encourage investment, prosperity and job creation. Plus some tourism and heritage sites.
- Libraries – Following partial transfer to community groups, running the main branches and enhanced mobile and online services.
- Waste management – Disposing of the waste district councils collect and running household waste recycling centres.
- Community safety – Fire & Rescue; Trading Standards; Also key role on emergency planning and flooding.
- Other services – Includes registration services, street lighting, county archives, bus pass administration, planning of minerals extraction.

To contact the Council or your County Councillor, call on 01522 552222 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk
Our Communities

‘Our Communities’ is a Priority which covers a broad spectrum of services; principally those which are most-public facing and the first ones to be thought of in relation to a council – such as refuse collection, recycling, street cleaning.

Service areas include waste and recycling, strategic partnerships, health, wellbeing, community safety, licensing, environmental health and building control, support of community initiatives, leisure, arts and cultural services and support for the rollout of better Broadband.

As a proportion of net General Fund spend, it accounts for more than half: £6,621,000 in 2016-17.

For the year ahead key activities are to:
- Procure further improved contracts for leisure, arts and culture to further boost our already strong performance;
- Support delivery of at least five more Neighbourhood Plans; and
- To continue the implementation and development of key strategies for older people, welfare reform and child poverty.

Through such targeted action the Council maintains its reputation as:
- A Flourishing District;
- A vibrant destination;
- A clean and attractive District;
- The safest local authority are in England;
- Improved health and wellbeing within all of its communities; and
- Reduced inequality, deprivation and social and digital isolation.

Supportive NK

688 homelessness cases prevented through NKDC’s preventative actions and advice.

1,002 people supported through life changes by the NK Wellbeing service in 2016/17; 96% assessed within five days. Total of 3,195 people supported over three years.

Promotion of anti-bullying, confidence-building messages among young people through an innovative YouthNK-led project.

Continued financial contribution to Citizens Advice in recognition of their life-changing work.

100s of people touched by wide ranging initiatives in support of social inclusion pioneered through the PartnershipNK collaboration, such as Branching Out and Guidelines to Art.

Attractive, clean and sustainable NK


4,208 bulky waste collections dealt with: 95% within five working days.

30 vehicles, driving 617,222 km and using 293,956.5 litres of fuel; £492,000 invested in three new vehicles this year.

Also clearing 928 litter and dog bins weekly.

814 km of streets swept; 76% of residents rate footpaths and kerbs as clean or very clean.

In total during 2016/17 the Council responded to 1,086 reports of fly-tipping.

17 of these got as far as court action, resulting in 31 successful convictions.

Proactive investigation and enforcement of fly-tipping; with one enforcement action for every 2.6 fly tip incidents.

NK is the most proactive of all Lincolnshire councils for pursuing prosecutions; responsible for 80% of all Lincolnshire fly-tip prosecutions.

60% of residents were positive about the standard of verge cleanliness.

40% cut in the Council’s carbon outputs – four years ahead of target.
Healthy, fit and vibrant NK

£7m investment in upgraded leisure facilities in Sleaford and North Hykeham; driving increased use and participation.

62% rise in use at Sleaford Leisure Centre over the years after re-opening and 29% at ONE NK. Satisfaction at Sleaford doubled to 92%.

38% of adults participate in sport regularly – the highest rate in Lincolnshire.

1st interactive water flume in the UK, which takes photos, included in ONE NK’s new look.

712,991 visitors to NK’s indoor sports and leisure facilities – 60% of them using ONE NK.

384,767 visitors to NK’s cultural venues and arts programme.

Record use of Whisby Natural World Centre – 236,843 visitors in 2016/17 – following £407,000 spend on facilities and play spaces.

Sole district council and one of only four local authorities hand-picked to help shape Public Health England’s pilot project on tackling obesity.

230 people helped by the NK Health Trainer – the only remaining Health Trainer in the county; Almost 1,500 people helped to find healthier lifestyles over nine years.

Promoting Witham Valley Country Park, a network of 11 distinct open spaces for nature, sport and recreation on the edge of Lincoln.

Maintaining a 140 mile network of walking routes across 19 self-guided Stepping Out walks; operating annual Spires & Steeples marathon running and walking challenge and 18 Social Strollers health walks.

Sponsor of new professional and amateur cycle races and routes to inspire local participation.

Safe and inclusive NK

4th consecutive year as the safest place in the country – with the lowest levels of crime by population size.

