



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Community Governance Review - Grantham Consultation Results



Deborah Wyles

May 2022

Table of Contents

	Page
Purpose and Objectives	2
Methodology	3
Details	4
Results	7
Conclusion	16

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update members of South Kesteven District Council's Community Governance Review Working Group and Full Council with the results of the Community Governance Review (CGR) for Grantham consultation.

Scope

2. This consultation was undertaken to:
 - a) Inform the decision that will be taken by SKDC in respect of a proposal to create a parish or town council for Grantham
 - b) Inform the decisions that will be taken by SKDC in respect of arrangements for the new parish or town council, should the proposal be adopted. These include:
 - the setting of the administrative external boundary for Grantham, cognisant of the boundaries of parishes immediately adjacent to the town, and how these might be affected by new developments
 - the warding arrangements of any new Council and the number of councillors
 - the impact of any proposed boundary changes on neighbouring Parish Councils
3. The results included in this report are from the first of two phases of the Community Governance Review for Grantham consultation. They will be used by the Community Governance Working Group to inform some draft proposals on how Grantham could be governed locally (the second stage of consultation) and will be sent to respondents who have indicated they would like to be kept informed of the outcome of the first stage of the review.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the consultation were identified as follows. To:
 - a. Ensure those who may be affected by the proposal (i.e., those living or working in Grantham or the surrounding parishes) were aware that the community governance review was taking place and were given the opportunity to participate
 - b. Measure the degree of support or otherwise for the proposal to create a parish or town council for Grantham
 - c. Communicate the potential changes that may occur to boundaries, warding arrangements etc should the proposal be approved, and gather feedback on those changes
 - d. Inform the decisions that will be taken by SKDC in respect of the arrangements for a parish or town council for Grantham (which will form the basis of the second stage of consultation)
 - e. Enable respondents to ask questions/seek clarification on any of the issues raised

Timescales

5. Preparatory work was undertaken during January, February and the early part of March 2022. The consultation was open for six weeks – from 11 March till 22 April 2022. The results were presented to the Community Governance Review Working Group on April 29. Feedback from this meeting was then

used to prepare a report for a meeting of Full Council on 26 May 2022, to agree the next steps to inform the draft proposals for Grantham’s future governance arrangements.

6. When this has been decided preparations will then have to be made for the second phase of consultation – the timescale of which has yet to be determined.

Stakeholders

7. The stakeholders were identified as follows:
 - a) Householders in the areas under review
 - b) Local businesses
 - c) South Kesteven District Councillors
 - d) Lincolnshire County Councillors (South Kesteven divisions)
 - e) Lincolnshire County Council
 - f) The Members of Parliament for the Grantham and Stamford and Sleaford and North Hykeham constituencies
 - g) All Parish Councils neighbouring the Grantham unparished area (Parish Councils of Barrowby, Belton and Manthorpe, Great Gonerby, Harlaxton, Little Ponton & Stroxtan and Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without)
 - h) Any other person/organisation who appear to have an interest. This included 39 community organisations based in Grantham or one of the surrounding parishes.

Methodology

8. Different methods of engagement were used for different types of stakeholders. The table below identifies the method(s) used for each:

Stakeholders	Method(s)	Details
Householders in the area under review. Also includes householders in parish areas adjacent to the area under review.	Press releases	Two press releases issued. One when the consultation started, one four weeks into the consultation period
	SKDC Social Media Channels	Ten posts on social media channels. Five on Facebook and five on Twitter. One issued on both channels when the consultation started, three during the consultation period, and one a few days before it closed.
	Dedicated page on SKDC’s website www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR	Page dedicated to the consultation went live on 11 March 2022. Contained link/QR code to survey, maps and information document
	Direct mail to all affected households	Copies of survey and information document sent to 23,201 households by Adare on Friday 11 March. 53 surveys returned as undeliverable.
	Dedicated email address	4 responses by email received

Local Businesses	Inform local businesses via InvestSK's newsletter	Unable to use as advised were unable to filter to focus on businesses based in Grantham and the surrounding parishes only. Email sent to the chair of the Grantham Business Club requesting the information be shared with business contacts in the area
Members of SKDC's Community Governance Review Working Group	Meetings to discuss the approach / content of consultation	Ward members for each of the seven wards in Grantham invited to attend. These were: Cllr GJ (Chair), Cllr LC (Vice Chair), Cllr KRO, Cllr AS, Cllr AM, Cllr CM, Cllr HW, Cllr IS, Cllr JS, Cllr JC, Cllr LS, Cllr NM, Cllr RW, Cllr MW, Cllr DW The CGR Working Group met six times.
Other members of SKDC, Lincolnshire County Council, LCC South Kesteven Divisions, MPs for Grantham and Stamford and Sleaford and North Hykeham	Email	Email sent to all 56 members of SKDC and 14 members of LCC (SK divisions), LCC (organisation) and local MPs by JE at start of consultation period informing them of the consultation. MPs were: Grantham & Stamford - Gareth Davies Sleaford & North Hykeham - Dr Caroline Johnson
Parish Councils immediately adjacent to unparished area	Email	Email sent to all parish councils who could be affected by the proposal by JE. These include Barrowby, Harlaxton, Little Ponton and Stroxtan, Belton and Manthorpe, Great Gonerby and Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without
Community Organisations	Email	Email sent to 39 community organisations by CD. These included the Rotary Club of Grantham, South Kesteven Blind Society and Wyndham Park Forum

