Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

ORDER PAPER

ITEM DETAILS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC and Mr. E. White CC

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

Proposed motion

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2017 be taken as read, confirmed, and signed.

2. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Chairman has agreed to consider one urgent item, a report of the Director of Children and Family Services in relation to the Council's Early Support and Inclusion contract with Menphys and the future delivery of those services.

With the agreement of members this will be taken as the final item on the agenda.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

4. **2017/18 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY MONITORING (PERIOD 4) AND INVESTMENT PROPOSALS.** (Pages 19 – 28 and Appendix Pack pages 3 - 20)

- *The Scrutiny Commission considered a report on the matter at its meeting on the 13 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '4'.*

Proposed motion

(a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;

(b) That the current year financial position as outlined in the report be noted;

(c) That the release of £0.7m of the £5.4m inflation contingency balance be approved in order to provide funding for the Environment and Transportation Department, to

(i) improve response times for repairing reported potholes (£0.5m), and

(ii) manage school parking concerns better, through enforcement of 'zig zag' zones (£0.2m).

5. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE** (Pages 29 - 34)

- *The Scrutiny Commission considered a report on the matter at its meeting on the 13 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '5'.*

Proposed motion

(a) That the significant financial challenge faced by the County Council be noted;

(b) That the approach outlined in the report to updating the Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted;

(c) That the Director of Finance following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Corporate Resources be authorised to -

(i) submit an application for the County Council to participate in the 100% business rates retention pilot programme for 2018/19;

(ii) if the County Council's application is successful, take all action necessary to proceed with the pilot;

(d) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;

(e) In respect of comments made in the Scrutiny Commission about the accuracy of references in the report to Council Tax collection and the rejection by District Councils of an external review with the intention of improving performance and collection rates to benefit local authority, Police and Fire budgets, the Cabinet is satisfied with the accuracy of the references.

6. **DRAFT CORPORATE ASSET INVESTMENT FUND STRATEGY 2017/18.** (Pages 35 – 44 and Appendix Pack pages 21 - 48)

- *The Scrutiny Commission considered a report on the matter at its meeting on the 13 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '6'.*

Proposed motion

(a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;

(b) That the Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy as attached at Appendix A to the report be approved;

(c) That the investment acquisitions and development projects detailed in paragraphs 28 to 42 of the report be approved;

(d) That the proposed amendments to the delegations to the Director of Corporate Resources as set out in Appendix B to the report be approved;

(e) That the Cabinet receives an Annual Report on performance of the Corporate Asset Investment Fund.

7. **FUNDING REQUIREMENTS TO DELIVER THE OFSTED CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN** (Pages 45 – 50 and Appendix Pack pages 49 - 70)

- *The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on the 11 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '7'.*

Proposed motion

(a) That the comments of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;

(b) That a growth bid of £2.5m for Children and Family Services for the 2018/19 financial year be approved.

8. **PROPOSALS TO CONSULT ON REMOVAL (CLOSURE) OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AT MAPLEWELL HALL SPECIAL SCHOOL** (Pages 51 - 56)

Proposed motion

(a) That the current position regarding the use of the residential facilities at the Maplewell Hall Special School be noted;

(b) That the commencement of informal/pre-consultation, as part of the statutory prescribed alterations process, on a proposal to remove (close) the residential facilities with effect from the start of the school year in September 2018 be approved;

(c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet on 24 November 2017 on the outcomes of the consultation referred to in (b) above in order to determine the next steps.

9. **LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD AND SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD ANNUAL REPORTS 2016/2017** (Pages 57 – 62 and Appendix Pack pages 71 - 194)

- *The Children and Families and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered the Annual Reports at their recent meetings. Draft minutes are attached to this Order Paper, marked '9a' and '9b'.*

Proposed motion

(a) That the comments of the Children and Families and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted

(b) That the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Reports for 2016/17 be welcomed and noted.

10. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND MAINSTREAM HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICIES – APPROVAL TO CONSULT (Pages 63 - 72)

- *Comments have been received from Mr. Max Hunt CC and the Liberal Democrat Group which are attached to this Order Paper, marked '10a' and '10b'*

Proposed motion

(a) That the proposed changes to the Special Educational Needs Transport Policy and the Mainstream Home to School Transport Policy as set out in paragraphs 22 to 24 of the report, be approved for consultation, including any low income contribution;

(b) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in spring 2018 regarding the outcome of the consultation and presenting the final revised Policies for approval.

11. LTP3 HINCKLEY AREA PROJECT ZONE 4 - PROPOSED TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS (Pages 73 – 78 and Appendix Pack pages 195 - 206)

- *The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on the 7 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '11'.*

Proposed motion

(a) That the comments of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;

(b) That the outcome of the LLEP's Growth Deal 3 bid to the Government's Single Local Growth Fund submitted in July 2016 which did not secure funding for the Hinckley Area Project Zone 4, and the effect of this on the proposed package of works previously considered by the Cabinet in September 2016 be noted;

(c) That the outcome of the stakeholder consultation on the prioritisation of schemes to be included within Zone 4 of the Hinckley Area Project in light of the significantly reduced funding available be noted;

(d) That the revised list of schemes for Zone 4 of the Hinckley Area Project, detailed in Appendix D attached to the report, for implementation in 2017/18 using the remaining £800,000 of the LLEP's 2014 successful Single Local Growth Fund bid, be approved.

12. **HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (HIAMP)** (Pages 79 – 88 and Appendix Pack pages 207 - 258)

- *The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on the 7 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '12a'.*
- *Comments have been received from Mr. Max Hunt CC which are attached to this Order Paper, marked '12b'*

Proposed motion

(a) That the comments of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;

(b) That the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) appended to the report, be approved;

(c) That the Director of Environment and Transport, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, be authorised to make such minor amendments to the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan as are considered necessary to ensure that it remains current and conforms to legislation;

(d) That the Director of Environment and Transport be authorised to develop and implement such operational procedures as are considered necessary to ensure the effective delivery of the HIAMP.

13. **PERMIT SCHEME FOR STREET WORKS AND ROAD WORKS** (Pages 89 – 96 and Appendix Pack pages 259 - 322)

- *The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on the 7 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '13'.*

Proposed motion

(a) That the comments of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;

(b) That the Leicestershire County Council Permit Scheme as detailed in Appendix A and B to the report be approved for implementation from the 1st November 2017;

(c) That the Director of Environment and Transport, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, be authorised to implement and oversee the on-going management, and to make minor changes to the Permit Scheme as he considers appropriate.

14. **PROGRESS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2016-2020** (Pages 97 – 108 and Appendix Pack pages 323 - 420)

- *The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on the 12 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '14'.*

Proposed motion

(a) That the results of the SMART library pilot at Syston library and the business case for SMART libraries be noted;

(b) That the Director of Adults and Communities be authorised to implement full SMART library technology (Option 2), as outlined in the Business Case attached as Appendix B to the report, where possible, within the following libraries:

Ashby de la Zouch	Blaby
Broughton Astley	Birstall
Coalville	Earl Shilton
Glenfield	Hinckley
Loughborough	Lutterworth
Melton Mowbray	Oadby
Shepshed	Wigston Magna

(c) That the options appraisal for the development of a Collections Hub be noted and a full business case be submitted to the Cabinet in 2018 for consideration;

(d) That the Director of Adults and Communities be requested to carry out further work, including any necessary consultation and engagement with partners, stakeholders and service users, to:

(i) Develop a more sustainable and cost-effective delivery model for the Green Plaque Scheme;

(ii) Develop proposals to decommission the Care Online service;

(iii) Explore the decommissioning or possible development of a new model for the British Museum sponsored Portable Antiquities Scheme;

(iv) Review the Mobile Library Service to improve efficiency;

(v) Explore possibility of transferring the Century Theatre, Coalville, to alternative management;

(e) That it be noted that further reports will be submitted to the Cabinet as appropriate regarding progress with (d) (i)-(v) above;

(f) That it be noted that the current structure of the Communities and Wellbeing Service will need to be revised having regard to the proposed changes outlined in the report;

(g) That, noting the comments of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a further review of the art collections be undertaken with a view to consolidating the collection and achieving efficiency savings.

15. DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE (Pages 109- 120 and Appendix Pack pages 421 - 424)

Proposed motion

(a) That the target for improving performance on delayed transfers of care across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland by March 2018 be noted;

(b) That the inclusion of specific investments to improve hospital discharge within the Better Care Fund (BCF) expenditure plan as detailed in Appendix A and paragraphs 21 to 23 of the report be noted;

(c) That it be noted that poor performing areas which fail to implement such improvements could be subject to CQC review and potentially face a withdrawal of that national funding;

(d) That the preparation and governance arrangements for the submission of Leicestershire's BCF Plan for 2017/18-2018/19 to NHS England by 11 September 2017, such arrangements including the prior agreement of local NHS commissioning bodies and the Accident and Emergency Delivery Board, be noted;

(e) That the Cabinet notes with concern that NHS England are challenging the submission of the BCF Plan in respect of delayed transfers of care and that Cabinet wholly supports the Local Government Association and the County Councils Network in resisting NHSE interventions of this sort which seek to impose unrealistic and unachievable targets.

16. LEICESTERSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN - PROPOSED CHANGES AND FUTURE PROGRAMME (Pages 121 – 126 and Appendix Pack pages 425 - 432)

- *The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 7 September and supported the proposals.*

Proposed motion

(a) That the amendments to the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme as set out in Appendix B to the report be approved;

(b) That the County Council at its meeting on 27 September be recommended to:

(i) Agree that the Proposed Changes to the pre-submission draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan attached as Appendix A to the report be published for consultation as amendments to the document to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and subsequently to be submitted to the Secretary of State;

(ii) Authorise the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, to make such minor adjustments to the Pre-Submission Plan or accompanying documents as he considers necessary, including changes considered appropriate in response to the consultation on the Proposed Changes and issues raised by the Planning Inspector post-submission.

17. MELTON LOCAL PLAN – ADDENDUM OF FOCUSED CHANGES CONSULTATION RESPONSE (Pages 127 – 138 and Appendix Pack pages 433 - 444)

Proposed motion

(a) That the detailed comments on the Addendum of focused changes to the pre-submission draft Melton Local Plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy consultation as set out in the Appendix to the report, be submitted to Melton Borough Council as the views of the County Council;

(b) That the key comments set out in paragraphs 35 to 52 of the report be specifically drawn to the attention of Melton Borough Council.

18. LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Pages 139 – 142 and Appendix Pack pages 445 - 464)

Proposed motion

That the County Council be recommended to approve the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance appended to the report, at its meeting on 27 September 2017.

19. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY.

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

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

URGENT ITEM - EARLY SUPPORT AND INCLUSION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Proposed motion

(a) That delivery of the Early Support and Inclusion Services on the basis of in-house provision be approved;

(b) That Menphys be advised that the Council's contract and procurement rules do not allow a further extension to the contract, and the Council is under no obligation to re-tender the provision as Menphys has requested.

Officer to contact

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Leicestershire County Council

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

2017/18 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY MONITORING (PERIOD 4) AND INVESTMENT IN PROJECTS

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which provided members with an update on the 2017/18 revenue budget and capital programme monitoring position and provided details of proposed investment in two Environment and Transport projects using funding from the central inflation contingency, to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 15 September 2017. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

(i) The overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block was currently funded from the DSG earmarked fund. However, this fund was low and not likely to be topped up. There were also other demands on the earmarked fund. Although the Department for Education allowed overspends to be carried forward, the risk of doing so was felt to be too high.

(ii) In July the Government had announced an increase in school funding and proposed the introduction of a new national funding formula. It was currently processing feedback from the consultation and an announcement was expected later in the month. It was noted that the biggest risk to the County Council of the new funding formula was that the ability to transfer funds from the schools block into the High Needs Block would be most.

