GRANTHAM

A town going places

South Kesteven District Council
STAMFORD • GRANTHAM • BOURNE • THE DEEPINGS
Grantham regularly hits the headlines and for all the right reasons!

With its A1 links and high speed rail service to London – just over an hour – the town picked up two accolades within as many weeks when it was named as one of the top commuter towns in the country with good value property and one of the best towns to live in Britain.

The district of South Kesteven was also named one of the best 50 places to live in the UK in the 2013 Halifax Quality of Life survey.

It was one of only six districts outside the south to be selected and was judged 46th across a range of factors from residents’ health, life expectancy, earnings, employment, crime rate, weather, traffic flow and broadband internet access.

Originally known for its engineering heritage, the Grantham of today offers a vibrant local economy, outstanding education opportunities, a wonderful quality of life and a supportive and enterprising culture for a diverse range of businesses.
Planned housing developments will see the population of this historic town reach 60,000 by 2026 – an increase of 30% – with additional schools, more shops and community facilities built to accompany the social and economic growth.

Located in the centre of England, Grantham is superbly situated for both businesses and residents to prosper:

- An hour to commute to London
- Direct and frequent trains to London King’s Cross
- A1 gateway to industrial and commercial centres
- Easy reach of international airports
- Nottingham and Leicester to the west, Peterborough to the south and Lincoln to the north

Town set to grow by 30%

Grantham is the largest town in South Lincolnshire. It is a town of firsts – first discovery of gravity, first female Prime Minister, first female police officer, first diesel engine.
What will you discover?

Mentioned as a Royal Manor in the Domesday Book, Grantham has come a long way since the days when it was known as a stopping place for kings and noblemen.

The Angel and Royal Hotel, originally a court of King John, still takes pride of place in the High Street but over the years the town has expanded and developed and is now home to many shops, indoor shopping centres and a bustling Saturday street market.

With a population of over 41,000, the town has managed to retain its character but also move with the times. At the heart of Grantham is the parish church of St Wulfram’s with its soaring 282ft spire – one of the most important town churches in England – and the Guildhall houses a lively arts centre and tourist information centre. Showing great innovation, South Kesteven District Council launched the Gravity Fields Festival in 2012 to celebrate the life and discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton – who was born locally at Woolsthorpe Manor – now a biennial arts and science extravaganza putting Grantham on both national and international maps.

“With excellent communications and fantastic growth potential, Grantham is definitely a town on the way up.”
Cllr Frances Cartwright, SKDC cabinet member for Grow the Economy – Economic Development.
FACT

Grantham is home to the first gingerbread and the first UK tractor.
Well Connected

Grantham is at the centre of the UK

With its A1 links, high speed rail service to London and close proximity to four large cities (Nottingham, Leicester, Peterborough and Lincoln), Grantham makes for a brilliant central hub for business.

The East Coast Main Line passes through the town making the journey to King’s Cross just over an hour – handy also for catching the Eurostar from next door St Pancras.

If your business or leisure interests are further afield, then international airports at East Midlands, Stansted, Birmingham and Robin Hood Airport (Doncaster/Sheffield) are easily reached and are home to low-cost airlines as well as mainstream carriers.
A town to enjoy
Grantham has a real mix of retail opportunities from specialist independent shops which attract many customers from across the country to well known national chain stores and a large edge-of-town superstore offering everything under one roof.

The River Witham flows through the centre of the town which is surrounded by local attractions including National Trust property Belton House, Belvoir Castle, the seat of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, Grimsthorpe Castle and Burghley House near Stamford, home of the famous horse trials.

The town is also home to one of the best sports facilities in the East Midlands – the Meres Leisure Centre – which regularly hosts top competitions and attracts close to a million visitors every year.

FAC T
Commuters can reach London King’s Cross in just over a hour making Grantham a top town for location and house prices
Being in the right place at the right time

Historical landmarks and links dating back to medieval times, the soaring spire of St Wulfram’s, reputedly the sixth tallest in the country, and the Victorian clock tower of the Guildhall Arts Centre, provide the perfect setting for modern and ambitious plans for Grantham.

What makes Grantham a prime location?

- The A1 road, linking London to Edinburgh, passes directly to the east of the town
- Direct access to the A52, one of the region’s key roads
- Grantham is the largest of South Kesteven’s towns with over 16,000 homes
- Plans are in place for a further 7,000 new homes
- The population is set to rise by 30% by 2026
- High quality new industrial/commercial units next to major transport links

A great place to live, work and invest

- An expanding and developing town centre
- Independent shops, high street chain stores, indoor shopping centres
- Regeneration projects including the transformation of the Market Place
- Major events from the highly successful Gravity Fields Festival to the Grantham Carnival
- Bustling Saturday street market and prosperous farmers’ market
- Beautiful parks and open spaces
Space to Grow... Support to Thrive

Well planned expansion
Grantham is growing and that’s a fact. Back in 2007 the town was awarded Growth status by the Government and now ambitious plans are becoming a reality.

