

# Community Governance Review Consultation Stage 2

South Kesteven District Council's  
Draft Recommendations for the  
unparished area of Grantham

Have your say by  
Monday 7th August 2023 at:  
 [www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR)



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

## Introduction

South Kesteven District Council is carrying out a review to decide whether changes should be made to the local governance arrangements for Grantham. This process is known as a Community Governance Review, with the principal question being to confirm whether a new Parish or Town Council should be set up for the town of Grantham and, if so, what areas should be included within its boundary, whether any other changes should be made to the surrounding parishes and how many Councillors should sit on the new Parish or Town Council.

## Terminology – Parish/Town Council

South Kesteven District Council, following a Community Governance Review, may create, abolish or alter the area of any Parish within its area and may establish a Parish Council to serve a newly created Parish.

Once established, a Parish Council serving an urban area may itself resolve to be called a Town Council. It is considered likely, given that Grantham is an established town, that any Parish Council established to service Grantham will do so. Therefore, this survey uses the term 'Town Council' when referring to the possible creation of a new Grantham Parish Council to avoid any potential for confusion.

## Background

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, and has Charter Trustees comprised of those South Kesteven District Councillors whose Wards are within the unparished area of Grantham. Charter Trustees do not have the same powers or status as a Parish or Town Council and cannot raise their own precept or deliver services.

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.

A Community Governance Review commenced on 27 January 2022 with the first round of public consultation running between 11 March 2022 and 22 April 2022. This provided residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to put forward their views on whether they would like more local decision making and accountability in Grantham or whether they were satisfied with the existing arrangements.

An information document accompanied the first round of public consultation, which can be viewed via the following link: [www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR)

On 26 May 2022 a meeting of South Kesteven District Council (Full Council) was held which considered responses to the first consultation. It agreed to the establishment of a Town Council for Grantham, in principle, but sought further consultation with some areas on the periphery of the unparished area of Grantham regarding the boundary.

Targeted consultation was undertaken with the Parish Councils of Belton and Manthorpe, Great Gonerby and Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without, together with residents in those parishes whose properties were also located within Grantham District Ward boundaries. A question and answer session for representatives of the three Parish Councils was held on 18 October 2022 and drop-in sessions for residents were held on 7 and 8 December 2022. This additional consultation process ran from 28 November 2022 to 19 December 2022 and concluded the first stage of formal consultation.

On 1 March 2023 a meeting of South Kesteven District Council (Full Council) considered the responses to the additional consultation, together with those of the initial consultation exercise, and recommendations from the Council's Community Governance Working Group which had led the Community Governance Review. The Council agreed to make a formal proposition for the establishment of a Town Council for Grantham, which is set out in this document, approving a second stage of formal consultation.

## Draft Recommendations

- (1) That a new Town Council for Grantham be established, based upon the following criteria:
  - (a) The boundary for the new Town Council for Grantham replicates the existing unparished area of Grantham.
  - (b) The warding arrangements for the new Town Council for Grantham replicate existing District Council Wards, as illustrated in Appendix A to this document.
  - (c) The size of the new Town Council for Grantham consists of 22 Councillors, comprising four Councillors for St Vincent's Ward and three Councillors for all remaining Wards.
- (2) That the new Parish be named 'Grantham Parish' and that a Town Council be established to serve the new Parish with effect from 1 May 2024.
- (3) That the first elections to the new Town Council for Grantham be held on the ordinary day of elections (the first Thursday in May) in 2024.

## Frequently asked questions

### 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.

In arriving at its formal proposal, the law requires that South Kesteven District Council must have regard to the need for community governance arrangements to:

- Reflect the identities and interests of the community in the area; and
- Promote effective and convenient local government

Consideration must also be given to the impact of Town and Parish Councils on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or Parish, and must take into account any other existing or potential arrangements for community representation or engagement in the area.

In coming to decisions on the electoral arrangements for any Town and Parish Council, South Kesteven District Council must consider the number of electors in the area under review.

Any Town and Parish Council should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity and electors should be able to identify with the Town or Parish in which they live.

### **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 as 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 electors and are independent of the other layers of local government.

A new Town Council for Grantham would not replace South Kesteven District Council or Lincolnshire County Council but would exist alongside them, who would still maintain responsibility for their statutory and discretionary services.

### **What services would a new 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.

### **How much would a new 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 exactly how much a precept for a Town Council in Grantham would be and it would depend on the services and facilities it wants to provide. A new Town Council for Grantham could decide to take on additional services and responsibilities in negotiations with the District Council or County Council, for example.

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. Charter Trustees cannot legally precept for taking on services, responsibilities and costs that Parish and Town Councils can.

The following table 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.