(iii) Concern was expressed that there was an overspend in the Children and Families Service directorate budget due to the number of interim positions. The Commission was advised that the delay in recruitment had been largely caused by the need to finalise the Ofsted action plan and related staffing requirements, rather than any issues relating to the Council's HR function.

(iv) The County Council had a long term aim to reduce the number of people in residential and nursing care. A reduction of 25 people had been achieved during the previous year. It was confirmed that, when the Help to Live at Home domiciliary care service had been introduced, the capacity in the home care market had reduced and caused a temporary increase in the use of residential care. However, the position had since stabilised. The tenders for the three vacant lots had recently been awarded and the service would go live in November for those areas. A detailed report on the matter would be submitted to the next meeting of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(v) The additional funding for repairing potholes would enable a pilot scheme to be rolled out across the county, whereby a team would be dispatched to repair a pothole within 14 days of it being reported, instead of a Highways Inspector being sent out to assess and prioritise it. The benefit of this approach was that it was more responsive; the risk was that the asset management approach to the area taken by Highways Inspectors would be lost. The new approach to potholes would be evaluated to ensure that the risks did not outweigh the benefits.

(vi) It was suggested that the 'report it' app needed further development, particularly as it only allowed the service user to upload a single photo of the issues. Officers undertook to feed this issue back to the Department.

(vii) Concern was expressed that some pothole repairs were of poor quality. Members were advised that supervisors signed off work once it was completed and that spot checks of repairs were also undertaken. In addition, periodic inspections of a whole area were undertaken. Some repairs were only temporary and would be followed up later with a permanent solution.

(viii) At the Local Government Association conference, £2.3 billion of funding for roads maintained by local authorities was announced. The Commission was advised that the County Council had already been successful in bidding for funding for the Melton Relief Road and had developed a number of other bids for various funding streams. The County Council had a good track record in this area as it had invested in advance design and had well developed business cases prepared. However, with the continuation of austerity it would become difficult for the County Council to continue to provide match funding for bids.

(ix) The Commission welcomed the additional funding to enable the Council to manage school parking issues and noted that this was to enable the Council to assess sites and develop proposals for improvements, for example to make a site compliant with a Traffic Regulation Order so that it could then be enforced. It was agreed that enforcement was key issue and members were pleased to note that enforcement options, such as roving enforcement officers, were being considered. A report on school parking issues, including the establishment of parking or safety champions in schools, would be submitted to the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November.

(x) With regard to capital schemes and projects, members requested that local members be kept informed of any developments in their electoral division.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the 2017/18 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme monitoring position and proposed investment in projects be noted;

(b) That the comments now made be submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet on 15 September 2017;

(c) That the report on school parking issues to the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in November be circulated to all members of the County Council for information.

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Leicestershire County Council

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE.

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which explained the overall financial position faced by the County Council. The approach to updating the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and advised members of a recent announcement by the Government with regard to 100% business rates retention pilots for 2018/19. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

(i) In response to a query regarding the level of reliance on the fair funding campaign and the implications of an unsuccessful outcome, the Commission was advised that officers had exercised caution and were not assuming a successful outcome when undertaking financial forecasting. However, the campaign was going well and if successful would significantly reduce the funding gap.

(ii) Members requested data showing additional income generated for the Council through the development of new homes in Leicestershire, along with additional expenditure incurred. It would be useful to see this as an average per new home per year. Officers undertook to provide this information and advised that, in the context of the whole budget, there was generally a circa two percent increase to the annual tax base each year but the County Council was still required to make significant savings.

(iii) Concern was expressed that, whilst the report stated that district councils would not review council tax collection, this was not accurate as district councils continually reviewed their arrangements. However, the Commission was advised that this referred to a full, external review, which had been requested and would be paid for by the County Council and would include forecasting, collection and policy. District Treasurers had rejected that. With regard to forecasting, it had been identified that for some districts this did not reflect housing growth and could be inaccurate. This had a significant effect on the County Council's ability to set an accurate budget. Department of Communities and Local Government performance data showed collection rates were average but it was expected that, for a fairly affluent county such as Leicestershire, performance would be in the top quartile. Policy issues related to the need to have tighter controls over council tax discounts. It was acknowledged that some of these issues had been accepted by district councils but disappointing that they had rejected the proposal to undertake an external review.

