

Should Grantham have a Town Council?

Information

Have your say by
Friday 22 April 2022 at:
 [www.southkesteven.gov.
uk/GranthamCGR](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR)



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Introduction

Local Government reorganisation in 1974 saw the establishment of seven new District Councils in Lincolnshire, with an overarching County Council, responsible for different discretionary and statutory services. Below these two tiers of local governance are Parish and Town Councils, offering a much more local level of accountability and decision-making.

Unlike the other three market towns in South Kesteven, Grantham has never had a Parish or Town Council and since 1974 local accountability and decision-making has been the responsibility of South Kesteven District Council. Other areas of the district have Parish or Town Councils, consisting of locally elected individuals with specific responsibilities which may include, for example, managing local events, lobbying for local services, protecting community assets, investing in parks, and acting as a consultee on local planning matters.

Grantham has a Mayor, but this is solely a ceremonial appointment.

For those residents living in Grantham, and not within one of the neighbouring parishes, approximately 3% of their Council Tax bill is spent on specific services within the town itself. Decisions on setting this element of Council Tax and how it is spent are currently taken by South Kesteven District Council as a whole, and not just those District Councillors elected to serve Grantham.

South Kesteven District Council would like to know if you think Grantham should have a Town Council. The process to facilitate this is called a Community Governance Review and taking part in this consultation is your opportunity to tell us whether you would like more local decision-making and accountability in Grantham or whether you are satisfied with the existing arrangements.

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Full information about the review including the terms of reference and a timetable are available on the Council's website at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR.

The Council will consider all feedback before making draft recommendations. These will then be subject to further consultation before final recommendations are published and considered by Councillors.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a formal process involving consultation with local electors

and other interested parties on potential changes such as creating new parishes, setting up or abolishing parish/town councils, and changing their boundaries or electoral arrangements.

Which area of South Kesteven is under review?

The review will focus on the current unparished area of Grantham and the boundaries with surrounding parishes as shown on Map A, page 7.

Why is SKDC undertaking this review?

Grantham is currently the only area in South Kesteven which does not have a parish or town council and has Charter Trustees instead. The Charter Trustees are made up of the elected District Councillors of the seven Grantham wards and are not separately elected by the residents of Grantham. The Charter Trustees have no powers in respect of any general functions or services and can only hold funds for ceremonial and administrative purposes. The Charter Trustees elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Grantham from within the group.

A new parish or town council, if created, would replace the current Charter Trustees.

What will the review include?

The review will consider:

- the possibility of creating a parish or town council for the currently unparished area of Grantham
- the setting of the administrative external boundary for that area taking into account boundaries of parishes directly adjacent to the town area
- the warding arrangements of any new parish or town council and the number of councillors
- the impact of any proposed boundary changes on neighbouring Parish Councils

What are parish and town councils?

Parish and town councils exist in many areas, both rural and urban, and are the most local tier of government in England.

A parish council that serves a town area may decide to designate itself a 'town council'.

Parish and town councils represent their communities and can also play a key role in promoting community engagement between the Council and residents. They must be consulted on planning applications within their area and may work with the principal council to create a Neighbourhood Plan for development in the area. They may bid to purchase assets of community value or express an interest in running a local authority service.

Parish and town councillors are directly elected by local voters and are independent of the other layers of local government.

No Councillors elected to serve on town councils in South Kesteven receive an allowance.

Any new parish or town council, for example in Grantham, would not replace South Kesteven District Council but would exist alongside.

The District Council and County Council would still maintain responsibility for their statutory and discretionary services as set out on page 4.



What services would a new parish or town council provide?

The range of services provided varies and each parish or town council decides what services it will provide. These can include the provision of allotments; burial grounds and cemeteries; open spaces, parks and recreation grounds; public conveniences; control of litter and litter bins; play areas; community centres; crime prevention; festivals and fetes; neighbourhood planning; traffic calming; tourism activities and/or markets. More details of the services provided by existing town councils in South Kesteven are outlined on page 6.

