

CABINET - FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2023**ORDER PAPER****ITEM DETAILS****APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

1. **MINUTES (Pages 5-18)****Proposed motion**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2023 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. **LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 (Pages 19-50)**

- *The report will be presented (via MS Teams) by Seona Douglas, the Independent Chair of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Adults Board.*
- *The Annual Report was considered by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 September and its comments are attached to this Order Paper, marked '4'.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- b) That the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2022/23 be noted.

5. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY - LATEST POSITION (Pages 51-104)

- *A report was considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 6 September and its comments are attached to this Order Paper, marked '5'.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- b) That the significant financial challenges faced by the County Council, including the Period 4 monitoring position from the current financial year be noted;
- c) That the proposed approach outlined in the report to updating the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved;
- d) That the revised Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27 as set out in Appendix C to the report be approved.

6. INVESTING IN LEICESTERSHIRE PROGRAMME ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23 (Pages 105-140)

- *A report was considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 6 September and its comments are attached to this Order Paper, marked '6'.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- b) That the performance of the Investing in Leicestershire Programme for the period April 2022 to March 2023 as set out in the Annual Performance Report, be noted.

7. AIRFIELD BUSINESS PARK DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL - FINAL PHASE (Pages 141-156)

- *A report was considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 6 September and its comments and those from the local member, Mr. P. King CC, are attached to this Order Paper, marked '7'.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- b) That £16.5m be allocated from the Investing in Leicestershire Programme for the further development of 105,974 sq. ft of Airfield Business Park ('the development') as detailed in the report and the appended indicative Masterplan, subject to the satisfactory outcome of the tender exercise referred to in c) below;
- c) That a tender exercise be undertaken for the construction of part of the development:

- d) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised
- (i) to undertake all necessary preparatory work to enable the submission of a planning application for the proposed development;
 - (ii) following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Resources, to consider the outcome of the tender exercise in respect of the development and determine whether to proceed with the development;
 - (iii) subject to (ii) above, to select a preferred contractor(s) and enter into such contracts and undertake such work as is necessary and appropriate to enable the development to be delivered.

8. CORPORATE COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23
(Pages 157-186)

Proposed motion

That the Corporate Complaints and Compliments Annual Report, covering the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 be noted.

9. COMMUNITY ADMISSION BODIES - VOLUNTARY ACTION LEICESTERSHIRE AND THE BRADGATE PARK TRUST (Pages 187-198)

- *A report was considered by the Local Pension Committee on 8 September. The Committee approved the transfers.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the transfer of Voluntary Action LeicesterShire pension fund assets and liabilities to the County Council be approved;
- b) That the transfer of Bradgate Park Trust pension fund assets and liabilities equally to the County Council and Leicester City Council be approved;
- c) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to sign the pass-through agreements for the above transfers on behalf of the County Council.

10. A511 GROWTH CORRIDOR - MAKING OF COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER AND SIDE ROADS ORDER FOR LAND REQUIRED (Pages 199-242)

Proposed motion

- a) That a Compulsory Purchase Order to be known as “The Leicestershire County Council (A511 Growth Corridor) Compulsory Purchase Order 2023” (CPO) be made under Sections 239, 240, 246, 250 and 260 of the Highways Act 1980 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 to secure the compulsory acquisition of the land shown coloured pink and the new rights over the land shown coloured blue on the CPO Maps at Appendix A to the report;

- b) That a Side Roads Order to be known as “The Leicestershire County Council (A511 Growth Corridor) (Side Roads) Order 2023” (SRO) be made under Sections 14 and 125 of the Highways Act 1980 to construct new highways and public rights of ways, stop up, divert, improve or otherwise deal with a highway including public rights of ways and the closure and creation of private means of access as shown in the SRO Maps at Appendix B to the report;
- c) That the Director of Environment and Transport and Director of Corporate Resources be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Lead Members, to:
- (i) finalise and make, if necessary, any minor or technical amendments, modifications and deletions to the CPO Maps and SRO Maps should this be considered appropriate;
 - (ii) finalise the CPO and the SRO (collectively referred to as “the Orders”), and the Statement of Reasons;
 - (iii) in accordance with the Cabinet authority dated 29 March 2022, continue to take all necessary steps to make (including any associated or ancillary applications to the Secretary of State under the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (including in respect of open space) if considered necessary), publish, and obtain confirmation of the Orders including (but not limited to) the publication and service of all statutory notices and presentation of the Council’s case at any Public Inquiry or through written representations, to secure the confirmation of the Orders (with or without modifications) by the Secretary of State for Transport and implement the Orders associated with the A511 Growth Corridor scheme;
 - (iv) continue, in accordance with the Cabinet authority dated 29 March 2022, discussions and negotiations with landowners and stakeholders with a view to reaching voluntary agreements with landowners and to purchase and/or reserve land and rights by agreement for the A511 Growth Corridor;
- d) That the latest position with regard to costs and timescales for the scheme, set out in Part B of the report, be noted.