(iv) The proposal to undertake an external review of council tax collection was also supported by the Police and Fire services, as precepting authorities. The advantages to an external review were the breadth of knowledge that such reviewers had, their understanding of the system and examples of best practice. Some members of the Commission supported the proposal for an external review and requested that the issue be raised again with district councils, with the offer of a member panel including representation from both the County and district councils to oversee the review.

(v) With regard to council tax discounts, it was confirmed that individual district councils each set their own policy. It was acknowledged that this enabled each council to reflect local circumstances but it would be useful for the County Council to understand how each policy was applied and enforced, due to the effect that it had on the County Council's budget.

(vi) Members welcomed the intention to submit a bid to pilot 100% business rates retention in 2018/19, noting that as a one year pilot it could not be used to address ongoing revenue pressures. Some concern was expressed that it would not be possible to support both the fair funding campaign and the 100% business rates retention pilot; however, members were advised that the 100% business rates retention pilot was intended to be an incentive to develop growth and did not preclude some redistribution of funding in a fairer way. It would be important for a discussion to take place with the Government to clarify the intention behind the pilots and how they were expected to work.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the significant financial challenge faced by the County Council be noted;

(b) That the approach outlined in the report to updating the Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted;

(c) That the opportunity for the County Council to submit an application to pilot 100% Business Rates Retention in 2018/19 be noted;

(d) That the comments now made be submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet on 15 September 2017.

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Leicestershire County Council

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

DRAFT CORPORATE ASSET INVESTMENT FUND STRATEGY 2017/18.

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which would be submitted to the Cabinet on 15 September 2017 to seek the Cabinet's approval to the proposed Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy which set out the approach to future asset investments using the Council's Corporate Asset Investment Fund (CAIF). A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 10' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

(i) The Commission welcomed the draft CAIF Strategy and supported the intention to increase the County Council's income. In particular, the proposal to rely on the 2003 Act rather than set up a company for the Council's investment activities was welcomed.

(ii) The Commission was pleased to note that the rates of return would be reviewed regularly to ensure that inflation rates were reflected accurately. Members were also reassured that the property value of the estate was reviewed annually.

(iii) The Governance process for the acquisition of or investment in assets was that, subject to the Strategy being approved by the Cabinet, the Corporate Asset Investment Fund Advisory Board (comprising members of the Cabinet) would receive a detailed report, including external advice, in relation to each project. This Board was advisory and all decisions would either be taken by the Director of Corporate Resources using his delegated powers or referred to the Cabinet if necessary. An annual report detailing the projects undertaken during the year, return on investment, successes and those that had not worked would be submitted to the Cabinet and Scrutiny Commission alongside the final revenue and capital outturn position. The Commission requested that local members should also be kept informed of any developments in their electoral divisions and that minutes of the Board meetings be shared with Commission members.

(iv) Members identified a potential conflict of interest between maximising the income of the County Council and acting in the best interests of local communities. This was acknowledged, however if the County Council did not increase its income it would need to identify additional savings which could have a greater detrimental effect on communities.

(v) It was confirmed that all large investments were let on a full repairing lease to minimise the County Council's liabilities. It was accepted that small businesses were often not able to take responsibility for repairs to buildings so these properties were let on an internal repairing lease. The management of properties was undertaken in-house although external advice was available.

(vi) With regard to the Coalville Workspace, the Commission was advised that all schemes had made immediate losses and funding from the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership had been required to fill the funding gap. A re-evaluation of all the projects had therefore been undertaken to ensure that the schemes were sustainable. Most of the work that had already been undertaken remained relevant so costs were kept to a minimum. One of the properties would be disposed of as it was more suited to an owner-occupier.