Seen as the gateway to the East Midlands, the town has plans to become an even more vibrant and key economic centre – a place where people enjoy a good quality of life.

Some 200 acres have been earmarked as employment land creating new business parks and high value jobs for local residents.

Around 7,500 more homes are planned offering a variety of housing to satisfy the needs of a growing community.

Poplar Farm, to the north/west of Grantham, is earmarked for 3,500 homes, and the Southern Quadrant, just off the A1 and A52, will provide a further 3,500 properties as well as a host of community facilities including schools, shops and a medical centre.
Grantham is growing. By 2026 we expect our population to be 60,000
Winning teams

Companies big and small have cottoned on to the fact that strategically Grantham is a great place to do business.

**Totemic**
From a cold start in a garage back in 1992, Totemic is now one of the town’s most successful businesses and largest employers with 1,300 people working from sites across the town and further afield.

Voted the 9th best company to work for in the UK in The Sunday Times list, the company also picked up the accolade of being the top company to work for in the East Midlands in the mid-sized company category and the top debt management firm in the UK.

The company started out offering free specialist debt advice to people in professions like nursing, the armed forces and the police. Today a key part of the Totemic group is its debt management company, Payplan, which helps over 100,000 people to manage their debts each year.

As well as five generations of the same family, the company is turning the “commute” on its head with one of its legal executives leaving London each day to work in Grantham.
**BGB Innovation**

One of a significant number of leading edge technology companies, BGB has forged a globally recognised business in electro-mechanical engineering, marine and telemetry.

Established in Grantham in 1976, BGB is a leading designer and manufacturer of electrical slip ring systems, underwater lighting and camera solutions and fibre optic rotary joints - 95% of whose substantial turnover is achieved through export of goods and services.

Predominant European markets include Scandinavia, Spain, Italy and Germany in which BGB is a leader in the field, plus worldwide markets such as Australia, India, China, Canada, Chile, Korea, USA and Japan.

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**QFC wins platinum award**

Grantham-based Quality Furniture Company is one of only three suppliers to have been awarded platinum supplier status by High Street chain Argos for demonstrating excellence across delivery performance, quality and design capability.

The firm, which won the Grantham Journal’s business innovation award (sponsored by Grantham Growth) also supplies sofas to household names DFS and Laura Ashley.

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**QUOTE**

“Logistically Grantham is great for our Europe exports and our success proves that a market town location can deliver in a global market place.”

BGB chairman David Holt senior.
The Woodland Trust
A futuristic head office illustrates how deep are the Grantham roots of the UK’s leading woodland conservation charity – the Woodland Trust.

Established in 1972 to protect native broadleaf woodland, Trust influence spreads from Grantham to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to help partners create woods, help communities and landowners plant trees, help government create the right future for woods and trees and welcome and inspire children.

“The Woodland Trust has a nationally important message, and Grantham is a great central location from which to deliver it.”
Sue Holden – Woodlands Trust Chief Executive

Moy Park
Moy Park is one of Europe's leading food companies, committed to continuing to deliver excellence in fresh, high quality locally farmed poultry and complementary convenience food products for the whole family.

Early in 2013 the company announced a major £20 million investment in its Grantham food processing site which will see a new state-of-the-art convenience foods facility being built creating over 150 additional jobs in the local area.

Moy Park’s CEO Nigel Dunlop said: "This proposed new development will transform our Grantham site into one of the most efficient state of the art operations of its kind in the UK and Europe. It will allow us to continue to successfully grow in line with market opportunities and develop our convenience foods division.”
Space to work

Attracting businesses to the area and creating new jobs is a priority for South Kesteven District Council. Planning approval has already been granted for major distribution space to the south of the town with excellent links to key roads.

A major relief road will be provided as part of the development, improving east/west linkages across the town which will give access to a new high quality business park. Committed to commercial development, there are also plans to deliver a range of industrial units.

Bright people
Employers have the advantage of a well-educated and skilled local population with a better than average number of people scoring highly in qualification and skills league tables. In fact the district of South Kesteven ranks in the top 20% of all districts nationally indicating a high performing workforce.
We know what it takes to grow...

We recognise that engaging with businesses is an essential part of promoting economic prosperity and a good quality of life. The Local Economy Strategy 2012-2016 sets out our vision and priorities with the aim:

“To work with businesses to understand the challenges facing them and together develop an environment to thrive and grow.” It includes building relationships with the district’s largest employers and establishing a local employment partnership.

Other measures on the agenda are:

- Business networking; pro-active events and stakeholder forums
- Shop front improvement scheme
- Enhance land and property database
- Develop on line and face to face business start-up service
- Establish grow your business package – online and face to face
- Programme of business engagement opportunities; trade show, property events
- Organise training events, employment fairs and business conferences
Forecast to grow 30% by 2026, there has never been a better opportunity for Grantham to expand and develop to its full potential as an economic centre for the region.

We want it to be a better place to visit, live and work in. A place where businesses can flourish and where there are profitable opportunities for landlords and developers.