11. VERTICAL TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL - WALTON WAY, MOUNTSORREL
(Pages 243-276)

- *With the permission of the Chairman, Mr. L. Hadji-Nikolaou CC, the local member, will speak on this item.*

Proposed motion

That the implementation of the vertical traffic calming measures as shown on drawing number ES0023/H2/40/1, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved.

12. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME REDUCTIONS (Pages 277-284)

Proposed motion

- a) That the commencement of consultation on the draft physical activity delivery model be approved;
- b) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in December 2023 regarding the outcome of the consultation exercise and a proposed final model.

13. COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND ACCESS POLICY FOR THE RECORD OFFICE FOR LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER, AND RUTLAND (Pages 285-308)

- *A report was considered by the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 September and its comments are attached to this Order Paper, marked '13'.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the Collections Development Policy for the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland be approved;
- b) That the Access Policy for the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland be approved.

14. LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 (Pages 309-344)

- *The Annual Report was considered by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 September. The Committee noted and welcomed the Report.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- b) That the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2022/23 be noted.

15. EXCEPTION TO CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES TO PROVIDE ADOPTION SUPPORT FUND - THERAPEUTIC SERVICES (Pages 345-350)

Proposed motion

That an additional exception to the Contract Procedure Rules to enable the Director of Children and Family Services to agree the direct award of contracts to therapeutic service suppliers referred to in paragraph 18 of the report for the provision of therapy to eligible adopted children up to no later than 30 November 2023 and with a maximum combined expenditure of £362,045 from 1 July 2023 to 30 November 2023 be approved.

16. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

None.

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

None.

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLICProposed motion

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information -

“Exception to Contract Procedure Rules to Provide Agency Cover”

Officer to contact

Jenny Bailey
Democratic Services
Tel: (0116) 305 6225
Email: jenny.bailey@leics.gov.uk

4



ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 4th SEPTEMBER 2023

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT

MINUTE EXTRACT

The Committee considered a report of the Independent Chair of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board (LRSAB) for 2022/23. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Seona Douglas, Independent Chair of the LRSAB to the meeting for this item.

Arising from discussion and questions, the following points arose:

- i. A Member queried the Safeguarding Partnership's reserve funds of £168,895 and questioned who would decide what this would be used for. The Independent Chair explained that during the Covid-19 pandemic, there were no learning and development opportunities and the money had therefore been accrued as a result. There was an agreed methodology for sharing the funds if not required, and the decision would be made by the Board on how to use the money or whether to disseminate some or all of this back to partners. However, Members acknowledged that it was good for the Partnership to have a healthy reserve balance which would enable the Board to undertake a lot of work and engagement with residents.
- ii. A Member made reference to the number of safeguarding enquiries and alerts which for Leicestershire in 2022/23 looked similar to the figures presented for 2021/22. However, in comparison to Rutland, the number of physical abuse cases had gone down from 19% to 4% whilst at the same time the number of financial and material abuse cases had risen from zero to 13%. The Member queried if there was an explanation for this jump in figures. The Independent Chair explained that Rutland, as a small unitary authority, had significantly smaller numbers when compared with the County Council, therefore changes in numbers in terms of percentages would look more extreme. The two could not be meaningfully compared.
- iii. A Member drew attention to the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR), whereby over the last few years the SAB had identified an 'under-representation' of people from non-white backgrounds. It was suggested it would be more appropriate to say that there was under-reporting from this group of residents which the Independent Chair accepted and confirmed would be amended for future reports.

