

" County Councillor Annual Report

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

Name of Councillor James Poland

1) Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

During the last year I've worked hard for residents in a wide range of areas. I work closely with the different Parish and Town Councils in Syston Fosse Division, along with the other Borough Councillors covering the area.

My single most important role is helping residents who need my assistance and many residents have contacted me over the past 12 months. The variety of work I've helped with include Highways, school admissions, environmental issues and social care cases. I'm pleased to say I've managed to get results and issues sorted for the residents who contacted me and I look forward to helping more people over the coming year.

As a member of the County Council, the biggest issues we've faced have been the County's financial situation and the debate about local government re-organisation in Leicestershire. As the lowest funded County Council in the country difficult decisions have had to be made, and further difficult decisions will have to be made. A funding review is due later this year but even Leicestershire County Council benefits from this we are still operating under some of the most difficult financial conditions in our history

Engagement with the Council, other statutory bodies and public utility companies (Water, Gas etc) about services in the area

- I work closely with the 7 Town and Parish Councils in my Division, attending all of their meetings on a regular basis.
- I also have a close working relationship with Ed Argar MP and the four Borough Councillors who represent East Goscote, Queniborough and Syston East. I represent 4 of the parishes in Syston Fosse myself on Charnwood Borough Council (Cossington, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Thrussington and Rearsby).
- Worked with the Police on road safety issues

Priorities for the immediate future are:

The overwhelming priority for the forthcoming year has to be fairer funding for Leicestershire. We are currently the worst funded County Council in the country and that means we are having to make incredibly difficult decisions to keep the County Council afloat financially – there are some areas (including the London Boroughs) which disproportionately benefit from the current system and that cannot be right. Leicestershire needs its fair share of government funding and its vital this is recognised in the next funding review.

In addition to this, my priority in the Division is to help any residents who need my help and to continue working closely with Parish/Town and Borough colleagues for the benefit of all the communities in Syston Fosse.

2) Council Activities

Committees you serve on at County Hall

Environment and Transport Committee - We are involved in scrutinising a wide range of matters, in the past year this has included the parking outside schools, subsidised bus services, road safety, road maintenance and a range of environmental issues (such as the spread of ash dieback in Leicestershire and the environmental impact of the County Council's activities).

Local committees/Outside Bodies

I serve on the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority. As part of this role, I also serve on the Corporate Governance Committee. As part of this role we monitor performance, set policy and strategic direction for Leicestershire Fire and Rescue as well as holding Chief Officers to account.

Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc

- Charnwood Borough Council (I serve as Cabinet Lead Member for Equalities and Strategic & Member Services)
- Outwoods Management Committee

Signed by Councillor: J Poland

Date: 19/05/2019