Active in promoting and upholding community safety; 90% of residents feel as safe or safer than a year ago.

Lincolnshire’s lowest levels of anti-social behavior and very low re-offending rate.

98% of businesses rated 3 or above for food hygiene compliance; 80% with the top rating and 94% in top two grades.

Rated 8th in the country for ensuring businesses comply with the highest standards.

203 taxi and private hire vehicles and 225 drivers licensed. Also licensed 1,383 people to sell alcohol, 391 premises and 275 Temporary Event Notices.

Building Control carried out 4,313 inspections within six hours of a request and oversaw standards on 787 building projects, 228 of them new homes;

64 Fire Risk Assessments carried out for the Council and private sector.

183 stray dogs found; 10 industrial processes regulated; 90 samples taken to assess safe drinking and bathing water.
‘Our Homes’ is a Priority which covers a range of responsibilities in respect of increased and improved housing provision. Aside from the Council’s own housing stock, which it invests heavily in expanding and enhancing, and the new Lafford Homes company set up to boost the local private rental market, this Priority is mainly concerned with supporting, enabling and

It covers strategic housing needs, enabling social housing providers, enforcing standards for private rental, facilitating the return of empty homes back to use, negotiating the provision of affordable housing and reviewing and developing national and local policies relating to housing. Creation, delivery and monitoring of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan falls within this area too.

Service areas include development management, housing strategy, the Safe as Houses project to drive up standards in the private rental market and the Council’s landlord and property functions.

Spending on the provision of Council Housing is managed under a separate fund, the Housing Revenue Account. As such the net General Fund spend, is relatively low, at £500,000 in 2016-17.

For the year ahead key activities are to:

- Begin construction of at least 60 new Council properties;
- Progress the beginning of development at key sites including Sleaford South and Witham St Hughs;
- Bring at least 20 more empty homes back into use; and
- Through Lafford Homes acquire or start construction on at least 30 properties to be available for Market Rent.

Through such targeted action the Council:

- Maintains continual improvement in housing quality and services across all tenures;
- Improves the housing mix;
- Increases the number of affordable homes and reduces numbers of empty homes; and
- Ensures sustainable housing growth coupled with infrastructure development.

To increase housing supply locally, North Kesteven District Council actively works in various ways:

- Directly building and improving private rental housing through new Lafford Homes company: on site with 27 flats at North Hykeham.

- Promoting the re-use of empty houses, actively bringing 100+ back into use over five years; 21 in 2016/17.

- Giving planning approval of appropriate developments: 467 new homes built in 2016/17.

- Enabling housing association partners: 99 affordable homes for rent or shared ownership delivered in 2016/17.

- Building its own council houses: 200 built since 2010 across 24 sites at a cost of £20m. 39 built in 2016/17 with more planned and underway.
Working in partnership with Lincoln City, West Lindsey and Lincolnshire County councils to develop and adopt a 25 year planning vision for Central Lincolnshire.

Overall plan to deliver by 2036, 36,960 new homes, 138 hectares of land to support 11,894 new jobs and associated roads, schools, healthcare etc over the three areas – a total of 820 square miles.

NK is critical to this success, accommodating over 50% of this growth including around 4,400 new homes in Sleaford and approximately 8,500 close to Lincoln.

Target for 47% of new homes to be 'affordable' to rent or buy.

**Maintain and improve housing in NK**

Operates 3,868 council houses, all built or kept to higher, tenant-led standards than national requirements.

Investing record sums in new and improved social housing; £30.7m over next two years including £8.9m in biggest-ever project on 81 homes at Newfield Road, Sleaford.

Country’s best at increasing Council House numbers, building almost two for every one lost through Right to Buy.

Built Lincolnshire’s cheapest to live in council houses, two super-energy-efficient Passivhauses in Heckington – achieving 50% energy savings, and the country’s first straw bale council homes.

Safe as Houses scheme promotes warmer, healthier homes and improves living standards for private tenants; 190 cases handled, 99 inspections undertaken; 31 interventions carried out to remove critical hazards.

Five privately rented houses shut down and two landlords prosecuted.

**Provide quality housing services across NK**

98.25% of all new homes in the District achieve the highest A-C energy ratings.

Across the Council’s own 3,868 homes, 95% meet the higher benchmark of the NK Homes Standard.

99% of tenants satisfied with their repairs.

All 2,639 Council properties requiring a gas safety certificate have one.