Details

- Following a decision in September 2021 to undertake a Community Governance Review and consult with the local community to ascertain if there was support for the creation of a parish or town council for Grantham, SKDC instructed its Head of Democratic Services, along with the Electoral Services Manager and the Council's Consultation Officer to consult various stakeholders. Actions undertaken included:

- a. Creation of a Community Governance Review Consultation Working Group. This was made up of members who currently represent a ward in the unparished area of Grantham. The purpose being to consider various options to consult with local stakeholders, approve an approach and content. They would then be asked to consider the results of the consultation and make recommendations to Council.
- b. Preparation and printing of a letter, information document and survey outlining the reasons for the consultation. The information document contained maps showing the areas highlighted for housing development and detailed the areas identified as anomalies by the Boundary Commission in 2015
- c. Preparing, designing and setting up the on- line survey
- d. Contacting all parish councils, the district's MPs and other stakeholders (including community organisations) individually by email
- e. Inputting and analysing feedback from 1,487 respondents
- f. Preparing a report

10. The letter¹ was sent to all households in the unparished area of Grantham and each of the six parishes adjacent. It outlined the purpose of the consultation and contained instructions on how households could participate, should they wish to.

11. The information document² included the following:

- a. An introduction
- b. Context about the Community Governance Review – what it is, why it is being undertaken and what it will include
- c. Information on the services a new town or parish council might provide, the area it might cover and potential costs
- d. Timescale of the process and two maps. One showing the unparished area of Grantham, with areas identified as urban by the Boundary Commission but currently in a parish area, and the other showing areas where housing development has been approved or land has been allocated

12. The survey³ included the following sections:

- a. An introduction. This included the purpose of the consultation, why their help was needed and how their feedback will be used to inform the Council's decision
- b. A question asking respondents if they thought a new town or parish council should be created for Grantham
- c. A question asking respondents for their views on the three areas identified by the Local Government Boundary Commission Review in 2015 as being part of Grantham but currently situated in either the parish of Great Gonerby, Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without or Belton & Manthorpe

¹ Copy of letter sent to households attached at appendix one

² Copy of information document attached at appendix two

³ Copy of survey attached at appendix three

- d. A section asking respondents if they thought the boundary of any new parish or town council should change to include areas where future development is likely.
- e. A question asking respondents what arrangements should be made if changes made to any of the boundaries impacted on any of the parishes
- f. A question asking respondents for their opinion on any future electoral arrangements
- g. A section asking if respondents had any questions
- h. A section asking respondents to supply their contact details if they wanted to be informed about the outcome of the first stage of the consultation
- i. Questions to capture what type of stakeholder they were and their postcode
- j. A thank you and closing date for the consultation

13. The consultation was promoted in the local media and on the Council’s social media channels a number of times during the consultation period. The five posts posted on Facebook were viewed 13,700 times. 836 clicked on the link to find out more. Five tweets were posted on Twitter. These were viewed 2,654 times. 138 clicked on the link.

14. Parish councils immediately adjacent to the unparished area of Grantham were contacted on the first day of the consultation period, as were other identified stakeholders. Community organisations based in Grantham were also emailed during the first week by the Council’s Community Engagement Officer.

15. The consultation closed on 22 April 2022. 1,487 responses were received. 1,185 of these were completed on-line. 298 respondents chose to complete the printed survey, which were input manually by the Council’s Consultation Officer. Four stakeholders chose to feedback independently via the email address supplied instead of completing a survey. Their anonymised responses are available on the Council’s website www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR Upon closer examination of the results, it appears one respondent from the NG32 postcode sector chose to submit a number of entries (137) on-line. The duplicate entries have been identified (by looking for similarities and the times the surveys were submitted) and the impact of these upon each of the questions asked will be referred to separately in the course of the report.

16. The overall response rate to the Community Governance Review Consultation is 6.4%. This has been calculated by dividing the total number of responses received by the total number of households/individuals contacted as follows:

Number of responses received

No of responses received online	1185
No of responses received by post	298
No of responses received via dedicated email address	4

Total number of responses received	1,487
------------------------------------	-------

Number of households/organisations/ specific individuals contacted

No of households contacted	23,201
No of community organisations contacted	39
No of parish councils contacted	6
No of LCC councillors contacted	14
No of SKDC councillors contacted	56
No of MPs contacted	2
No of other organisations contacted (LCC, Charter Trustees, Business Club)	3
Number of households/organisations/specific individuals contacted	23,321
Less those returned by Royal Mail as undeliverable	(53)
Total number of households/organisations/ individuals contacted	23,268

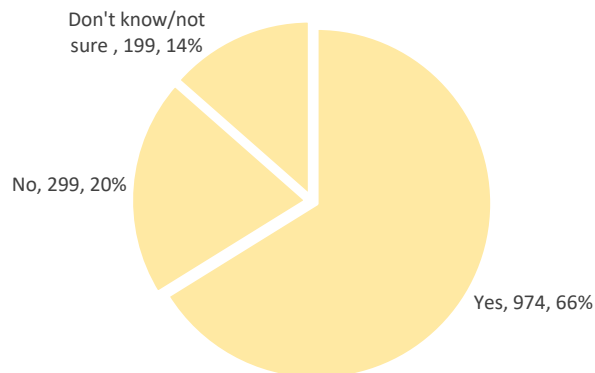
17. The statistical validity of the consultation has been determined by three factors. These are population size, the number of respondents and the confidence level. The margin of error for 1,487 responses drawn from a population of 23,268 at a 95% confidence level is 2.46%.

