

NKDC Report for February / March Carola, Ian and Reece

The NK Plan

A roadmap for achieving the Council's vision for flourishing communities over the next three years – alongside the ongoing delivery of quality District Council services – is now approved after unanimous support at Full Council.

The **NK Plan 2024-27** highlights key schemes and partnership work across five priorities, and a green thread which interlinks it with the Council's actions on climate. This latest iteration of the plan is closely aligned to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which in turn inform the aspirations of the Council's Community Strategy targeted on 2030. It is also more reflective of the role partners have in making it all happen, the importance of young people's voices, and the potential for skills to expand along with sustainable and regenerative growth in the local economy.

The Council also frequently renews its focus on financial planning, and the Financial Plan 2024-25 is also now approved following a unanimous decision at yesterday's Full Council. A vital part of maintaining the stable financial outlook set out within the Financial Plan is a modest increase in the level of Council Tax, and a moderate increase in Council Tax to invest in and extend the services the Council provides has been approved for the year ahead.

Although the 2.68% rise represents an increase of £4.95 on the current charge – making it 189.45 at Band D over the year for everything that the District Council does – most households are charged at a lower rate which will see increases of between £3.30 and £4.40 for Bands A to C. This is the total charge for North Kesteven District Council services, with NKDC retaining only 8.7% of the total bill. The full and final charge that applies to each household will be notified by billing in mid-March.

The amount of Council Tax income retained by North Kesteven totals £12m, which contributes to an overall annual spend of £55m on General Fund services that include everything that the Council does daily, including refuse and recycling collections, provision of leisure and arts venues, licencing and food safety measures and various aspects of leadership in carbon reductions. Matters relating to housing stock are financed separately.

The Council could have applied a maximum 3% or £5 increase, but opted to seek only what it needed to maintain a sound financial position and support its spending plans and the requirements of fulfilling its updated strategic plan, the NK Plan. The Financial Plan outlined a £278m programme of investment in major capital schemes over the next decade, £36m of which will fall into the coming year and £135m over the three year scope of the new NK Plan.

The NK Plan 2024-27 will be made available on the Council's website [HERE](#)

Electric vehicle charging

North Kesteven District Council are researching the locations where residents would like to see electric vehicle charging points, aside from private homes.

There are three types of location under consideration - on street, destination and en-route charging points. Share your thoughts www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/ev

Small grants made available to village halls in England

Managed by Action with Rural Communities in England (ACRE), the fund has already awarded over £1 million to rural communities, helping them undertake ambitious improvements to their building. Works undertaken or scheduled to take place include new roofs, insulation, extensions, and more energy efficient heating systems.

The grant fund is re-opening to new applicants who wish to undertake smaller projects such as disability access, toilet upgrades and new kitchens. Grant awards of between £2,000 to £5,000, and

up to 20 per cent of eligible project costs, are on offer. Project expenditure must take place before 31 March 2025.

The minimum grant available has been set at £2000 and the largest grant at £5000. Note: As the grant can only be 20% of eligible project costs your committee must have the 80% match in hand or identified at the point of submitting the application.

For more information please visit the link: <https://acre.org.uk/press-release-small-grants-made-available-to-village-halls-in-england/>

Violence against women and girls

Lincolnshire Police shared a video portraying the fact that women and girls are telling the police that they are being followed but don't report it because they think nothing can be done.

In the video individuals recount their experiences of being stared at or followed by men in public, some of whom would attempt to initiate interaction with them. To view the video please visit [HERE](#).

If you are being followed, feel scared and think you might be in danger, call Lincolnshire Police on 999. Alternatively, if you are in a safe place and do not need an immediate response, visit the Lincolnshire Police website and submit an online report or call 101.

You can also tell Lincolnshire Police where you don't feel safe by downloading the StreetSafe app. Visit: <https://www.lincs.police.uk/news/lincolnshire/news/2022/may-2022/streetsafe/>

Visit the Violence Against Women and Girls section of the Lincolnshire Police website: <https://www.lincs.police.uk/police-forces/lincolnshire-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/violence-against-women-and-girls/>