

21 March 2025



North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Parish and Town Council Forum

April 10, 2025

All Parish and Town Clerks should have received an invite to attend the above Forum on Thursday 10 April 2025 taking place in the District Council Offices, Sleaford.

It is an opportunity to meet the new Chief Executive and receive important updates from both the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on district matters. It also provides a great chance to meet with other Parish and Town councils.

Each Parish Council may wish to have up to two Councillors also attend and we respectfully encourage those dual-hatted Members to give

Your March newsletter



Spring blooms at Cogglesford Mill

As we march into Spring, it is lovely to have more daylight. Why not use some of those extra hours to explore our network of [Stepping Out](#) walks?

Please do share this Newsletter with your Councillors which hopefully gives them an insight into various matters and they may be able to further circulate.

*Any article with an asterisk – we would appreciate your help in spreading the news or information within your local communities.

Local Government Reorganisation and NK considerations

others the opportunity to join the Forum.

Design Code Consultation – Final Chance to Have a Say *



A reminder that the Design Code consultation is still underway and worthwhile parishes and residents looking at what this means and how to give a view <https://arcg.is/1qLiej1>

Closing date: Wednesday 9 April 2025

In addition to completing the survey, we would greatly appreciate your help to spread the word about the consultation to your residents and businesses through your existing communications such as mailing lists, parish newsletters, websites and social media.

Proposed Option – Three Unitaries for Greater Lincolnshire & Rutland

The preferred option for local government reorganisation for Greater Lincolnshire is a **three unitary** solution including the existing county of Rutland (previously a member of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership). The map and key numbers for this proposal are summarised below, with the arguments supporting this proposal set out on the subsequent pages.



Unitary 1	Unitary 2	Unitary 3
North Kesteven South Kesteven South Holland Rutland	Boston East Lindsey City of Lincoln West Lindsey	North Lincolnshire North-East Lincolnshire
Area sq. km		
2,997	3,323	1,040
Population – mid 2023 Estimate		
405,518	417,932	328,422
Population 2043 Projection		
446,315	449,787	337,152
Electorate 2024		
304,339	296,437	247,079
Council Tax : Chargeable dwellings and Band D equivalents		
180,147	191,763	150,804
Council Tax : Band D equivalents		
137,476	128,669	100,271
Economy GVA £m 2022		
9,882	9,272	10,883

Click to expand

The District Council held an extraordinary meeting on 18 March to agree a response to the government's invitation for a Local Government Reorganisation proposal ahead of the set deadline of 21 March 2025.

The Council has endorsed the above proposal which it felt represented the best possible proposal. Find out more [here](#).

All Councils across Greater Lincolnshire aim to work together to carefully consider options for simpler structures whilst ensuring that services and business as usual continue to be delivered.

Pre-Election Period: March 19 to May 1 2025

A brief reminder that this period of heightened sensitivity commenced on Wednesday 19 March and continues through to close of polls (10pm) Thursday 1 May. This applies to both Lincolnshire County Council and the Mayor of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority elections.

Essentially councils must remain neutral and should **'not publish any material which, in whole or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party or candidate standing for election'**.

Local authority publicity rules

Find out more [here](#).

Interested in public life - 1 May 2025 elections *

Councillors shape the future of the local area by making plans and taking decisions: Councils need strategies, policies and plans to achieve a vision for the local area, making the best use of resources and meeting the needs of communities.

People from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities they serve can put themselves forward for election to ensure diversity of thought and perspective.

If anyone is considering standing to be a [County Councillor](#) or [Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire](#), their nomination papers **must** be submitted by **2 April, 4pm**.

Village Hall Green Guide

The [Village Hall Green Guide](#) is for anyone managing a village hall and wondering how to

The rules on council publicity must be carefully observed during the pre-election period. Councils will publish factual information which identifies the names and parties of candidates in a way that promotes electoral registration and participation, but no more. While making some exceptions for the pre-election period, councils will be going about their normal business.

During this time, the [Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity](#) makes it clear that councils must not report views or proposals in such a way that identifies them with any individual members or groups of members, or political party. The Code also acts as a prohibition on any use of council resources for campaign purposes.

Statutory Election Notices

Thank you for your continued support in sharing these vital notices with your residents, through your noticeboards and websites. As the name suggests, these notices are obligatory and form part of the official run-up to an election.

The Councillor role

The role of the 'ward/county' Councillor continues throughout the pre-election period and they need to balance these responsibilities with their campaigning activities.

