

County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during

Name of Councillor

Mr N J Rushton CC

1) Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

The 2018/19 civic year at County Hall has been eventful.

We're now halfway through the current term, preparing for the County elections in 2021.

On top of my County Council duties as Leader of the Council representing the strategic interests of all the residents in Leicestershire, I try to attend all my parish councils of Ashby-de-la Zouch, Belton, Breedon on the Hill, Coleorton, Isley cum Langley, Long Whatton, Normanton le Heath, Osgathorpe, Packington, Staunton Harold, Swannington and Worthington, on a regular basis.

Most of the issues residents raise with me are planning, environment and development related, but increasingly, I've found residents are concerned with housing pressures, speeding traffic, inconsiderate parking, access to local schools, school transport, waste disposal, health and social care issues, infrastructure needed to support development, such as superfast broadband, schools and road improvements.

I hold regular meetings with our local MP Andrew Bridgen throughout the year. We work closely together to try and resolve the issues and casework raised.

Our work on lobbying Government for a fairer way to fund future local government spending has yielded some results, not only a full Government review on fairer funding, but also a review on business rates distribution and their retention locally. This work is ongoing as uncertainty in Government and Brexit continues to affect the domestic policy agenda.

A particular success was working with the other 8 local authorities in the County and City to deliver the Strategic Growth Plan, a single strategic document which will be used to guide planning and development til 2050, as well as co-ordinating bidding for vital infrastructure needed to support housing.

The County Council that I lead has a good working relationship with our strategic partners, including the LLEP and Northwest Leicestershire District Council. Working together for positive outcomes for the residents we serve is my number one priority.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

- Continue to run sound council finances, make prudent use of Council taxes to support services, invest wisely to provide extra income for future investment.
- Rollout the largest ever transport capital programme worth £160M, raising a further £100M supporting investment in Leicestershire working with the LLEP, Midlands Connect and the Midlands Engine for Growth to drive economic growth, jobs, housing and infrastructure projects to support development.
- Continue to make Leicestershire County Council the best performing and productive council in England. For the last 2 years, the IMPOWER national survey of 150 upper tier councils has rated LCC number one.
- Invest in early help and prevention services, deliver services in new and innovative ways, protect vulnerable children and adults and their social care, cracking down on antisocial behaviour, speeding and irresponsible parking outside schools, keeping our communities safer.
- Keep Leicestershire's roads and environment in top condition. LCC has some of the best maintained roads in the UK and I want to keep it that way.

2) Council Activities

Briefing Note

Please specify any particular issues of note that you have been actively involved in connected with the following bodies.

Committees you serve on at County Hall

Leader of the County Council.

Cabinet - Chairman.

Cabinet Briefing- Chairman.

Cabinet Strategy & Co-ordination Group - Chairman.

Constitution Committee - Chairman.

Local Committees/Outside Bodies

Local Government Association General Assembly- member.

Local Government Association- Executive Board member (East Midlands.)

Local Government Association Conservative Group Executive Board- County Councils representative.

County Councils Network- Executive Council.

County Councils Network- National Finance spokesman.

Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Fire Authority- Chairman.

Midlands Engine- Steering group member.

Midlands Connect- Executive Board member.

Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership- member.

East Midlands Councils- member.

Bradgate Park & Swithland Woods Committee of Management- Chairman.

Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc

N/A

3) Learning and development:

You are never too old to learn new things and I always look at ways to better my understanding and appreciation of issues and the people affected by the decisions we take at County Council.

4) Other Matters:

There are a number of future uncertainties. Of biggest concern is reaching a successful outcome on local government finance with Government and the split on the distribution of business rates. Brexit continues to be a headache for everyone and MPs must put aside their differences and reach agreement, implementing the referendum result. Controlling our budgets, paying down debt, maximising our income potential from our assets and LCC becoming more commercial in its approach are areas I want to explore and exploit.

Social Media

www.facebook.com/LeicsConservatives

Twitter- @LeicsCC_Cons and @nrushton

www.leicestershireconservatives.org.uk

Signed by Councillor Nick Rushton



Date 23rd May 2019