The results

Creation of a parish or town council for Grantham

18. The first question respondents were asked to answer was if they thought a parish or town council should be set up to serve Grantham. Two thirds of respondents (974 or 66.2%) thought that it should, as illustrated in the chart overleaf:

Should a parish or town council be set up to serve the town of Grantham?



19. If the responses thought to be duplicated are removed from this analysis, the percentage of those in favour of the proposal increases from 66.2% to 73.0%. The number of respondents choosing either yes or no remained the same but the number choosing “don’t know” was lower (62 compared to 199).

20. Those supporting the proposal stressed how important it was to have local accountability and separate representation. The size and growth taking place in /around the town and the fact that other towns were represented separately was also mentioned. These are illustrated in the comments below:

“I think decisions about Grantham should be made where possible by people in Grantham.”

“I have never understood the reason for the largest town i.e. Grantham not to have its own town council. I believe that the people of Grantham should have more of a say in the running of the town”

“A town the size of Grantham should have its own council to ensure the needs of the people are met, and not have decisions made for the town by people who have little to no interest in the town”

“If Bourne, Stamford and Market Deeping have one it seems sensible for Grantham too”

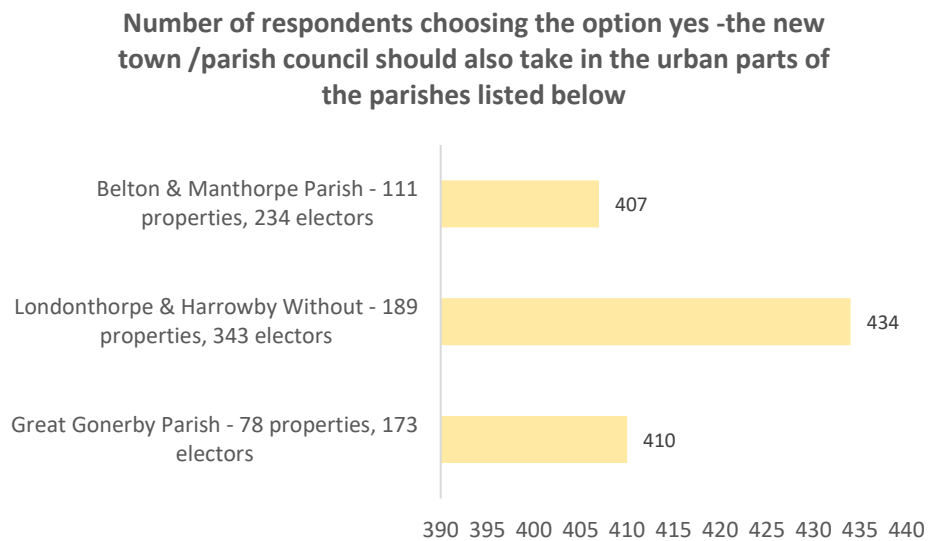
21. Costs and another layer of bureaucracy were the main reasons given by respondents who were not in favour.

“A huge emphatic "No"! To introduce another level of bureaucracy into local decision making is neither wanted nor needed.”

“We do not believe that the additional fees associated with forming a town council for Grantham would be beneficial to our community. This exercise is a complete waste of money for our ever-increasing council tax.”

Setting an administrative boundary

22. The second question on the survey asked respondents for their opinion on where the administrative boundary should be drawn if the proposal to create a town council for Grantham was approved. This was specifically to gauge opinion on an observation made by the Boundary Commission as part of a review of electoral arrangements in 2015. They identified three areas where properties and electors were assigned to a parish but were part of an estate predominantly situated in the unparished area of Grantham. The three areas were in Great Gonerby where 78 properties and 173 electors were affected, Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without where 189 properties and 343 electors were affected and Belton & Manthorpe Parish where 111 properties and 234 electors were affected.
23. Just under half of those responding (666 or 49.8%) thought any new town or parish council should be confined to the currently unparished area of Grantham and should not take any of the urban parts of either Belton & Manthorpe, Great Gonerby or Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without. Four in ten respondents (536 or 40.1%) thought that the new parish/town council should also take in the urban parts of the following surrounding parishes with the remaining choosing to answer don't know. Of those choosing to answer yes, the numbers were fairly similar for each of the parishes as illustrated in the graph below:



24. An analysis of the free text responses to this question revealed that the purpose of this question - to establish if there is an appetite to include three small areas identified by the Boundary Commission in the area for any new town or parish council – whilst appreciated and understood by some respondents, may not have been by others. Some respondents thought the proposal related to the whole parish (even if it wasn't listed), not just the areas identified on Map A. Others thought it should be a question that only those living in those areas should be asked.

25. These points are illustrated in the quotes below:

“Yes it should take in any unparished urban areas so that all of Grantham is covered and can collaborate on any wider needs.”

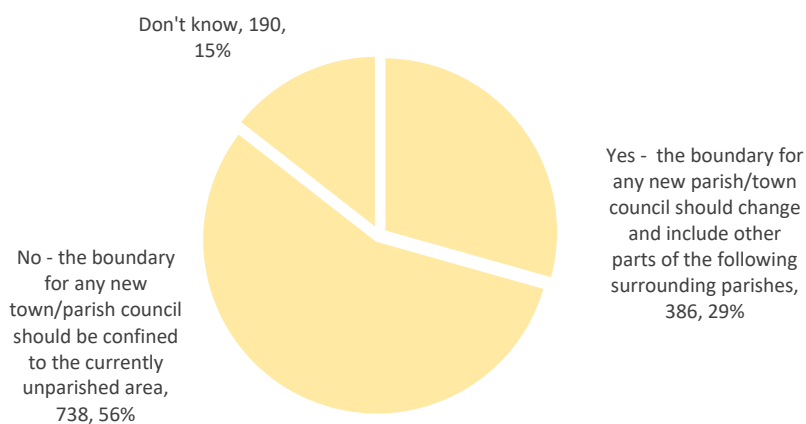
“As a parish resident I am totally against any part of the village of Barrowby being taken into the unparished areas. Barrowby Parish Council look after and serve the village exceedingly well. It runs the village efficiently and has a great community feel with lots of activities and events going on. It would lose all this plus our village identity if we were incorporated into a Town Council/Parish.”