100% satisfaction with the 66 Disability Facilities Grants awarded in 2016/17; a fund boosted by £100,000 of the Council’s own investment.

**Deliver the Local Plan**

Working in partnership with Lincoln City, West Lindsey and Lincolnshire County councils to develop and adopt a 25 year planning vision for Central Lincolnshire.

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NK is critical to this success, accommodating over 50% of this growth including around 4,400 new homes in Sleaford and approximately 8,500 close to Lincoln.

Appropriate scale developments will support the sustainability of many villages too.

Around half of the employment allocations are within North Kesteven, bringing a further jobs and prosperity boost.

Target for 47% of new homes to be ‘affordable’ to rent or buy.
‘Our Economy’ is a Priority which is primarily concerned with growing a more resilient, vibrant and balanced high-wage economy by supporting all enterprises, of all sizes, to prosper, flourish, invest, grow and relocate within the District.

This includes the operation of 102 managed workshop units to help emerging and fledgling businesses, facilitating inward investment, engaging with growing businesses to understand and respond to their needs and enhancing the trading conditions for all, especially tourism providers and shops in Sleaford.

For the year ahead key activities are to:
- Further develop the Teal Park/ LN6 employment locations within North Hykeham;
- Work with partners to drive forward regeneration projects in Sleaford and North Hykeham; and
- Manage the opportunities and challenges arising from Brexit.

Through such targeted action the Council:
- Increases levels of inward investment;
- Increases entrepreneurial activity;
- Grows a more balanced higher-wage economy; and
- Actively promotes NK’s regeneration as an attractive location for residents, businesses and visitors.

Support business growth and jobs in NK

186 jobs created in 2016/17 as result of Council intervention and 298 safeguarded.

Supported delivery of 3.57 hectares more employment land for new jobs opportunities; plus 8,919 sq m of business space.

132 businesses, large and small, provided with bespoke advice and support to encourage growth.

50 fastest growing employers closely engaged; fostering new investment opportunities; working to improve retail potential for Sleaford traders and offering free advice.

102 business units operated across the District on nine sites in support of small and growing enterprises, sustaining 180 jobs; 97% occupancy and seven more being built.

Small start-ups nurtured via a new pop-up shop initiative.

90% of the 4,270 enterprises in North Kesteven are classed as micro enterprises, with nine or fewer employees. All are eligible for the Council’s professional business advice and support.

Unemployment locally is around 4% and only 1% of NK residents claim out-of-work benefits.

NKDC operates a range of visitor attractions to draw visitors and support businesses.

2.3m annual visitors to North Kesteven contribute £120m to the local economy and support more than 2,000 jobs – a 4% rise in numbers visiting, spending 3.3% more.

Aviation heritage is a unique draw locally, championed through the Council’s operation of the Cranwell Museum and support for the International Bomber Command Centre.

Working with a Heritage Lottery grant to rescue and refurbish the unique Mrs Smith’s Cottage and maximise its visitor appeal.
Drive investment in NK including transport routes

£30,000 into the Castle Line rail partnership generated a 70% increase in passengers at Hykeham station, 13 extra weekday stopping trains and additional weekend services.

More parking and improvements at Hykeham and Swinderby stations.

New investment in 10 large scale regeneration projects – Sleaford Growth Project, International Bomber Command Centre, Mrs Smith's Cottage, car parks, leisure upgrades etc.

Secured £2m for highways and infrastructure enhancements in Sleaford to unlock housing and employment sites.

Commissioned a study into the potential of pedestrianisation and traffic flow in Sleaford in support of enhanced town centre trade.

Promoted and supported extension of the Lincoln Hire Bikes into North Hykeham, Whisby and Skellingthorpe.

£150,000 invested into partnership to fund up to £600,000 of improvements to Sleaford’s historic shopfronts.

Regenerate NK

2m GLLEP investment for highway improvements in support of Sleaford's growth.

£2m secured through S106 for further infrastructure developments District-wide.

Active in bringing forward regeneration opportunities for Sleaford and North Hykeham, which is home to 40% of Lincolnshire's growth potential.

Poised for 50% of Central Lincolnshire’s economic growth up to 2036 – 6,000 new jobs. LN6 area already has 28% of the District’s whole employment.

Attracted £165m pioneering straw bale power station at Sleaford, sustaining 80 jobs, £6m in annual supply contacts and £2.5m of community benefit.