- iv. Members noted that there was greater under-reporting within Leicestershire from black minority communities. The Board would therefore be exploring whether it was targeting those communities correctly. It was noted that when the Partnership ran campaigns and awareness raising was undertaken, referrals increased.
- v. A Member sought an explanation of why the number of section 42 safeguarding enquiries concluded in 2022/23 had been higher than the number of individuals involved in such enquiries during the same period. The Independent Chair explained that some cases would have been brought over from a previous year. The Director further explained that there were two key issues. Firstly, was the length of time it had taken to complete some enquiries which meant they were carried forward into the following years figures. This had been the subject of a recommendation by Dr. Tozer in the report on Assurance of Adult Social Care to be considered elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting. The recommendation had been to address the number of safeguarding enquiries that took over six months to complete. Secondly the Director explained that the Council's approach in when it applied the threshold to assess whether a matter would be the subject of a section 42 enquiry was different to most other authorities which meant Leicestershire's conversion rates appeared to be substantially lower. The Director confirmed that its processes would be reviewed and undertook to provide a further update on this issue to Committee Members.
- vi. It was noted that attendance on the Board had been good, particularly at a senior level ensuring the Board was able to operate effectively and take decisions. The Committee welcomed this news but requested that a table of attendance still be included in future reports as had been done in previous years.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Douglas for the report.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the draft annual report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board (LRSAB) for 2022/23 be noted.
- b) That Chair of the Board be requested to include details on the attendance of partners at LRSAB meetings throughout the year in future reports.
- c) That the Director of Adults and Communities be requested to provide a further update outlining the process for dealing with Section 42 Safeguarding enquiries, how these are managed and the timings for conclusion, in particular those that take longer than 6 months.

5

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 6 SEPTEMBER 2023****MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY MONITORING AND STRATEGY UPDATE****MINUTE EXTRACT**

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which set out the worsening short and medium term financial position caused by the current economic climate and service demand. The report also detailed the changes to be made to the previously agreed 2022-2026 capital programme following the latest review and covered the specific revenue budget monitoring position as at the end of period 4 (the end of July). A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 13' is filed with these minutes.

The Lead Member for Resources commented that the overspends were as expected given the high demand for adults and children's social care services. The Council's efforts had and would continue to be targeted to reduce the level of demand in these areas, but this continued to outstrip growth added to those budgets. He said the Council had never been complacent in trying to achieve a balanced budget, but the position was becoming more and more difficult.

The Leader, Mr N. J. Rushton CC, further commented that the Cabinet had demonstrated good leadership and made difficult decisions. Essentially residents were being asked to pay more in council tax, in return for reduced services. However, it had and would continue to ensure it focused on protecting and delivering those services needed by the most vulnerable, in the most efficient way possible.

Arising from discussion, the following points arose:

- (i) A Member commented that it was concerning that Birmingham City Council could become bankrupt given its size and the level of resources it received and questioned what this meant for the County Council as the lowest funded Authority; would the Government now address its low funding position? The Director advised that unfortunately the position in Birmingham had been, in part, as a result of poor governance and a failure to deal with financial pressures early. This would not therefore encourage the Government to address the overall funding position of local government generally.
- (ii) The Council was not in the same position as Birmingham City Council, but circumstances were becoming more difficult. The Council sought to be as efficient as possible but given the £230m savings already delivered since 2010, there were now limited choices from where to make the savings now

required to ensure a balance budget.

- (iii) Members agreed that it was necessary for local government to be funded properly if it was to continue to deliver public services and meet local resident's needs. However, given the current economic and political climate, it was felt unlikely that funding arrangements would change in the foreseeable future.
- (iv) Members commented that local government had drifted along at the same level of income for a number of years but that the demand for its services had increased year on year. For example, people lived longer but needed more care and therefore required greater adult social care support. The number of children with special educational needs continued to rise, but the Council faced huge difficulties in the recruitment and retention of children's social workers, as many left to work for agencies which paid higher salaries the Council could not compete with. Also, economic growth in the private sector increased the demand for infrastructure, the cost of which had increased in line with inflation.
- (v) A Member commented that the position was frustrating. The Council had been well run financially which was important. However, due to a lack of adequate Government funding, gaps in being able to support the most vulnerable residents in Leicestershire were increasing. The pressures identified were national issues and the Government therefore needed to address these centrally to ensure local authorities could continue to meet their statutory obligations. Increases in council tax alone could not continue to meet the increases in costs and demand.
- (vi) Increasing council tax during a cost of living crisis would be challenging for residents and this would still not fully meet the shortfall currently identified.
- (vii) In response to questions raised, the Leader reported that a meeting had been held with the Chancellor and a solution presented that would help address some of the funding pressures the County Council faced. Whilst accepted as a good solution, no agreement to deliver this had been secured and it was unlikely that further progress would be made before the election. The Leader and Lead Member for Resources reassured the Commission that despite this, they would continue to pursue fairer funding for Leicestershire.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the revenue budget monitoring position as at the end of period 4 (the end of July) and the changes to be made to the previously agreed 2022-2026 capital programme be noted;
- (b) That the update provided on the worsening short and medium term financial position in light of the current economic climate be noted with concern;

- (c) That the comments and concerns raised by the Commission be presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 15 September 2023.