“It should only be for the residents of those parishes likely to be affected to decide whether they want control of their affairs to pass to a new council”.

26. Removing the responses suspected of being duplicate entries, revealed the same number of respondents had answered yes - the new parish/town council should take in the urban parts of the three parishes listed; or answered, “don’t know”. Perhaps not surprisingly, the proportion of those choosing “no - the new parish/town council should be confined to the currently unparished area” was lower when the duplicate entries were removed, 529 or 44.0%, compared to 666 or 49.8%.

27. Required by law to take account of any future developments when considering community governance arrangements, SKDC then asked respondents for their opinion on any other potential changes to parish boundaries. Respondents were asked to consider Map B on page 7 of the information document prior to answering this question, as it detailed sites with planning permission and those areas allocated for housing in the future. When asked if the boundary for any new town or parish council should change and include any (urban) part of any other surrounding parishes, over half (738 or 56.2%) thought that the boundary for any new parish/town council should be confined to the currently unparished area. This is illustrated in the chart below:

Should the boundary for any new parish or town council change and include any part of any other surrounding parish?



28. The three out of ten respondents choosing to answer yes, the boundary for any new parish/town council should change and include other parts of either Barrowby, Harlaxton, Little Ponton & Stroxton, Belton & Manthorpe, Great Gonerby or Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without, were asked to specify the area(s) they would like to see included. This varied from parish to parish but also in terms of the degree of inclusion- with suggestions ranging from the development sites identified on map B through to the entire village/parish.

29. An analysis of the free text responses to this question revealed that the purpose of this question - to establish if there is support for changing any of the boundaries of some or any of the parishes adjacent to the unparished area of Grantham – particularly in relation to areas where development is either already taking place or likely to take place in the future, provided additional context as to why households had chosen to respond in the way they had. There were a lot of comments which didn't support any changes to parish boundaries

“They should remain as existing rural parishes.”

“Expansion into adjoining parishes and redefining existing parish boundaries must not be permitted, doing so would be severely detrimental to parishes and their governance.”

“WE DO NOT WANT ANY BOUNDARY CHANGES AND SEE NO NECESSITY FOR ANY CHANGE TO OUR PARISH COUNCIL. People from outside our village use our butchers Church/Post office / Pub / playing fields etc - all monies from precept are needed to maintain facilities in our village.”

30. Around three in ten respondents thought the boundaries should reflect the development taking place within Grantham as illustrated in the quotes below:

“All areas the town side of the A1 including those sites with planning permission and the housing allocations should be included in any new town council area”

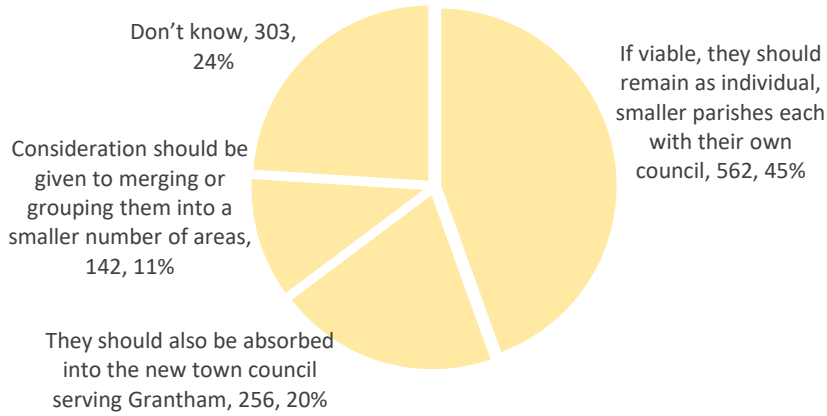
“Due to expanding housing, I believe these areas do need to be addressed. The Miller and Carter estate seems to be in no man's land”

31. Perhaps not surprisingly, removing the entries thought to be duplicates affected the distribution of responses to this question. All but one duplicate response had answered “no” which resulted in a higher percentage of respondents answering yes (386 or 32.8%) or don't know (189 or 16.1%) and a lower proportion of respondents answering no (602 or 51.1%).

The impact of any proposed boundary changes on parishes

32. Respondents were then asked what arrangements should be made for the remaining (rural) parts of parishes if a new parish or town council is established which includes urban parts of one or more of the parishes surrounding Grantham. The highest proportion (562 or 44.5%) favoured the status quo, as illustrated overleaf:

In the event that a new parish or town council is established which includes the currently unparished area of Grantham and urban parts of one or more surrounding parishes, what arrangements should be made for the remaining (rural) parts of those parishes?



33. This was echoed in the comments made by respondents about this issue.

“It is feared any land grab from present surrounding parishes would mean more development on the land and loss of identity for local villages. The end result would be these villages becoming part of greater Grantham and losing their identities as independent villages.”

“The non-urban parts of surrounding parishes should definitely not be included in the proposed town council area. They should be considered viable by default.”