Invested £2m in 19 business units at Teal Park, with potential to assist 85 businesses and create 280 jobs over 25 years;

Providing for seven more units in £4.2m new Depot scheme.

Invested £605,000 into a £48m countywide partnership to rollout Broadband improvements for 20,000+ homes and businesses locally.

Tell us your thoughts at: NKPlan@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Our Environment

A proposed new Priority

‘Our Environment’ is under consideration as a new Priority, which could draw on the other Priorities to give stronger focus and targeted action on the themes of place, heritage, sustainability and climate.

This fifth priority is open for people to help shape, in what it covers and how it is focused.

Suggested aspirations are to:
• Protect and improve the natural and built environment of Our Places;
• Conserve and promote Our Heritage;
• Reduce carbon emissions to improve Our Sustainability;
• Reduce carbon emissions from operations and service delivery as a commitment to Our Climate.

Service areas informing this would include sustainability, conservation and listed buildings, waste and recycling and council-wide contributions to reduced carbon outputs.

Targeted action in this way would lead to:
• An improved and protected natural environment;
• Increased recognition of, and participation in, the District’s heritage;
• Increased adoption of sustainable measures and resilience to climate change for the Council, residents and businesses; and
• Development of sustainable communities.

Tell us your thoughts at: NKPlan@n-kesteven.gov.uk
# Contact your Councillor

This guide to North Kesteven’s 43 Elected Members should help you to identify which Councillor you should contact on any matter relating to any particular area within North Kesteven. A list of these can be found on the Corporate Website [www.n-kesteven.gov.uk](http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk) or by using the direct link below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward (Correct as of July 2017)</th>
<th>Member</th>
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| Ashby De La Launde and Cranwell | Cllr Steve Clegg  
Cllr Dan Gray |
| Bassingham and Brant Broughton | Cllr Mrs Sue Howe  
Cllr Mrs Pat Woodman MBE |
| Billinghay, Martin and North Kyme | Cllr Ms Susanna Matthan  
Cllr Mrs Gill Ogden |
| Bracebridge Heath and Waddington East | Cllr Peter Burley  
Cllr Lindsey Cawrey  
Cllr Mike Gallagher |
| Branston | Cllr Ray Cucksey  
Cllr Peter Lundgren |
| Cliff Villages | Cllr Cathrine Mills  
Cllr Mrs Marianne Overton MBE |
| Eagle, Swinderby and Witham St Hughes | Cllr Mrs Sally Appleby  
Cllr Mrs Barbara Wells MBE |
| Heckington Rural | Cllr Stewart Ogden  
Cllr Mrs Sally Tarry |
| Heighington and Washingborough | Cllr Edward Herring  
Cllr Ian Carrington  
Cllr Ron Oxby |
| Kirby La Thorpe and South Kyme | Cllr Mrs Julia Harrison |
| Leasingham and Rauceby | Cllr Mrs Susan Waring |
| Metheringham | Cllr Rob Kendrick  
Cllr John Money |
| North Hykeham Forum | Cllr Mrs Kay Barrett |
| North Hykeham Memorial | Cllr Wallace Lee |
| North Hykeham Mill | Cllr Ms Andrea Clarke  
Cllr Mike Clarke |
| North Hykeham Moor | Cllr Mrs Pam Whittaker |
| North Hykeham Witham | Cllr Ross Little |
| Osbournby | Cllr Kate Cook |
| Ruskington | Cllr Terry Boston  
Cllr Richard Wright |
| Skellingthorpe | Cllr Chris Goldson  
Cllr Mrs Shirley Pannell |
| Sleaford Castle | Cllr Keith Dolby |
| Sleaford Holdingham | Cllr Grenville Jackson |
| Sleaford Navigation | Cllr David Suiter |
| Sleaford Quarrington and Mareham | Cllr Tim Conning  
Cllr Geoffrey Hazelwood  
Cllr Mrk Suffield |
| Sleaford Westholme | Cllr Steve Fields |
| Waddington West | Cllr Lance Pennell |

## Executive Board

The six Members who make up the Executive Board - Councillors Burley, Cawrey, Cucksey, Howe, Money and Wright - all have areas of special interest spread across the Council’s services.

- **Cllr Peter Burley**
- **Cllr Lindsey Cawrey**
- **Cllr Ray Cucksey**
- **Cllr Mrs Sue Howe**
- **Cllr John Money**
- **Cllr Richard Wright**

[www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/councillors)