As a famous son of Grantham, Sir Isaac Newton, once said: “Every body will persist in its state of rest or of uniform motion... unless it is compelled to change that state by forces impressed on it.” Grantham Growth is that force.

By creating a number of new sites that will deliver around 7,500 new house and office, retail and leisure opportunities, the growth programme will contribute significantly to the town, creating thousands of new jobs, a vibrant town centre, and a brilliant central hub for business.

“Grantham offers outstanding education opportunities, a wonderful quality of life and a supportive and enterprising culture for small business. It makes for a great work/life balance.”

Lianne Tapson, Director of Engagement, Totemic
Community spirit is definitely alive and kicking in Grantham in all aspects of life. Whether it’s taking up a new sport or hobby at one of the many clubs or organisations, enjoying a night out at the theatre, or simply visiting a local pub or restaurant, there is something for everyone.

The town has a wonderful choice of places to visit as well as a selection of splendid parks and open spaces for people to spend their leisure time.

For anyone interested in dining out there is a vast array of excellent restaurants and gastro-pubs offering everything from traditional English cuisine to Chinese, Indian and Italian, and for the family there are many high street chains that children love.

On top of that, the area boasts one of the best leisure facilities in the East Midlands, the Meres Centre, and has a wealth of other attractions on offer from championship standard 18 hole golf courses to smaller rural courses, a new tennis centre with indoor and outdoor courts, impressive castles and stately homes, and unrivalled countryside for walking, riding and cycling.

There’s also the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of festivals and events covering everything from theatre through to music and art.

The town’s history is documented at Grantham Museum while the grand Guildhall off St Peter’s Hill houses a lively arts centre which is centre stage for a variety of top shows and acts.
The quality of education in a town is a top priority when looking for a place to live. In Grantham, families are spoilt for choice. Grammar school selection is still very much alive in Lincolnshire. Kesteven and Grantham Girls’ School was the first in Lincolnshire to be designated a science specialist school and then just a few years later received its second specialism in languages.

Headteacher Graham Burks described the town as a “diamond” in terms of education, producing massively bright students. In recent years the school, where Baroness Margaret Thatcher was head girl, has gained a reputation for consistently performing at the highest level and was judged ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted inspectors.

The King’s School, where Sir Isaac Newton was educated, is rooted in a rich history and seeks success at the highest level – in the classroom, on the sports field, through entrepreneurial opportunity and through artistic and dramatic activities.

At Walton Girls’ High School and Sixth Form, performing arts is definitely a specialism as well as modern foreign languages and vocational education. From sport to music; the arts to forensic science; from the Duke of Edinburgh Award to trips to Zambia, there is something for everyone.

The list goes on, but one thing is certain, Grantham is right to pride itself on the high standard of its schools, both secondary and primary.
A great place to buy a home

Grantham is part of an emerging ‘golden triangle’ for property, according to the Sunday Times.

In the latest of a series of accolades heaped on the late Baroness Thatcher’s birthplace, the Grantham ‘triangle’ is one of five across the UK picked for their top schools, buoyant local economies, beautiful houses and good transport.

The Sunday Times traces the triangle between Grantham, Lincoln and Newark as an emerging hotspot where property transactions are bucking the national trend of stalled house prices.

Sought after villages are the key attraction, says Rupert Fisher, residential director at Savills in Lincoln.

“Value for money is the biggest driver for people from outside buying here,” he says. They are also drawn by excellent schooling, particularly the grammar schools, and many purchasers will continue to work in London using the fast trains from Newark and Grantham.

Most of the property sales in Grantham over 2012/13 were detached properties selling on average for £182,807, significantly less than the national average and proving how...
In 2012 the Local Lend A Hand scheme pledged over £500,000 towards home deposits, helping 18 first time buyers onto the housing ladder.

affordable local housing remains in both the town and surrounding attractive villages.

Terraced properties fetched an average of £94,887 and semi detached properties averaged £113,165 – both prime property candidates for the local Lend a Hand scheme run by SKDC in partnership with Lloyds TSB to help first time buyers struggling to find a deposit.

In 2013 the council committed a further £1 million to the scheme in line with its vision to provide good housing for all, meaning that SKDC guarantees up to 20% of the deposit required by mortgage lenders, with the buyer providing just 5%.

Source: Rightmove house prices July 2013.
Why locate in Grantham?

Companies big and small have cottoned on to the fact that strategically Grantham is a great place to do business.

- Space to grow – be part of Grantham as it grows into the gateway to the East Midlands. Position your business to serve an expanding market
- Support to Thrive – business support and networks; sector and place based
- Get Connected – fantastic transport links to major cities and just over a hour commute to London
- Feel Alive – lose yourself in creative pursuits or escape to our beautiful countryside
We’re well connected locally too

FACT

In March 2013 the Sunday Times named Grantham as one of the best commuter towns in the country and one of the best towns because of its fantastic accessibility, great homes and superb quality of life.