34. A significant minority – around a quarter - weren't sure and as a result answered, “don't know”.

“Again, I am not qualified to make a comment”

35. Removing those entries suspected of being duplicates did not affect the number of respondents choosing any of the options outlined below except one “don't know”. This is illustrated below:

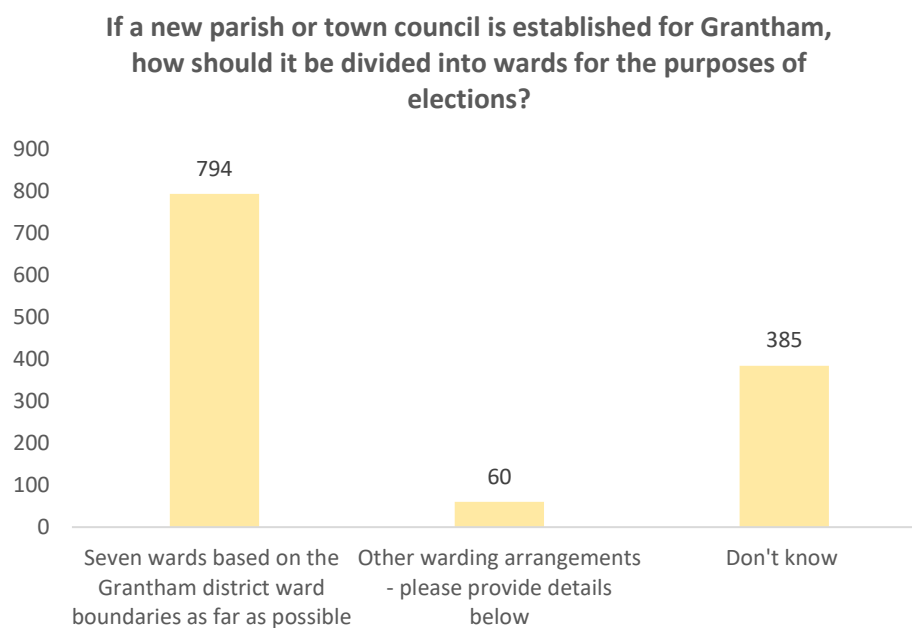
Results with duplicate entries removed	No	%
If viable, they should remain as individual, smaller parishes each with their own council	562	49.8
They should also be absorbed into the new town council serving Grantham	256	22.7
Consideration should be given to merging or grouping them into a smaller number of areas	142	12.6
Don't know	168	14.9
Total	1,128	100.0

Electoral arrangements

36. If a new town or parish council is created, SKDC then needs to determine if it should be divided into wards, for the purposes of electing councillors. Respondents were asked for their opinion on how this might be done. They were given three options:

- a. Seven wards based on the Grantham district ward boundaries as far as possible
- b. Other warding arrangements (with an opportunity to describe what they would like to see)
- c. Don't know

37. Nearly two thirds of respondents (794 or 64.1%) thought any new town or parish council should be divided into wards based on the existing district ward boundaries, as illustrated in the chart below:



38. An analysis of the free text responses provided in this section revealed most respondents were in favour of adopting the existing district warding arrangements, as far as possible.

“To keep it simple and in line with current arrangements”

A minority suggested alternatives

“I think it would be better if wards represented areas with common character and interests. For example, all of the new development north of Barrowby Road should be represented by one ward, rather than being covered by multiple wards that are also representing the interests of people living in quite different housing and landscapes.”

A sizeable proportion just weren't sure.

“I am unable to answer this”

39. Removing the responses suspected of being duplicate entries, revealed the same number of respondents had chosen the option “Seven wards based on the Grantham district ward boundaries as far as possible”; or answered, “other warding arrangements”. The proportion of those choosing “don’t know” was lower when the duplicate entries were removed, 248 or 22.5%, compared to 385 or 31.1%.

Anything else

40. The next question on the survey asked respondents if they had any queries or would like to comment on anything that had been included within the survey. Most used it as an opportunity to re-state why they had chosen to answer in the way that they had. Some supported the creation of a town council and thought it would give Grantham a “voice”, others were against it and thought it unnecessary and a waste of time. A potential increase in costs was a concern to many respondents, particularly given the current financial climate, as was an increase in the number of tiers of local government and bureaucracy. The importance of maintaining parish boundaries and their unique identity was also mentioned. A summary of the main themes identified by respondents is illustrated in the word cloud below:



41. Respondents were then asked if they wanted to be informed of the outcome of the first stage of the Community Governance Review. Over 700 respondents supplied their contact details and will be informed of the next steps as soon as these have been finalised and approved.

About you

42. To help the Council assess if the views of all stakeholders have been considered, they were asked to identify if they were a resident of the district, a parish, district or county councillor, a parish council, a local business, or representing a group or other organisation. They could tick as many options as they wished. Most responses were received from residents (1327 or 98.7%), as illustrated in the chart below:



43. Responses were also received from parish councils, county, district and parish councillors and local businesses.

Postcode

44. To check that all areas which could be affected by any changes were represented in the consultation, respondents were asked to specify their postcode. Most participants provided a full postcode although there were some that only provided the first four alphanumeric characters i.e., their postcode sector. The 137 responses identified as being potential duplicate entries fell into this category- choosing to identify their location as NG32. An analysis of postcode revealed around three fifths of responses were received from households in the unparished area with around a fifth coming from one of the parishes. This is illustrated in the table below:

	No	%
Unparished area	747	60.8
One of the parishes	241	19.6
Unparished area/ one of the parishes* ⁴	22	1.8
Unable to assign as incomplete postcode supplied (includes duplicates)	177	14.4
Outside area/postcode not recognised	41	3.3
Total	1,228	100.0