Services delivered by South Kesteven District Council include:

- Anti-social Behaviour Measures
- Arts and Culture
- Car Parking
- Council Tax and Housing Benefits
- Electoral Registration and Elections
- Housing
- Leisure and Sports Activities
- Licensing
- Planning and Building Control
- Property and Local Searches

Services delivered by Lincolnshire County Council include:

- Care of Young, Elderly and Disabled People
- Highways Maintenance
- Libraries and Archives
- Public Transport
- Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths
- Rivers and other Water Courses
- Schools and other Education
- Strategic Planning (Countywide)
- Street Lighting and Street Furniture
- Traffic Management and Associated Planning

How much would a new parish or town council cost?

Parish and town councils are funded through a charge added to a household's Council Tax. This is known as a precept.

A parish and town council precept will depend on the size of the parish or town, the services it provides and the number of properties across which it is spread. It is not possible at this stage to say how much a Grantham precept would be and it would depend on the services and facilities it wants to provide.

A parish or town council decides what level of precept to charge but in the case of any new parish or town councils, South Kesteven District Council would set the precept for their first year of operation based on the estimated cost of the level of activity expected.

Currently, services provided for Grantham that could be delivered by a local parish or town council are mainly funded by all taxpayers in the district via the District Council element of their Council Tax bill, apart from the Grantham special expense area contribution which covers the cost of some services local to Grantham.

The table on page 6 sets out comparisons relating to Bourne, Market Deeping and Stamford as other towns in South Kesteven that have town councils in place, in terms of their current Council Tax precept and an overview of the services they deliver.

What area(s) could any new parish or town council cover? How would any boundary changes impact on neighbouring parishes?

The current boundary of Grantham – the unparished area – is shown on Map A, page 7.

Grantham is a growth town and planning approval has been given for a number of developments, such as Rectory Farm and Spitalgate Heath, which fall outside the current unparished area. These are shown on Map B, page 7.

This review will consider what the external boundary of any new Council should be and whether any changes should be made to boundaries with any of the neighbouring parishes (Barrowby, Belton and Manthorpe, Great Gonerby, Harlaxton, Little Ponton & Stroxton and Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without).

When drawing up parish boundaries, the Council must have regard to the existence of natural communities and at the same time, ensure that boundaries are easy to understand and rely on existing landscape features such as roads or rivers.

When would any new parish or town council be set up?

This review started in January 2022 and is planned to be completed by November 2022. It is anticipated that if any new parish or town council were to be established following this review, it would come into existence no later than April 2023 with elections taking place in May 2023.

What about the electoral arrangements of any new parish or town council?

If a new parish or town council is established, South Kesteven District Council is required to decide whether it should be divided into wards for the purpose of electing parish/town councillors and if any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the Council.

The total electorate for the unparished area of Grantham is currently 28,330 and for the purposes of District Council elections the area is divided into seven wards returning a total of 15 councillors. Consideration of the number and boundary of the elected wards of any new parish or town council form part of this consultation.

Maps

Two maps are included on page 7:

Map A: the existing unparished Grantham area boundary with neighbouring parishes

Map B: development sites, Grantham district ward boundaries and neighbouring parishes

We want to hear your views

Please tell us what you think about the creation of a parish or town council for Grantham.

You can complete our online consultation survey at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR or by scanning the QR code below with the camera on your smart phone.



Or complete the paper version enclosed in your envelope and send it to:



Grantham Community
Governance Review,
Legal and Democratic Services
South Kesteven District Council
St Peter's Hill
Grantham
NG31 6PZ

Additional copies of the survey can be requested by contacting the elections team on



01476 406080 or emailing
cgr@southkesteven.gov.uk



Alternatively you can tell us your
views by emailing
cgr@southkesteven.gov.uk

Tell us what you think by Friday 22 April 2022

What happens next?

