

District Councillors Report Helpringham April 2026

Crisis and Resilience Fund

On Monday, 16 March, the government announced targeted support will be available through the Crisis and Resilience Fund for low-income households that rely on heating oil and are facing immediate financial hardship due to increased heating oil prices. Putting them at risk of losing immediate access to heating or hot water. The Shared Revenues and Benefits Team are working to finalise eligibility criteria and will update this information as soon as possible.

If you come across any residents struggling with heating oil costs to e-mail costofliving@lincoln.gov.uk and Shared Revenues and Benefits will see what they might be able to do.

Sleaford stakes its claim as UK Town of Culture

A bid for Sleaford to be the UK's first Town of Culture in 2028 has been made to Government, highlighting the town's rich heritage, creative spirit and distinctive characteristics.

Sleaford's submission comes from the Sleaford Culture & Heritage Forum, comprising local cultural organisations, creatives, heritage groups and community partners, including the District Council.

It is made in response to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Town of Culture competition which comes with has a top prize of £3m to deliver cultural programmes in 2028, and two further packages of £250,000.

Read the full story on the [Council website](#).

Empty Homes returned to use

34 houses that have stood empty for two years or more have been successfully brought back into use by their owners following support or intervention by the District Council.

The Council provides advice and non-financial assistance to homeowners, including signposting to the VAT Discount Scheme.

Further information can be found in the press release on the [Council website](#).

Armed Forces poster design competition*

Calling all young painters, sketchers, artists and illustrators! An Armed Forces poster design competition has been launched by North Kesteven District Council to tie in with this year's theme of the 90th anniversary of Bomber Command.

The competition is open to all students under 18, including those who are home-educated, from across the district and will run until 8 April, 2026 – download the entry form via the NKDC's [Armed Forces events webpage](#).

Read the full press release on the [Council website](#).

Outcome of Sleaford Westholme By-election

The by-election for Sleaford Westholme took place on Thursday, 12 March, 2026 and concluded that Sandy Buchanan has been elected as the representative for this ward. We trust you will join us in making our new Member feel welcome on their new path here at NKDC.

Any changes to the allocation of seats will be shared with Group Leaders ahead of the Annual Council meeting.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update

The Government continues with its seven-week consultation on the Local Government Reorganisation bids that it has asked for from the remaining two tier county areas in England (including Lincolnshire). The [Government's webpage](#) includes consultation questions.

The consultation is open until 11.59pm on Thursday, 26 March, 2026.

Residents of North Kesteven can find in their forthcoming NewsNK a summary overview of the four proposals impacting most on the district area. The full detail can be found in the proposals accessed via the [Greater Lincolnshire Local Government Reorganisation website](#) and on the Council's [LGR webpage](#).

Council Tax

A Council Tax increase of between 7p and 10p a week for most householders has been agreed on the District Council's share of the bill.

In setting the Council's budget for the year from April, the Full Council of District Councillors agreed a 2.96% increase in NKDC's element of the overall bill.

For three quarters of homes - in bands A to C - this will give a total annual charge of between £133.44 and £177.92 for the coming year. That's an annual increase of between £3.84 and £5.12 a year, for these households, depending on banding.

[Read the full press release here.](#)

Riparian Ownership

As you may know, residents and land owners with land that adjoins a river, stream or ditch are likely to be a riparian owner which has important legal rights and responsibilities for maintaining that watercourse.

Failure to maintain a watercourse can have serious consequences - including increased flood risks to neighbouring properties and damage to infrastructure.

By taking care of these waterways, it helps protect homes, habitats and our wider community.

Be on the lookout for fake bank notes

Lincolnshire Police have recently been made aware of an increase in counterfeit bank notes in circulation. The notes have been used to pay for fuel, fast food and used in supermarkets for groceries.

Mainly twenty pound notes are the ones being used.

Some key things to look out for include:

Hologram image change - tilt the note from side to side and check the words change between the value of the note and pounds

See through window - check the foil is gold on the front of £5 and £10 notes, gold and blue on the front of £20 and silver on the back of all notes

You can get more info from the [Bank of England website](#) on how to check bank notes.