⁴ *Location where postcode applies to both an unparished and a parish area. Examples include NG31 7EZ and NG31 9NL

45. If the percentage of responses received from the parishes and the unparished area is compared to the proportion of households in each of the areas (parished and unparished) that were contacted; reveals the sample to be broadly representative of each of these areas as the ratio is between 0.8 and 1.2. This is illustrated below:

	No of properties	% properties	% responses	%properties/ % responses
Properties in unparished area	18,216	78.5	60.8	0.8
Properties in parish areas	4,985	21.5	19.6	0.9
Total	23,201	100.0	100.0	

Conclusion

46. Over 23,000 households were contacted and asked if they would support the creation of a town or parish council. Just under 1,500 responded, a response rate of 6.4%. Of those responding, two thirds (974 or 66.2%) were in favour. Reasons given for supporting the proposal included having local representation - a voice – and parity with the other town and parish councils in the district, as illustrated in respondents’ quotes below:

“It is important that decisions made about Grantham are made by those invested in the area and that the needs, interests and voices of residents of the town are represented”

“Need to be on par with Stamford and Bourne”

47. Around a fifth of respondents weren’t in favour – opposing any increase in the number of tiers of local government/ bureaucracy and any impact there might be on council tax, as described here:

“Additional layer of administration involves additional cost. Times are hard. We do not need this.”

48. When asked about the administrative boundaries of any new town or parish council the results were less in favour of change. Four in ten respondents (536 or 40.1%) thought that the new parish/town council should also take in the urban parts of the parishes identified by the Local Government Boundary Commission as part of their review in 2015. A higher proportion (666 or 49.8%) thought any new town or parish council should be confined to the currently unparished area of Grantham.

49. This was also the case when respondents were asked about the developments planned for Grantham and its environs. Over half of those responding (738 or 56.2%) thought that the boundary for any new parish/town council should be confined to the currently unparished area.

50. Those responding from parished areas were not in favour of any changes to boundaries and were worried about the impact any changes might have on the identity of their village/parish area.

51. The results of this consultation should now be used to inform the next stage of the Community Governance Review for Grantham.

Prepared by Deb Wyles
Communications and Consultation
16 May 2022

The Occupier
<<Address>>

11 March 2022

Please ask for: Elections

Email: cgr@southkesteven.gov.uk

Dear local resident

Should Grantham have a Town Council?

South Kesteven District Council is carrying out a review to consider whether Grantham should have a Town Council to make decisions on local priorities, local expenditure and act as a statutory consultee in respect of planning matters, or whether these functions should remain with the District Council. This will have important implications on where decisions are made about Grantham and the surrounding area for the coming years.

The process that must be followed to facilitate this review is called a Community Governance Review.

A key part of a Community Governance Review is public consultation. As a resident of Grantham, its surrounding parishes or a key stakeholder, your opinions are extremely important to us.

We would be very grateful if you could spare us a few moments to let us know if you think Grantham should have a Town Council, or not. We would also like to know where you think the boundaries of any new Town Council should be.

There are two documents enclosed with this letter. The information document provides you with some background information including the existing arrangements for Grantham, the role of a Parish or Town Council and the Community Governance Review process. A hard copy of the survey is also enclosed, although we would encourage you to complete this online via the link or the QR code in the document if you can. Should you wish to complete the hard copy of the survey please return it to the address below:

Grantham Community Governance Review
Legal and Democratic Services
South Kesteven District Council
St Peters Hill
Grantham
NG31 6PZ

If you need help to complete this survey please contact the elections team at the Council on 01476 406080 or by email cgr@southkesteven.gov.uk.

All comments received as part of the consultation will be taken into account and used to inform the outcome of the review.

Please note this consultation closes on **22 April 2022**.

Thank you in advance for taking part in this consultation.

Yours faithfully

Karen Bradford
Electoral Registration Officer

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.

.....

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?