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

Town	Responsibilities (not exhaustive)	Town Council Precept (Band D Equivalent for 2023/24)	Special Expense Area Charge (Band D Equivalent for 2023/24)	Total
Bourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allotments</li> <li>Bus shelters</li> <li>Cemeteries</li> <li>Ceremonial functions, including Mayoralty</li> <li>Christmas lights</li> <li>Community centres</li> <li>Grants to help local organisations</li> <li>Management of assets</li> <li>Neighbourhood planning (consultee)</li> <li>Public toilets</li> <li>Public clocks</li> <li>Play areas and play equipment</li> <li>Planning applications (consultee)</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Expense Area services provided by South Kesteven District Council include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Playing Field</li> <li>- Recreation Ground</li> </ul>	£38.52 (Set by town council)	N/A	£38.52
Market Deeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allotments</li> <li>Bus shelters</li> <li>Cemeteries</li> <li>Ceremonial functions, including Mayoralty</li> <li>Christmas lights</li> <li>Community Centres</li> <li>Management of assets</li> <li>Neighbourhood planning (consultee)</li> <li>Open spaces</li> <li>Planning applications (consultee)</li> <li>Town Hall and street column hanging baskets/planters</li> <li>Street furniture (owned by Town Council)</li> </ul>	£109.71 (Set by town council)	N/A	£109.71
Stamford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allotments</li> <li>Cemeteries</li> <li>Events</li> <li>Ceremonial functions, including Mayoralty</li> <li>Christmas festival and Christmas lights</li> <li>Management of assets</li> <li>Meadows and other open spaces</li> <li>Neighbourhood planning (consultee)</li> <li>Planning applications (consultee)</li> <li>Street furniture (owned by Town Council)</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Expense Area services provided by South Kesteven District Council include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Playing Fields</li> </ul>	£77.67 (Set by town council)	N/A	£77.67
Grantham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ceremonial functions, including Mayoralty</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Expense Area services provided by South Kesteven District Council include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parks and Playing Fields</li> <li>- Grass Verge Cutting</li> <li>- Grantham Cemetery</li> <li>- Grantham Football Stadium contribution</li> <li>- Christmas Illuminations and Fun Day</li> <li>- Remembrance Service</li> </ul>	£3.69 (Set by SKDC)	£51.48 (Set by SKDC)	£55.17

## Will the Grantham Charter Trustees remain in place if a Town Council is introduced?

No, a Town Council for Grantham would replace the Charter Trustees which, in the event of a Town Council being introduced, would be dissolved.

The assets of the Charter Trustees, including civic regalia, would transfer to the new Council once the area becomes parished. The new Town Council would elect one of its Councillors to be the Mayor each year, as well as the Deputy Mayor. South Kesteven District Council recognises the value of the role of the Mayor of Grantham which embodies the Town, is a symbol and focus for civic pride and carries out a wide range of functions during the year celebrating local achievements, raising money for local charities and representing the town socially and formally. The creation of a Town Council would enable this tradition to continue.

## When would a new Town Council be introduced?

It is proposed that the new Town Council be established no later than 1 May 2024.

## Electoral Arrangements

If a new Town Council is established, South Kesteven District Council is required to decide whether it should be divided into wards for the purpose of electing Town Councillors taking into account:

- Whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the Parish would make a single election of Councillors impractical or inconvenient; and
- Whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the 'Parish' should be separately represented on the Council

The total local electorate for the proposed new 'Grantham Parish' is 28,205 as of 1 June 2023. The area is currently split in seven Wards for the purposes of District Council elections returning a total of 15 District Councillors. South Kesteven District Council believes that it would not be practical or convenient for a single election to be held for the whole of any new Town Council for the area. It is therefore proposed that the new 'Grantham Parish' be divided into electoral wards as follows:

Ward	Current electorate	Number of Councillors
Arnoldfield	4,105	3
Barrowby Gate	3,881	3
Earlesfield	4,003	3
Harrowby	3,642	3
Springfield	3,822	3
St Vincent's	4,901	4
St Wulfram's	3,851	3
		22

## How to find out more

Full information regarding the Community Governance Review, including the terms of reference, consultation documents and reports relating to the responses received to the consultation exercises undertaken can be viewed on the Council's website at:

[www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR)

## Appendices

### Appendix A – Proposed warding arrangements for a new Grantham Parish.



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# HAVE YOUR SAY

Please tell us what you think about the Council's draft recommendation to establish a Town Council for Grantham or any other matters concerning governance at Parish or Town level in Grantham by **Monday 7 August 2023**.

South Kesteven District Council will consider all submissions received before coming to its final recommendations.

You can complete this survey by going online to [www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/GranthamCGR) or by completing this printed version and returning in the prepaid envelope provided.

## Questionnaire

Q1. Do you agree with South Kesteven District Council's draft recommendation that a Town Council should be set up to serve the town of Grantham?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q2. If a Town Council is established for Grantham, do you agree with South Kesteven District Council's draft recommendation that its boundary should reflect the current unparished area of Grantham as outlined in Appendix A?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q3. Do you agree with South Kesteven District Council's proposed warding arrangements for a new Town Council for Grantham which reflect the current District Council wards, as set out in Appendix A?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q4. If you answered 'no', what would you propose as an alternative? Please use the space below to tell us.



Q5. Do you agree with South Kesteven District Council's draft recommendation that the number of Councillors to be elected to a new Town Council for Grantham should be 22?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q6. If you answered 'no', what would you propose as an alternative? Please use the space below to tell us.

## Anything else

Q7. If you have any questions or would like to comment on anything included in this survey, please use the space below.

Q8. For a response to your comment or question, or to be informed about this part of the consultation please supply 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

Address 2

Village/Town

Postcode

Email

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

## About you

To help make sure we have taken the views of all our stakeholders into account, we would like to know a bit more about you. Any information you give us will only be used to measure if the views we have collected are representative of the communities we serve. It will not be used to identify you in any way.

Q9. Please tell us if you are... (Please tick all that apply).

- A resident of South Kesteven
- A parish, district or county councillor
- Representing a parish or town council
- Responding on behalf of a local business
- Representing a group or organisation
- Other, please specify:

Q10. Please tell us your postcode. This will help us check that we have received responses from the areas that will be affected by any changes that may be introduced.

Postcode:

Thank you for responding.

**THIS CONSULTATION CLOSSES ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023.**

**Please note:**

South Kesteven District Council is committed to protecting and handling personal data in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation and has set out how it will do this whilst carrying out its duties and obligations, in its Data Protection Policy and its Privacy Notice.

To view the Council's Data Protection Policy in full, please go to [www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=12190](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=12190)

To view the Council's privacy notice in full, please go to [www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13742](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13742)

# Contact details

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

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