This page is intentionally left blank

6

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 6 SEPTEMBER 2023****INVESTING IN LEICESTERSHIRE PROGRAMME ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022 - 2023****MINUTE EXTRACT**

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which set out the performance of the Investing in Leicestershire Programme (IILP) in the 2022/23 financial year. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points arose:

- (i) Members noted that there had been no borrowing to fund any of the investments within the IILP. The Lead Member commented that the approach for the Programme had been sensible and prudent.
- (ii) Whilst generating an income would still be a priority, the revised approach of the IILP to prioritise investments in Leicestershire to support the local economy and local growth was welcomed. It was suggested that future performance reports should begin to capture the wider economic benefits being achieved alongside usual income performance. It was further suggested that consideration be given to the development of targets which identified the wider benefits to be achieved by the Programme and which might be incorporated into the next iteration of the IILP Strategy.
- (iii) A Member requested that in future reports the overall rate of return be set out more clearly, distinguishing between that arising from the Council's property investments and that arising from its financial non-property investments.
- (iv) In response to questions raised, the Director clarified that 7% was the target return for the overall fund once this reached the expected level of £260m. This was the total return it was expected would be achieved once the allocated capital had been fully invested and sites under development had been completed and let. As the Programme included land that was still under development, the overall target forecast had not yet been reached. The current rate of return had been around 5.8%. A Member requested that some explanation be provided on the terms used within the report (for example, yield, net yield, income return) and the different targets referenced in the Strategy.
- (v) Mr D. Bill CC requested that his objection to the future development of land between Earl Shilton and Stoney Stanton be recorded. The

proposals if pursued by developers would, in his view, result in the loss of significant and valuable countryside around Junction 2 of the M69 which would not be of benefit to local residents living in that area.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Performance of the Investing in Leicestershire Programme during 2022/23 being noted;
- (b) That the Director be requested to:
 - (i) include in future performance reports details of the wider economic benefits being achieved by the Programme, alongside usual income performance;
 - (ii) consider the development of targets for wider benefits to be achieved by the Programme which might be incorporated into the next iteration of the IILP Strategy;
 - (iii) distinguish between the rate of return arising from the Council's property investments and financial non-property investments in future performance reports;
 - (iv) include within future reports an explanation of the terms used (for example, yield, net yield, income return) and the different targets referenced in the Strategy.

7

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 6 SEPTEMBER 2023****AIRFIELD BUSINESS PARK DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL - FINAL PHASE****MINUTE EXTRACT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources, which sought the Committee's views on development proposals for the final phase of Airfield Business Park in Market Harborough (Harborough District), prior to approval for the scheme being sought from the Cabinet at its meeting on 15th September 2023. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 9', is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that comments had been received from Mr P. King CC, the local member, regarding the proposals, a copy which had been circulated to all members of the Committee and is filed with these minutes.

In response, when presenting the report, the Director highlighted the following:

- The proposed use of the drive thru units, if used by a coffee or other food and drink operator, had not been deemed to be in conflict with the Council's Public Health policies.
- Health implications were taken into account in respect of all Investing in Leicestershire Programme schemes and consideration given to how these might be improved to support better health choices, such as supporting walking and cycling provision to and from sites. The proposals for this scheme included both cycle shelters and a dedicated cycle route through to the adjacent residential scheme.
- The scheme overall, if approved by the Cabinet, would later be considered on its merits by the local planning authority. Highway impacts would be considered as part of that process by the County Council as the Highway Authority and its views would be reported to the local planning committee for consideration in accordance with normal planning processes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposals for the final phase of Airfield Business Park in Market Harborough be noted.
- (b) That the information now provided by the Director in response to the comments made by the local Member, Mr King CC, be forwarded to the Cabinet at its meeting on 15th September 2023 for consideration.

This page is intentionally left blank

Submission to Scrutiny Commission

6th September 2023

From Mr P. King CC, Local Member

**Item 9: Report of the Director of Corporate Resources
Airfield Business Park Development Proposal – Final Phase**

“I would say that I am as the division member concerned about these proposals. The original scheme was very much a ‘flagship’ proposal for employment as this is the key northern entry to Market Harborough, which I was in support of and of course I understand that the County Council needs to make return on it’s investment.

Without fettering my discretion as I’m also a member of the DCB committee. However, I have some concerns about the proposals in the report to Scrutiny Commission for phase 3, which includes 2X drive thru’s.