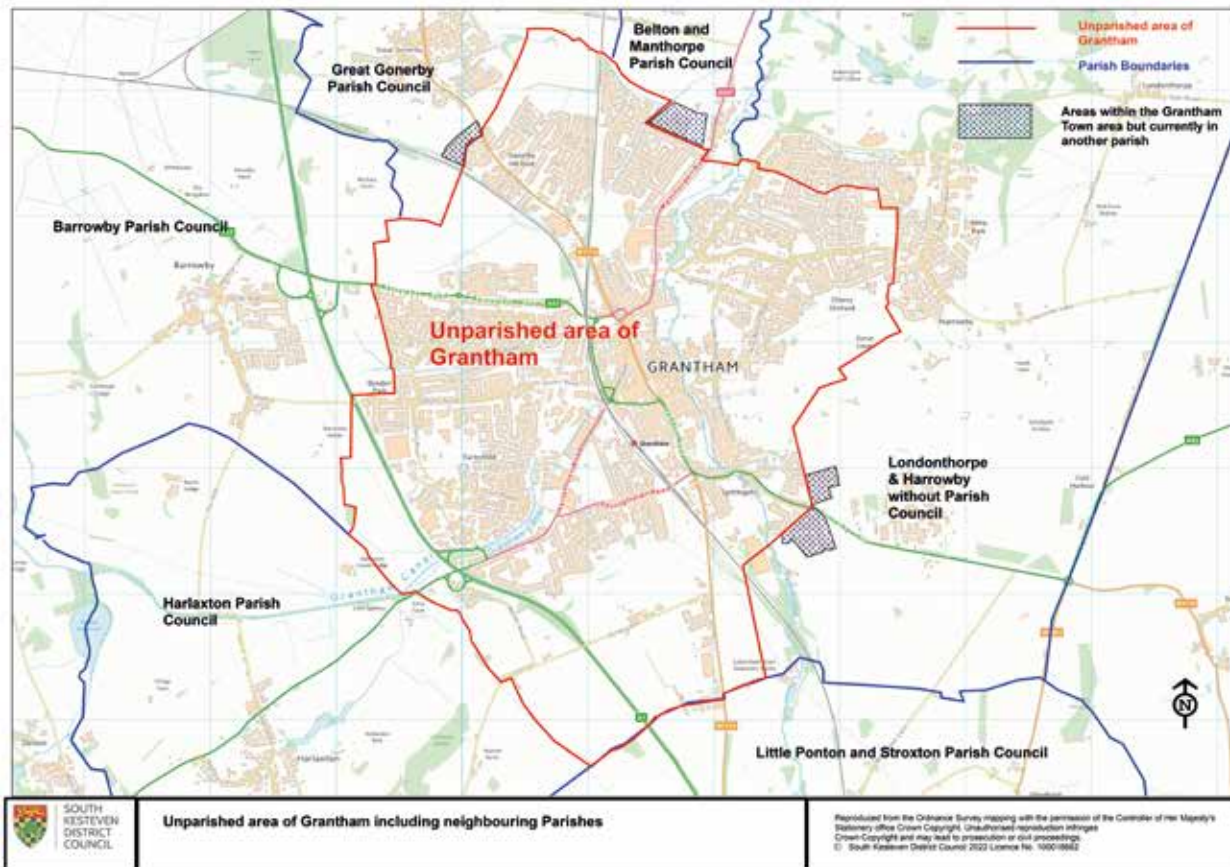
South Kesteven District Council will take your views into account in determining the outcome of this review.

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

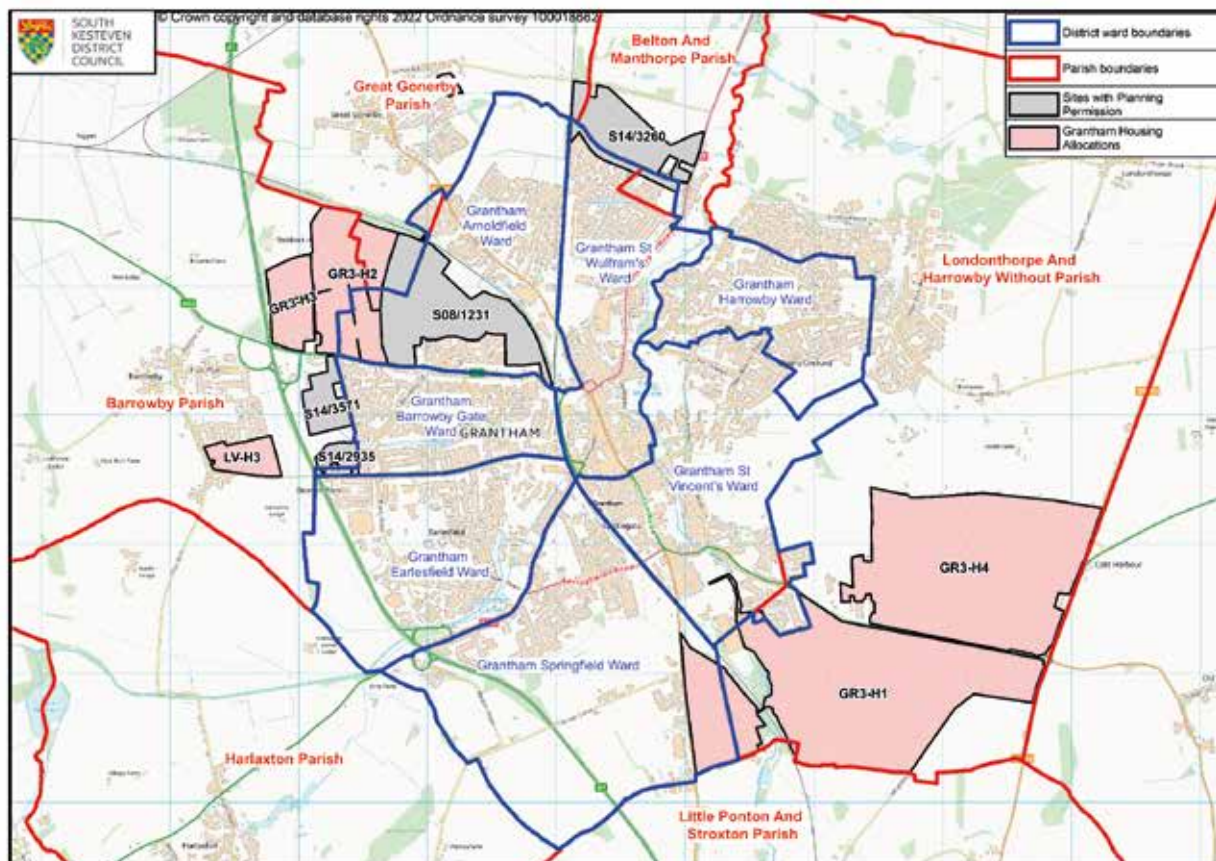
Services provided by and costs of other town councils in South Kesteven

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

South Kesteven District Council
01476 40 60 80

✉ cgr@southkesteven.gov.uk

🌐 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR

03489RT_2.22



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Should Grantham have a Town Council?

Survey

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

South Kesteven District Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review to determine if there is support for the creation of a parish or town council for Grantham.