This means that Councillors must avoid any use of council resources in their campaign activities: this includes council email, phone, laptop and photocopier and other facilities.

Councillors are free to speak to the media on their own behalf provided they do not appear to be speaking on behalf of the council.

Be alert

Be alert to any risks that may arise in your parish. Nothing in the Code prevents local authorities from addressing issues of discrimination or harassment and tackling them

improve the quality and performance of their building by making it more energy efficient and environmentally friendly. It is intended as a simple, practical and helpful resource outlining the things management committees should consider when planning how to 'go green', as well as introducing the different technologies that can be used to this end.

Got a Green Idea? Apply for a Grant and Make It Happen! *

Do you belong to a community group or business, or as an individual have a green idea that you need funding to develop?

We've recently updated our funding page for environment and climate-related grants from a variety of sources, so now's the perfect time to see what you might be eligible for.

From insulation to EV charging, and tree planting to conservation works,

head-on during an election campaign, provided they act objectively.

Registering to vote and voter deadlines: 1 May 2025 elections *

To vote in any election people must be registered, and anyone voting at a polling station must also show one type of approved photo ID.

Key election voter deadline dates

For the May 1, 2025 elections, the important dates are:

- Register to vote by midnight on April 11 ***if not already registered***
- Apply for a new postal vote (or to cancel or change an existing postal or proxy vote) by 5pm on April 14
- Apply for a new proxy vote by 5pm on April 23
- Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you don't have photo ID by 5pm on April 23
- Day of election: Thursday May 1, 2025, 7am to 10pm

Polling station locations

Also, a reminder for all electors to check their poll card for their polling station location. Polling station venues can change for different elections if venues are unavailable.

Voter ID

Voter ID at polling stations has been in place since May 2023. Voters must show one form of photo ID such as a passport or driving licence. The full list of accepted photo ID can be viewed at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/voterID

For the elections on May 1, 2025, the Armed Forces Veterans Card will be accepted as a new form of Voter ID.

there's an array of support on offer.

Please [visit our website](#) to explore.

If you need any support with making an application then please contact the climate change team at climate_change@n-kesteven.gov.uk

The Community Councillor Collective

You may have heard about a Councillor in Frome who has recently founded [The Community Councillor Collective](#) - a growing network of Councillors who are committed to transforming local democracy from within.

She describes a Community Councillor as “someone who views their role as a facilitator and catalyst for collective action.” This new network is just getting started and they would love to welcome all Councillors who are interested in getting involved.

Any registered elector without the right ID can apply to get a free Voter Authority Certificate that can be used for voting for up to ten years.

You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or contact the Elections Team at NKDC on at elections@n-kesteven.gov.uk or 01529 414155 to discuss options.

Council Tax 2025-26

The District Council's [Council Tax charge](#) for the coming year will increase by between £3.30 and £4.40 for most households in North Kesteven, after councillors again voted to balance affordability and financial sustainability.

By taking a position of need, not want, North Kesteven District Council has chosen to pursue an increase of 2.61% on its portion of the overall bill. North Kesteven's remains the third-lowest of all Lincolnshire charges.

You can view the Council Tax charges [here](#).

Government plans to celebrate 80th anniversaries of VE and VJ Day *

The May Bank Holiday, Monday 5 May, will see the Cenotaph dressed in Union flags, a military procession and a flypast in London. Street parties, BBQs and community get-togethers will be held across the country, echoing the celebrations 80 years ago, and a ceremony on HMS Belfast will kick off community celebrations.

On Thursday 8 May, the VE programme will include a service of remembrance and thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey, followed by a concert.

On Friday 15 August, the Royal British Legion will lead the nation in honouring and remembering those who fought and died during the War in the Far East with a service

Councillors and others who are interested in this work [can sign up now](#).

30 empty homes addressed



Our dedicated Empty Homes team have surpassed themselves by bringing 30 empty homes back into use in the last year.

[Read the story](#) for more.

£18.4m secured for warmer council homes



We're delighted to have secured a grant of £9.1m, which adds to £9.3m already allocated in our budgets for decarbonisation and

marking the 80th anniversary of VJ Day at the National Memorial Arboretum. This will all be accompanied by a national engagement programme, including educational resources and creative community activity.

Councils are encouraged to promote street parties and community get-togethers on 5 May. The National Lottery Community Fund will be making its 'Awards for All' programme available to organisations to bid for grants to support communities coming together for these commemorative events.