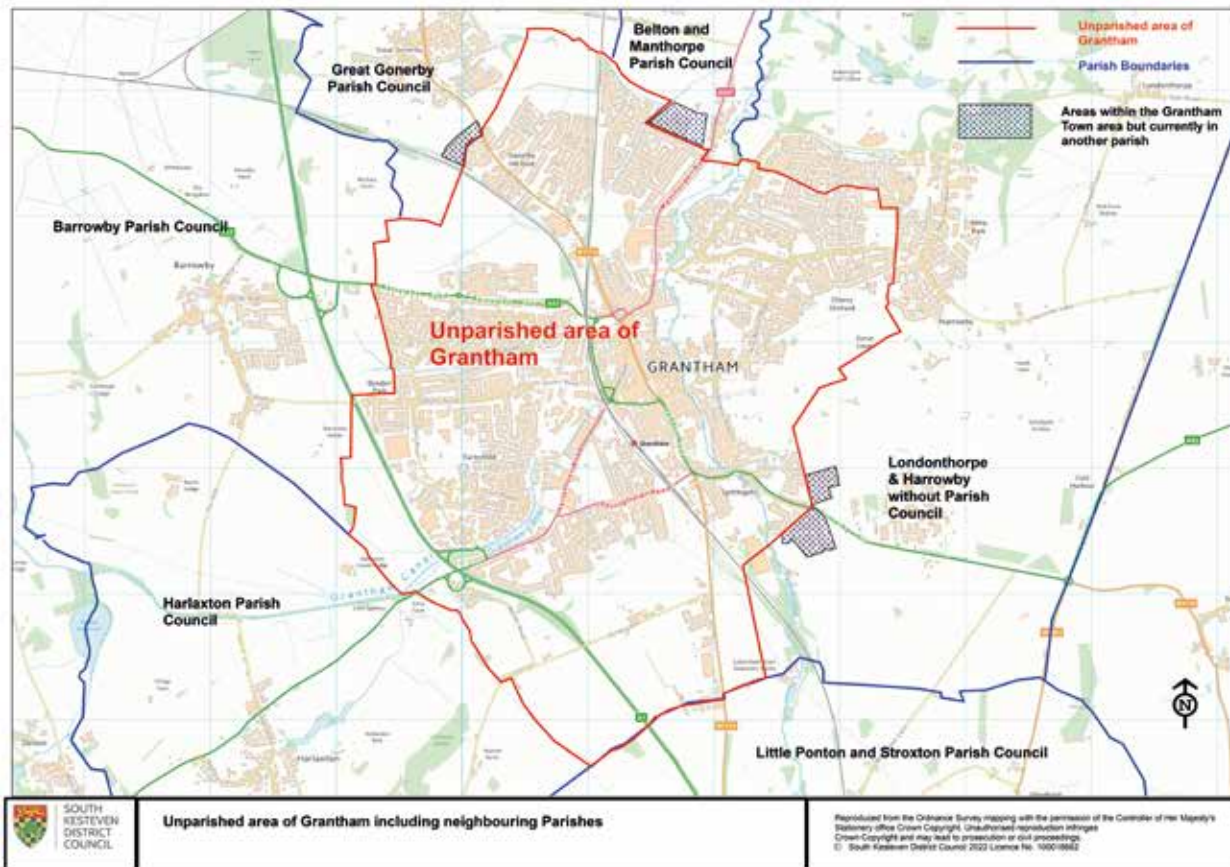
South Kesteven District Council will take your views into account in determining the outcome of this review.

Please note that consultation responses will be published in full on our website.

