



CABINET – 22 MAY 2020

ORDER PAPER

ITEM DETAILS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 10)

Proposed motion

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2020 be taken as read, confirmed, and signed.

2. URGENT ITEMS

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Cabinet are asked to declare any interests in the business to be discussed.

4. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) IMPACT AND RESPONSE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL (Pages 11 - 12 and Supplementary Reports Pages 3 - 22 and 23 - 32)

Comments received from Dr. T. Eynon CC, on behalf of the Labour Group, are attached to this Order Paper, marked "4".

(a) Coronavirus (Covid-19) Impact and Response of the County Council

Proposed motion

- (a) That the actions taken to date in response to COVID-19 be noted;
- (b) That thanks be conveyed to the Sichuan Provincial People's Government for its donation of 20,000 face masks;
- (c) That the work that has commenced on recovery be noted and the establishment of the cross-party working group with the terms of reference as set out in Appendix B be approved.

(b) Coronavirus (Covid-19) Financial Implications

Proposed Motion

- (a) That the increasingly serious financial position facing the County Council and the measures in place to monitor and minimise the impact be noted.
- (b) That the district councils, as collection authorities, be asked to provide the County Council as soon as possible with accurate, updated council tax collection figures.
- (c) That the County Council's financial position be drawn to the attention of Members of Parliament with a request that they advocate with Ministers the measures set out in this report to ensure the stability of the County Council and its ability to provide front line services, whilst noting that the ongoing pressures on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities budget exacerbate the financial concerns.
- (d) That the support given to providers of adult social care and that further support will be provided, as set out in the report, be noted.

5. COUNTRY PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY 2019 - 2029.

(Pages 13 - 42)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission on the draft Strategy, and changes made as a result, be noted;
- (b) That the Country Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2019 – 2029 be approved.

6. LEADERS FARM DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL. (Pages 43 - 56)

Proposed motion

- (a) That Option 2 for development of the Leaders Farm site as set out in paragraph 26 of the report be approved, namely
 - i. two Drive Thru restaurant units
 - ii. a 50,000 sq ft light industrial unit (subject to successful negotiations with the proposed tenant)
 - iii. further light industrial units on the remainder of the site (at an appropriate time in the future, subject to wider market assessment of the need for such units);
- (b) That £8.2m be allocated from the Corporate Asset Investment Fund for the development of the Leaders Farm Site as set out in (a) above;

- (c) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, be authorised to undertake all necessary preparatory work to enable the submission of a planning application for the proposed development.

7. LEICESTERSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2023
(Pages 57 - 88)

Comments received from Max Hunt CC, on behalf of the Labour Group, are attached to this Order Paper, marked "7".

Proposed motion

- (a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission on the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2023, be noted;
- (b) That the County Council at its meeting on 8 July 2020 be recommended to approve the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2023.

8. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2020-21 AND 2021-22 (Pages 89 - 90)

Proposed motion

That the County Council be recommended to hold meetings on the following dates during the next two municipal years:-

Wednesday 30 September 2020
 Wednesday 2 December 2020
 Wednesday 17 February 2021 (to consider the budget)
 Wednesday 19 May 2021 (Annual Meeting)
 Wednesday 7 July 2021
 Wednesday 29 September 2021
 Wednesday 1 December 2021
 Wednesday 23 February 2022 (to consider the budget)
 Wednesday 18 May 2022 (Annual meeting)

9. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

No items have been referred from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED TO TAKE AS URGENT

None.

Officer to contact

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22nd May 2020

From Terri Eynon CC, Labour Group Leader

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) IMPACT AND RESPONSE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Labour Group wishes to express its thanks once again to the officers of this Council for their response to the Coronavirus pandemic and to express our condolences to all Leicestershire residents who have been affected both directly by the disease and indirectly by the necessary self-isolation measures taken to prevent its spread.

The Labour Group remain concerned regarding the funding gap facing this Council due to increased service costs and reduced commercial income and as it faces the prospect of lost Council tax due to increasing unemployment and business failures. We support demands from the County Councils Network for an 'Income Guarantee' and believe that the Government should not only address this current crisis but also implement a much needed and long-awaited reform of funding for Social Care and address the problems with Special Educational Needs.

- Will this Council be making formal representation to the Government regarding these issues?

The Labour Group welcome the involvement of this Council's Public Health Department in advising our community regarding risk and socially distancing and look forward to making use of data the Government's so-called 'world-beating' 'test, track and trace' model when it finally arrives in a usable form.

- We would like to be assured that Local Government will be appropriately funded to do this work.

The Labour Group share community concerns regarding the reopening of schools. Many children rely on public transport to get to school and not all of them will be able to walk or cycle. Lift-sharing will contravene social distancing advice. This has the potential for a significant increase in school-gate parking.

- We would like to see a specific Highways report addressing these issues.

The Labour Group are appalled by the way Covid-19 has devastated Care Home communities and support the work done by officers of this Council to

intervene in this public health disaster. We would like to understand how this Council is addressing other issues involving the Care sector: -

- Are the principles of infection management now being adopted for Care Home Staff also being used to reduce the risk to givers and receivers of Home-Care?
- Are Home-Care staff able to access sufficient Personal Protective Equipment?
- Are rotas being adjusted to reduce the number of different carers going into an individual's home?
- What support, including mental health support, is being offered to informal and unpaid Carers?
- Is an assessment being made of the impact of Covid-19 on Young Carers especially those caring for family members with mental health problems?
- What special provision is being made to ensure Young Carers do not fall behind in their education?

The Labour Group look forward to supporting this Council as we move towards 'recovery' and the adoption of a 'new normal' to deal with the ongoing effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Dr Terri Eynon MRCPsych FRCGP

Submission to Cabinet
22nd May 2020



From Max Hunt CC, on behalf of the Labour Group

Item 7: Leicestershire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023

We value the dedicated work relating to youth offending of the police, children's services and our partners, and we know that the general public places a very high importance on this work too. So, it is with that in mind that we would like the Strategic Plan to include a more strategic approach and forward plan.

We concur with Dr Eynon's expressed view at the Commission that the report was difficult to access and scrutinise. We would like to enlarge upon our concerns as follows:

1. Fundamentally, we don't think this report represents a clear Strategic Plan.
2. The covering report confirms in para 5 that the Strategic Plan provides an overview of the service and this tends to take the place of strategy.
3. The priorities listed for the Plan period are inexhaustible and as such do not allow us to understand of how the service will prioritise its scarce resources over the Plan period.
4. Without a strategic and planned approach, or with sufficient detail of measures applied, it then becomes difficult to review in the following periods.
5. Whilst the two case examples are welcome, there is little to inform the major issues by way of example of measures taken.
6. For example, the covering report suggests "*A key area of concern related to the exploitation of children, particularly vulnerable children...*" but this is not informed within the Plan by any breakdown of the impact (eg by place, environment, mental health, SEND etc).
7. We feel that the Plan would benefit from more direct input from partners, particularly those school leaders who are particularly engaged with your team.
8. It's not clear why the Plan is now extended from one to three years, and in this respect what monitoring is expected in 2021. We hope that the publication of an updated Strategic Plan will continue to be a statutory annual requirement.

We do recognise the dedicated work behind the report but with these comments in mind we trust that this important statutory Strategic Plan will be more easily understood and open to scrutiny at each year end in future.

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