A dedicated interactive website has been launched with latest information and ways to get involved: [VE and VJ Day 80](#) there is also a toolkit of promotional materials on offer: [Toolkit – VE and VJ Day 80](#). Updated guidance on organising a street party can be found [here](#).

NB: We are also compiling a list of VE Day events and commemorations taking place around the area. Please inform us of any your council or community is organising by emailing: heartoflincs@n-kesteven.gov.uk

We will be offering a small grant scheme to organisers of local events, the details of which will be sent to you separately.

Armed Forces Day poster competition

Calling all young painters, sketchers, artists and illustrators! Create an inspiring poster design and see it displayed around the District, plus win a prize.

Enter our Armed Forces Day poster competition, and the chosen design will be used to promote events taking place in North Kesteven. The theme is "The 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II with VE (Victory in Europe) & VJ (Victory over Japan) Days".

This competition is open to all young people of school age, including home-educated, with prizes of book tokens for winners (£15 each) and runners-up (£10) in each key stage as well as an overall winner (£25). There's an [entry](#)

installing measures that make the homes warmer.

The work will be spread throughout the [District](#) across more than 750 properties.

Find out more [here](#).

Healthwatch survey *

Healthwatch Lincolnshire is running a series of short surveys to gather public feedback on different aspects of health and care.

The insights collected will help them understand what is working well and where improvements may be needed.

The latest survey focuses on access to GP services, including appointments with GPs, practice nurses, paramedics, and other clinicians within GP practices.

Please help by [sharing the survey](#).

All responses are confidential and anonymised before being shared with relevant agencies. No personal

[form](#) on which to complete the artwork, along with details of how to enter. **The deadline is Friday 4 April 2025.**

Grant fund closing soon *

Schroders Greencoat – the owner of the Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant – has committed to providing a further £125,000 in local funding over the next five years. The Community Power Fund has previously provided £125,000 of local awards over the past five years, and will continue to be managed together by Schroders Greencoat and North Kesteven District Council.

Projects applying to the Community Power Fund must have an environmental, sport, wellbeing or education focus and be based within five miles of the Energy Plant at Kirkby La Thorpe. **The next closing date for the current quarterly round is 9 April 2025.**

For full details of both grants, how to apply and the support available to applicants, [visit here](#).

Projects benefit from up to £25k each

We've also recently distributed £300,000 to local projects through grants aimed at getting important investment into the heart of local communities.

From village hall improvements and support for community facilities to accessing the outdoors and better wellbeing, the funding has been awarded to 26 projects that will help strengthen local communities and bring people together.

These community grants were made available to groups and good causes by North Kesteven District Council utilising the Rural England Prosperity Fund, as an addendum to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Find out more [here](#).

information is included in reports.

If anyone needs support to complete the survey or requires it in an alternative format, they can call **01205 820892** or [email](#).

Community Funding *

We offer a variety of routes to secure funding for groups and activities in the area.

- Funding for [climate action and energy efficiency](#)
- Funding for [events](#)
- Funding for [businesses](#)
- [Community funding](#)
- The [Community Lottery](#)

It's also well worth visiting the [Lincolnshire Community Foundation](#) for more grant opportunities.

Getting in touch with NKDC *

From paying bills securely and applying for help to

Sign up to NK newsletters *

You and residents can keep up to date with the latest NK information direct to your inbox by signing up for e-newsletters.

There's a whole range of them covering our many services:

- Council News & Events
- Emergencies & service disruption
- Consultation surveys
- Jobs
- Local business news
- Mrs Smith's Cottage
- Climate Action
- Levelling Up
- Waste & Recycling
- Garden waste
- Tourism in North Kesteven - Heart of Lincs

Sign up today [HERE](#).

Over to you...

We hope you find these newsletters useful and that the topics are relevant to help you as a local council and all our communities.

If you think it could be improved or built upon, then please let us have your suggestions!

We may (or may not) be able to put ideas into place but you can share by emailing communications@n-kesteven.gov.uk.

reporting litter or fly-tipping, lots can be done 24 hours a day at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk including:

- Reporting problems in your area
- Finding bin collection days
- Managing Council Tax
- Checking eligibility for help

For those who can't complete a transaction online or to request an appointment at our Sleaford office, they can call 01529 414155 on weekdays, except Bank Holidays.

Emergency assistance is in place too, including the out of hours number 01529 308308.



North Kesteven District Council

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