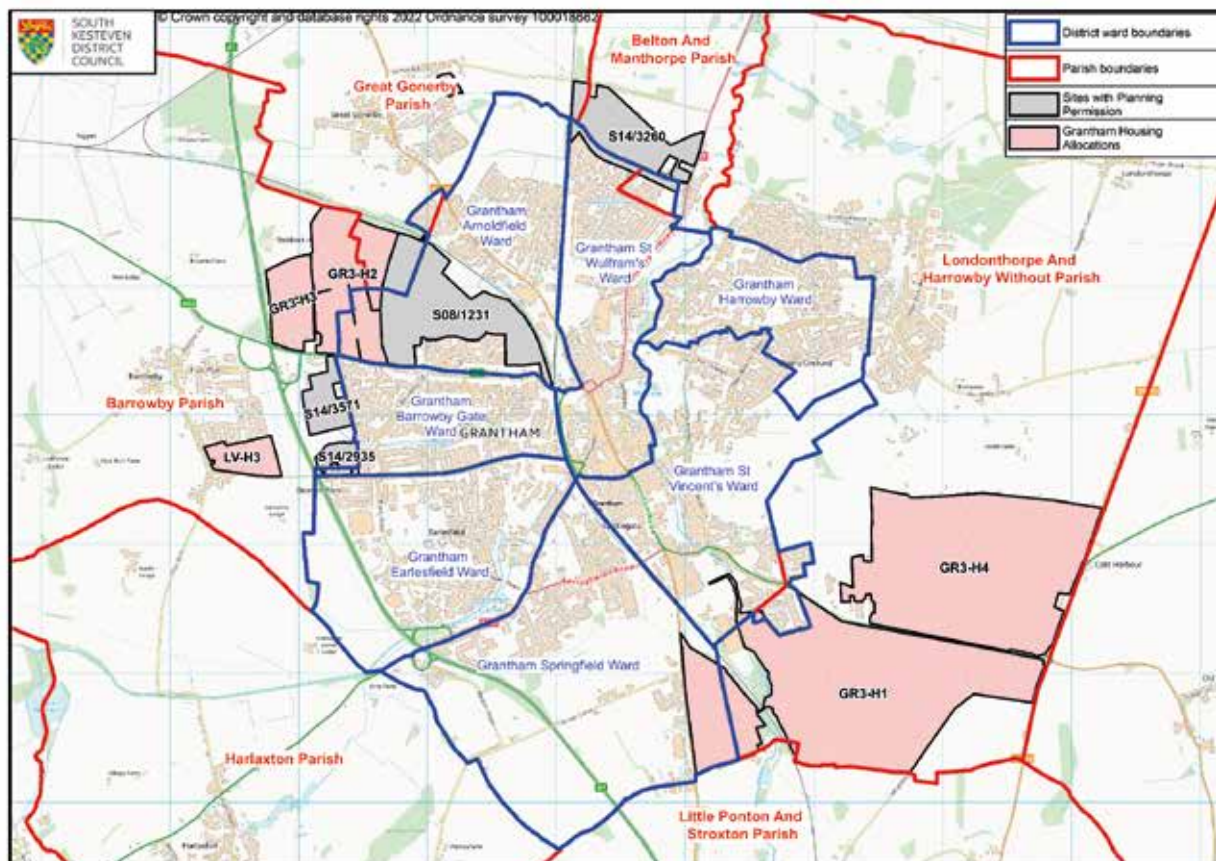
Services provided by and costs of other town councils in South Kesteven

Town	Responsibilities (not exhaustive)	Town Council Precept (Band D Equivalent for 2021/22)	Special Expense Area Charge (Band D Equivalent for 2021/22)	Total
Bourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotments Bus shelters Cemeteries Ceremonial functions, including Mayoralty Christmas lights Community centres Grants to help local organisations Management of assets Neighbourhood planning (consultee) Public toilets Public clocks Play areas and play equipment Planning applications (consultee) <p>Special Expense Area services provided by South Kesteven District Council include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Playing Field - Recreation Ground 	£30.33 (Set by town council)	£5.58 (Set by SKDC)	£35.91
Market Deeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotments Bus shelters Cemeteries Ceremonial functions, including Mayoralty Christmas lights Community Centres Management of assets Neighbourhood planning (consultee) Open spaces Planning applications (consultee) Town Hall and street column hanging baskets/planters Street furniture (owned by Town Council) 	£109.80 (Set by town council)	N/A	£109.80
Stamford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotments Cemeteries Events Ceremonial functions, including Mayoralty Christmas festival and Christmas lights Management of assets Meadows and other open spaces Neighbourhood planning (consultee) Planning applications (consultee) Street furniture (owned by Town Council) <p>Special Expense Area services provided by South Kesteven District Council include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Playing Fields 	£74.07 (Set by town council)	£10.89 (Set by SKDC)	£84.96
Grantham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceremonial functions, including Mayoralty <p>Special Expense Area services provided by South Kesteven District Council include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks and Playing Fields - Grass Verge Cutting - Grantham Cemetery - Grantham Football Stadium contribution - Christmas Illuminations and Fun Day - Remembrance Service 	£2.61 (Set by SKDC)	£48.24 (Set by SKDC)	£50.85

Map A: The existing unparished Grantham area boundary with neighbouring parishes



Map B: Development sites, Grantham district ward boundaries and neighbouring parishes



Contact details

Alternative formats are available on request:
audio, large print and Braille

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🌐 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR

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