All drive thru’s that I’m aware of sell mainly what is classed as ‘junk’ food. Obesity is on the rise and is a major public health issue in the UK and in Leicestershire and a major contributing factor to high blood pressure, heart disease, strokes, diabetes, etc.

The County Council is the Public Health Authority and is engaged in tax payer funded actions to try to educate and persuade public that they should eat more healthily so that demand on health care is reduced and ultimately demand on social care also. Facilitating development of Drive thru’s would appear to be contra-indicated to the objectives of Public Health. I’d like to understand how the public health impacts, short and long term have been assessed if 2 drive thrus are located here?

I also note from the report that almost 2/3rds of the rent revenue stream is expected to come from the 2 drive thru’s and the proposed bespoke 60,000 sqft unit.

There’s also a concern about whether such a proposals may have negative impact locally on the economic viability of Market Harborough Town Centre via the development of what is in effect a retail type offering at this site which is out of town.

The likely increase in vehicle traffic to this locality would also be a concern for residents near to this site as the original approved plans and masterplan for the adjoining airfield farm did not envisage this type of development with such frequent trips to this location etc. I’m unclear how this fits in with the development of the LCWIP for Market Harborough to encourage more people to cycle and walk, by allocating land here for drive thrus?

I look forward to hearing how these issues can be addressed.”

This page is intentionally left blank

13



ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 4th SEPTEMBER 2023

COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND ACCESS POLICY FOR
THE RECORD OFFICE FOR LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER AND
RUTLAND

MINUTE EXTRACT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities on the revised Collections and Development Policy and Access Policy for the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR), which were a requirement for archive accreditation and would support the Record Office's accreditation submission to The National Archives on 8 November 2023. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 10' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- i. In response to questions raised, Members were informed that the Records Office would not accept material that did not fall within the geographical boundaries of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
- ii. Regarding digital access to records Members heard that some, such as family history records, had been digitised to a high standard through working with partners, and could be accessed through home computers, in libraries or within the Record Office itself. Other records received which were not in a digital format, posed a challenge as resources were limited to invest in facilities that could ensure these were digitised and made accessible to a high quality for decades to come.
- iii. Members raised concerns about limited storage availability at the current Records Office in Wigston, particularly for documents that needed to be stored in specific conditions. The Director assured Members that the professional staff at the Records Officers were in a position to make assessments of the different types of material held and identify those that needed to be in controlled conditions, and those that could tolerate conditions that did not need, for example, climate control. Methods such as using archival boxes and tissue paper added for the protection of items when not in use were sometime suitable alternatives.
- iv. Members questioned what progress had been made in the development of the Eastern Annex and raised concerns that the time it would take to get this facility operational given the desperate need for appropriate storage capacity. The Committee raised particular concerns about the risk to the Authority in losing its accreditation. The Director said the timescale for the development was actively

being worked on and there was an expectation that a report on future proposals for the Collections Hub and Records Office would be brought to Committee at its November meeting. However, Members noted with concern that it would likely be five years before the new facility became available, and there would therefore be a period when these Policies were in place but the Council might not be able to be 100% compliant.

- v. In response to a Member question, it was reported that overflow storage had been used in the Eastern Annex, which was also reaching capacity, but fortunately levels of incoming material had been of a modest amount. It would, however, be a challenge to accommodate a large archive of multiple boxes until the new facility was in place. The Director provided some reassurance that the Council could fulfil its responsibilities around accepting statutory records in the short term. It was noted that there were some strategies around sampling, but this would only be undertaken in exceptional circumstances.
- vi. In response to a Member query, it was explained that the Records Office was a partnership provision managed by the County Council, with an annual contribution for provision from all three partners. The strong rooms held material from all three partners. Different models had been looked at in the past with partners, but a partnership approach provided the most efficient model.
- vii. The Committee was unanimous in highlighting its view that the preservation of records in an acceptable storage space with access for members of the public was essential, and that it supported the Cabinet Lead Member, Mrs. Radford, in seeking the development of the Eastern Annex as a priority.
- viii. The Committee agreed that the biggest risk to the Council if the Eastern Annex development was not delivered within a reasonable timescale would be running out of space and therefore the risk of having to refuse a collection, and the loss of the Council's accreditation which would have financial implications for the Authority.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report on the revised Collections Development Policy and Access Policy, for the Record Officer for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR) be noted;
- b) That the comments now made by the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 15 September 2023;
- c) That the Cabinet be advised that the Committee unanimously supports the need for the Authority to preserve local records from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and to retain its accreditation and therefore requests that proposals for a new records storage facility be prioritised.