Before the District Council makes any decision, we would like to know what you think.

The Council understands that Community Governance Reviews can be a complicated process and would recommend that you **read the information document accompanying this survey** to help you answer the questions below. Please answer as many questions as you wish.

You can complete this survey by going online to **www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR** or by scanning the QR code on the front cover with your mobile phone camera or completing this printed version.

Thank you.

This consultation closes on 22 April 2022.

Creation of a parish or town council for Grantham

One of the key questions as part of this Community Governance Review is whether or not a parish or town council should be created for Grantham. The accompanying leaflet provides you with information regarding the current governance arrangements for Grantham, the role of a parish or town council and the potential cost implications in relation to Council Tax precepting. Having taken this into account we are keen to hear your views as to whether a parish or town council should be put in place for Grantham.

Q1. Should a parish or town council be set up to serve the town of Grantham?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/not sure

Please use the space below to comment on this proposal

Setting an administrative boundary

South Kesteven District Council would like to know if you think any new council should cover just those parts of Grantham that don't currently have a parish or town council (the Unparished Area) or also take in parts of any of the surrounding parish areas; and whether any other changes should be made to those parishes.

As part of a review of the electoral arrangements for South Kesteven in 2015, The Local Government Boundary Commission for England identified three areas where properties and electors had been included within three of the Grantham District wards but remained within neighbouring Parish Council areas. They are detailed on Map A, page 7, of the information document supplied.

Q2. Should any new parish or town council that is set up in the currently unparished area of Grantham also take in any of the urban parts of those parishes shown on map A? This could mean parts of Belton & Manthorpe, Great Gonerby and/or Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without parishes forming part of any new Grantham parish or town council boundary.

- Yes – the new parish/town council should also take in the urban part(s) of the following surrounding parish(es):
- Great Gonerby Parish – 78 properties, 173 electors
 - Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without Parish – 189 properties, 343 electors
 - Belton and Manthorpe Parish – 111 properties, 234 electors
- No – the new parish/town council should be confined to the currently unparished area.
- Don't know

Please use the space below to comment:

The Council is obliged to take account of future developments as part of the community governance arrangements and would like your opinion on any other potential changes to parish boundaries. Map B, page 7, in the information document sets out the areas that have been identified for future development.

The Council will also need to be mindful of natural borders and boundaries that may exist in the locality. An example of this could be the A1 trunk road which runs adjacent to the currently unparished area of Grantham.

Q3. Should the boundary for any new parish or town council change and include any part of any other surrounding parishes? This may involve altering the boundaries of any of the neighbouring parishes.

- Yes – the boundary for any new parish/town council should change and include other part(s) of the following surrounding parish(es):
 - Barrowby (SPECIFY AREA)
 - Harlaxton (SPECIFY AREA)
 - Little Ponton & Stroxton (SPECIFY AREA)
 - Belton and Manthorpe (SPECIFY AREA)
 - Great Gonerby (SPECIFY AREA)
 - Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without (SPECIFY AREA)
- No – the boundary for any new parish/town council should be confined to the currently unparished area.
- Don't know

Please use the space below to comment:

The impact of any proposed boundary changes on parishes

The Council would also like your opinion on the arrangements it should make in respect of any parishes that may be affected by the creation of a new parish or town council.

Q4. In the event that a new parish or town council is established which includes the currently unparished area of Grantham and urban parts of one or more surrounding parishes, what arrangements should be made for the remaining (rural) parts of those parishes?

- If viable, they should remain as individual, smaller, parishes each with their own council
- They should also be absorbed into the new town council serving Grantham
- Consideration should be given to merging or grouping them into a smaller number of areas
- Don't know

Please use the space below to comment:

Electoral arrangements

If a new parish or town council is created, the District Council needs to determine if it should be divided into wards for the purpose of electing Councillors.

Q5. If a new parish or town council is established for Grantham, how should it be divided into wards for the purposes of elections?

- Seven wards based on the Grantham district ward boundaries as far as possible.
- Other warding arrangements – please provide details below
- Don't know

If you think there should be different warding arrangements, please use the space below to tell us what these should be

Anything else

Q6. If you have any questions or would like to comment on anything included in this survey, please use the space below:

Q7. If you would like to be informed of the outcome of the first stage of the Community Governance Review, please give us your contact details. They will only be used to contact you in relation to this review and will not be used for any other purpose or passed onto anyone else.

Name

Address

Village/Town

Postcode

Email address

The Council would prefer to communicate with you by email where possible.

About you

To help us make sure that we have taken the views of all our stakeholders into account, we would like to know a bit more about you. Please be assured that any information you give us will only be used to measure if the views we have gathered are representative of the communities we serve. They will not be used to identify you in any way or be passed onto anyone else.

Q8. Please tell us if you are? Please tick all that apply.

- A resident of South Kesteven
- A parish, town, district or county councillor
- A parish or town council (please use the space below to tell us which one)
- A local business
- Representing a group or other organisation (please use the space below to tell us which one)
- Other, please specify

Q9. Please tell us your postcode. This will only be used to see if we have received responses from the areas that will be affected by any changes that may be introduced. It will not be used to identify you in any way.

Thank you for taking part.

By letting us know your thoughts on the proposal to create a town or parish council for Grantham, you will help to inform the decision the Council will take on this issue in May.

THIS CONSULTATION CLOSSES ON 22 APRIL 2022

Return your survey to:



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

Contact details

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

South Kesteven District Council
01476 40 60 80

✉ cgr@southkesteven.gov.uk

🌐 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR

03489RT_2.22



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL