



DATE: 23 February 2021  
MY REF: JT/CCouncil  
PLEASE ASK FOR: Mrs. J. Twomey  
DIRECT DIALLING: (0116) 305 6362  
E-MAIL: [joanne.twomey@leics.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.twomey@leics.gov.uk)

### **ORDER PAPER, QUESTION AND POSITION STATEMENTS SUPPLEMENTARY PACK**

- Order Paper including Questions Asked Under Standing Order 7(1) (2) & (5) (Pages 3-9)
- To receive position statements under Standing Order 8
  - I. Position Statement from the Leader of the Council (Pages 11-13)
  - II. Position Statement on behalf of the Cabinet Lead Member for Highways and Transport (Pages 15-16)

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**MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ORDER PAPER**

**EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

In the event of having to evacuate the Council Chamber, please leave by one of the two exits at the rear of the Chamber.

Officers will be on hand to assist any people with disabilities.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The CHAIRMAN will make his announcements.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – MINUTES**

(Pages 3 to 18)

The CHAIRMAN will move and the VICE-CHAIRMAN will second:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2021, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The CHAIRMAN will invite members who wish to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

It will be assumed that all members who are members of District Councils will wish to declare a registerable interest in relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26.

The Chairman has been advised that the following members wish to declare a non-registerable interest in the MTFs: -

- Mr Pain CC in relation to passenger transport issues as his family operate a taxi business.
- Mr Phillimore CC in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) issues due to his wife’s employment.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**  
**QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1) (2) & (5)**

**(A) Question by MR HUNT**

- “1. “Many people, particularly those of a certain age or vulnerability, will have been struck by the interview on East Midlands BBC (13/2/22) with a gentleman from the County who could not obtain timely treatment due to rising waiting lists, worse than elsewhere in the East Midlands. Could the Chair of Scrutiny Commission provide some reassurance that we are positively scrutinising these key rising waiting lists, not tinkering at the edges but identifying ways in which Leicestershire can improve against other areas, and publishing our findings, which can all too easily be buried in minutes?”

**Reply by MR MULLANEY**

- “1. Can I begin by thanking Max for his question. The pandemic has had a significant impact on an already stretched health and social care service and this has been acknowledged by all. It now appears that we may be over the worst of the large surge in cases that occurred as a result of Omicron and Christmas gatherings with Covid pressures easing on acute and community services.

Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been aware of the concerns and worry of people who have had delays in treatment which have been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic and it has raised these concerns with NHS colleagues.

On 10th November the Committee received very informative reports and presentations on (link to meeting below):

- (i) Current data access to primary care services, the challenges being faced by GP practices and initiatives being introduced to improve access;
- (ii) The Restoration and Recovery Plans of health care providers, particularly on dealing with the significant backlog that has built up in terms of diagnosis and elective care.

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1045&MId=6431&Ver=4>

NHS managers who attended the meeting acknowledged the significant backlog that had built up and had prepared the plans so that there was transparency in the way in which they would seek to prioritise and deal with this. They, along with the members of the Committee, were aware that the task ahead was monumental and would require significant investment of resources and staff, and even then it was unlikely that significant reductions in the backlog and waiting times could be achieved in the short term.

The Government has made promises of significant new resources as a result of raising National Insurance contributions. Most of these resources are to be directed to the NHS with very little to support the social care sector. This I believe is a mistake as the ability of the NHS to deliver will be dependent upon hospitals being able to discharge patients to a social care setting for after care and rehabilitation. Without significant national investment in social care the social care market cannot develop and function on a sustainable level and this will impede the NHS in its delivery. The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 1st November was advised of significant demand pressures. The financial impact of the increased need and demand is such that the Department is forecasting a significant overspend against budget in this financial year and this is likely to grow in subsequent years. As a consequence the Council is allocating £25m growth for social care within the MTFS for 2022/23 rising to £35m over the four year period.

Over the coming year the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be monitoring the position and members will be raising issues and concerns. I am sure that the County Council as the social care authority will be working closely with NHS colleagues on this.

Finally, I think you make a valid point regarding publishing our findings. The next edition of our residents' newsletter, Leicestershire Matters, will include an update on the work of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and I am sure that the Chair and Spokespersons of that Committee working with the Lead Member and our comms team will want to look at anything further for the future."

## **TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5** **REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE** **(Pages 19 – 20)**

Principle Speakers: -  
Chairman (Mr N J Rushton)  
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Mr M Mullaney)

#### **A. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS (MEETING PROCEDURE RULES)**

MR RUSHTON will move and MRS TAYLOR will second: -

"That the changes to Standing Orders (the Meeting Procedure Rules), as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Constitution Committee, be approved."

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – TO RECEIVE POSITION STATEMENTS  
FROM MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

(Note: Standing Order 8 provides as follows: -

- (a) A position statement may give rise to an informal discussion by the Council.
- (b) At the conclusion of the discussion a formal motion may be moved to the effect that a particular issue relevant to the statement be referred to the Cabinet, the Commission, a Board or a Committee for consideration. This shall be moved and seconded formally and put without discussion. No other motion or amendment may be moved.
- (c) The discussion of any position statement shall not exceed 20 minutes but the Chairman may permit an extension to this period.)

**LEADER**

- (i) The Leader will make his statement.
- (ii) An informal discussion may then take place.

**LEAD MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

- (i) The Leader Member will make his statement.
- (ii) An informal discussion may then take place.

**TO CONSIDER REPORTS OF THE  
CABINET, SCRUTINY COMMISSION, SCRUTINY COMMITTEES,  
AND OTHER BODIES**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7  
REPORT OF THE CABINET**

(Pages 21 – 288)

Principal Speakers: -  
Mover of motion (as appropriate)  
Leader of the Opposition (Mr M Mullaney)

A. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 – 2025/26**

MR BRECKON will move and MR SHEPHERD will second: -

- “(a) That the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Commission as set out in Appendix Q to the report be noted;

- (b) That subject to the items below, approval be given to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which incorporates the recommended revenue budget for 2022/23 totalling £471.7m as set out in Appendices A, B and E of this report and includes the growth and savings for that year as set out in Appendix C;
- (c) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, set out in Appendix B to the report, including the growth and savings for those years as set out in Appendix C, allowing the undertaking of preliminary work, including business case development, consultation, and equality and human rights impact assessments, as may be necessary towards achieving the savings specified for those years including savings under development set out in Appendix D;
- (d) That approval be given to the early achievement of savings that are included in the MTFS, as may be necessary, along with associated investment costs, subject to the Director of Corporate Resources agreeing to funding being available;
- (e) That the level of the general fund and earmarked funds as set out in Appendix K be noted and the use of those earmarked funds as indicated in that appendix be approved;
- (f) That the amounts of the County Council's Council Tax for each band of dwelling and the precept payable by each billing authority for 2022/23 be as set out in Appendix M (including 1% for the adult social care precept);
- (g) That the Chief Executive be authorised to issue the necessary precepts to billing authorities in accordance with the budget requirement above and the tax base notified by the District Councils, and to take any other action which may be necessary to give effect to the precepts;
- (h) That the 2022/23 to 2025/26 capital programme as set out in Appendix F be approved;
- (i) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Resources, be authorised to approve new capital schemes, including revenue costs associated with their delivery, shown as future developments in the capital programme, to be funded from funding available;
- (j) That the financial indicators required under the Prudential Code included in Appendix N, Annex 2 be noted and that the following limits be approved:

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Operational boundary for external debt				
i) Borrowing	263	263	311	340
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	264	264	312	341
Authorised limit for external debt				
i) Borrowing	273	273	321	350
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	274	274	322	351

- (k) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to effect movement within the authorised limit for external debt between borrowing and other long-term liabilities;
- (l) That the following borrowing limits be approved for the period 2022/23 to 2025/26:
- (i) Upper limit on fixed interest exposures 100%;
  - (ii) Upper limit on variable rate exposures 50%;
  - (iii) Maturity of borrowing: -

	<u>Upper Limit</u>	<u>Lower Limit</u>
	%	%
Under 12 months	30	0
12 months and within 24 months	30	0
24 months and within 5 years	50	0
5 years and within 10 years	70	0
10 years and above	100	25

upper limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days is 10% of the portfolio.



- (m) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to enter into such loans or undertake such arrangements as necessary to finance capital payments in 2022/23, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix N;
- (n) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix N, be approved including:
  - (i) The Treasury Management Policy Statement, Appendix N; Annex 4;
  - (ii) The Annual Statement of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision as set out in Appendix N, Annex 1;
- (o) That the Capital Strategy (Appendix G), Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy (Appendix H), Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Appendix I), Earmarked Funds Policy (Appendix J) and Insurance Policy (Appendix L) be approved;
- (p) That it be noted that the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool will continue for 2022/23;
- (q) That the Leicestershire School Funding Formula remains unchanged, reflecting the National Funding Formula for 2022/23.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**  
**JOINT REPORT OF THE CABINET AND THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**  
(289 - 293)

Principal Speakers: -  
Mover of motion (as appropriate)  
Leader of the Opposition (Mr M Mullaney)

A. **BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST ORGANISATION**

MRS POSNETT will move and MR BRECKON will second: -

“That Leicestershire County Council makes a clear commitment to becoming an anti-racist organisation.”

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## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

### **POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **County Deal**

I welcomed the publication of the Levelling Up White paper three weeks ago and the news that our bid for a County Deal was announced as one of the first 9 areas to be invited to enter talks with Government.

The Conservative Group agreed that our bid would propose an Elected Mayor for Leicestershire and this would give us the best opportunity of maximising new powers and new funding available from a County Deal. We were grateful for the support of the Opposition Group Leaders, the County's MPs and the seven District Council Leaders.

Discussions with representatives from Government have confirmed what I took from the White Paper, that the Deal for which we bid is only available over what Government calls a 'Functional Economic Area' or FEA. In our case the FEA could not be Leicestershire only – it could be Leicester and Leicestershire, or Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The fact is that there is an Elected Mayor for Leicester already and he will not accept having another Elected Mayor over him.

I have discussed the situation with the City Mayor, and with the Leader of Rutland County Council. They are both really interested in seeing what can be negotiated with Government which, as leaders of neighbouring unitaries, the White Paper encourages.

At their invitation, we have started to discuss with Government what the White Paper calls 'a new form of combined authority model to be made up of upper tier local authorities only'. This is from the stand-point that we want to try everything possible to get additional funding and a greater say over capital funding for highway schemes.

We want to get a Deal which in White Paper terms is as close as possible to Level 3, unlocking the powers, funding and opportunities that Levelling Up envisages. I am doing everything I can with the Deputy Leader to get MP support for this.

If we do not succeed, we will be negotiating a combined authority model for Level 2, which would be second best in terms of powers and funding, but could give the opportunity to negotiate further powers in future. As

an Administration, we will not be turning down an offer from Government of a County Deal.

### **Net Zero and the Green agenda**

As I have reported previously the County Council has made significant progress in reducing its own carbon footprint. We will build on this and the Council's leadership role by working in partnership to tackle climate change and create a greener and more resilient County.

Late last year we commissioned independent research consultants to help us develop a 'Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan' aimed at being a net zero County by 2045. The key findings of the consultant's report were that: -

- The net zero carbon 2045 target for Leicestershire cannot be delivered by the Council working alone;
- The pathway to net zero is challenging but feasible if all available policy levers are employed at pace and scale;
- Investment will be required from all sectors.

A draft 'Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan' will be the subject of extensive consultation with the public and stakeholders during the spring. This is extremely important as we need to get as wide an agreement as possible on the way forward.

In terms of what we are doing ourselves, I'd like to take this opportunity to inform the Council that we have launched a new project to support households at risk of fuel poverty to keep warm and cut their bills by installing cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, solar panels, air source heat pumps and other energy efficiency measures. We are now working alongside district councils to secure up to £4million of additional funding to extend the scheme for another year and reduce the impact of the cost of living crisis for our most vulnerable residents.

We are also developing a new Council run tree nursery to secure tree stock for the Council's tree planting commitments and address issues of biosecurity and local provenance.

## **MTFS**

Later on we will be debating the proposed MTFS for the next four years. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the staff of the County Council, our statutory partners and voluntary and private sector providers with whom we contract for their hard work and dedication in providing services for the people of Leicestershire. Their continued efforts to find new ways of working and delivering high quality services at a time of significant resource constraints have enabled us to deliver a balanced budget for next year, when almost all other principal authorities are struggling to do so.

## **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Further to the Chairman's announcement I would also like to congratulate Her Majesty the Queen on her historic achievement of being our monarch for seventy years.

As the Chairman has announced there will be a number of celebrations over the bank holiday weekend in June and I am sure local communities will wish to hold street parties. To help facilitate this, the County Council will waive its fees in relation to the processing of road closure applications and associated restrictions, as well as offering the loan of signs and cones. However, I need to advise Members that the deadline for applications is Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> April so it is important that they communicate this within their electoral divisions.

In addition, I am also pleased to inform the Council that if any organiser needs support or guidance in completing their application, officers in the Environment and Transport Department will be on hand to help.

This is truly a momentous occasion for our country and Leicestershire.

## **Storm Impact and thanks to staff**

Finally, I would like to thank staff for all their hard work and efforts in keeping the County running and cleaning up after the unprecedented triple storms of Dudley, Eunice and Franklin.

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**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**  
**POSITION STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CABINET LEAD**  
**MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

### **Recent Storm Damage**

As the Leader mentioned over the past few days, the County has experienced three major storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. Over this period, we have had additional highways crews out to help deal with the situation. Our teams responded to 176 trees down as well as a number of flood related issues. Over 350 enquiries have been dealt with over this period.

The staff involved who worked tirelessly over this period (including 24/7 over the weekend) and in very difficult circumstances. They have shown a real commitment to get the job done and I would like to acknowledge their hard work.

### **Member Highway Fund**

498 requests have now been received from all 55 Members for works under the Member Highway Fund.

182 requests are currently in the processing stage, 33 are with Members for sign off and to date 108 jobs have been assigned for delivery. This work is continuing apace with officers supporting Members in finalising their projects for delivery and programming works. No new requests are being accepted for the current financial year, however to reassure Members new requests can be submitted for the next round of funding. Any agreed works that cannot be carried out by the end of March will be delivered in the new financial year.

A more streamlined process is being developed for us for the next round. This will start with an online application process followed up with individual meetings with officers to discuss potential requests. As you know, the MHF has been a new initiative for us all and the department is working hard to get this years' schemes on the ground for our communities as soon as possible and to ensure we are all on the front foot for the coming financial year.

## **SEN School Transport Digital Application Process**

I am pleased to advise that parents now have the ability to apply for SEN transport online. This new system went live on 10 February and I can report we had our first compliment from a member of the public on how easy to use and effective the new system is the following week. We have also had positive comments on Facebook. Along with our ICT colleagues we will continue to progress and deliver similar initiatives to improve our customer service. Many thanks to all involved.

## **Recruitment Event**

Across Highways and Transport we are experiencing significant problems recruiting to vacancies. As part of our work to address this we are holding a recruitment event here at County Hall on 3 March. This is being run in partnership with Reed and is specifically looking to generate interest in roles across Highways and Transport as well as our Waste operation. The communications supporting this event includes targeting more hard to reach communities such as people with disabilities and Black, Asian and Multi Ethnic audiences with the objective of not only getting good candidates into the department but helping us increase diversity across the workforce.

**Mrs M. Wright**

**Cabinet Support Member**