(vii) With regard to the development at Leaders Farm, the County Council was close to finalising terms with the agreed tenant. A planning application had already been submitted. It was expected that the development works would commence in Spring 2018.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the draft Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy and approach to future asset investments be supported;

(b) That the comments now made be submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet on 15 September 2017.

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Leicestershire County Council

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS TO DELIVER THE OFSTED CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Families concerning progress to date and future funding requirements to deliver the OFSTED Continuous Improvement Plan. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 8" is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

i. Members were informed that the proposed investment was significant but necessary to meet the recommendations in the OFSTED report. Whilst being mindful of the financial situation facing the Council. The investment would provide a good basis for addressing the OFSTED recommendations to achieve the 'good' rating from OFSTED;

ii. OFSTED do not give a definitive standard for Social Worker caseloads. The County Council would follow the standards set out by CIPFA and best practice of Authorities who had been rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by OFSTED;

iii. The County Council would seek to introduce manageable caseloads for social workers to address the OFSTED recommendations as this was crucial in moving to a 'good' rating from OFSTED. Caseloads would be audited to ensure that there was consistency and good quality outcomes;

iv. The number of Looked After Children had increased significantly since 2010/11, as had the complexity of the cases involved. This required a properly financed legal service to meet demand and, as such, a sum of £500,000 had been included in the request to Cabinet;

v. Outline timeframes were included in the Action Plan now presented to the Committee. If the request for investment was approved by Cabinet, then the action plan would be amended to include more detailed timelines and milestones.

RESOLVED:

a. That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 15 September 2017 and that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the approval of the growth bid for Children and Family Services for £2.5m for the 2018/19 financial year;

b. That the Director for Children and Family Services submit a report to the next meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting out details of timeframes and milestones related to the actions in the OFSTED Continuous Improvement Plan.

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Leicestershire County Council

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17.

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER

The Committee considered a report of the Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board concerning the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 9" is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

i. The final report would be presented to Cabinet on 15 September 2017 and would be signed off by the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board at its meeting on 20 October 2017;

ii. There was strong partnership working across Leicestershire regarding Child Sexual Exploitation; although further improvements could be made in the leadership and governance arrangements by more consistent representation at Board level;

iii. The changes to the arrangements for safeguarding children brought in by the Children's Social Work Act which came into force in 2017 would be addressed in next year's report; Government guidance was expected in November 2017;

iv. The additional resource introduced to address the volume of initial assessments had reduced caseloads and improved the quality of assessment;

v. There had been a rise in the number of home educated children which reflected the regional and national trend. Systems were in place to monitor all children who were home educated, as part of the monitoring systems in place for all children not in education.

vi. New software was being introduced to support officers with the work already underway to interrogate performance data;

vii. Safeguarding training programmes and the accreditation of Social Workers was now being introduced as this was highlighted by OFSTED as an area for improvement;

viii. Another key aspect of the OFSTED report was management oversight and the Chairman of the Board welcomed the investment referred to in the earlier paper (OFSTED Continuous Improvement Plan).

ix. With regard to concerns about initial health assessments, the Chairman of the Board advised that he had written to all health providers and Clinical Commissioning Groups seeking an update.

RESOLVED:

That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 15 September 2017 and that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee noted the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17.

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Leicestershire County Council

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17.

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER

The Committee considered the report of the Independent Chair of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board presenting the draft Annual Report 2016/17 of the Board for consultation and comment. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 11', is filed with these minutes.

In introducing the report, the Independent Chair detailed the work that had been undertaken during 2016/17 and the key messages from the Safeguarding Adults Board for Leicestershire. Arising from the discussion, the following comments were made:-

A query was raised around Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DoLS) asking whether there was evidence that urgent cases and those that had been outstanding for some time had been dealt with. Assurance was given that the Department followed national guidance regarding the prioritisation of cases and that urgent or longstanding cases were addressed first. Partners were interpreting the law around DoLS correctly which was the reason for the high volume of cases. However, all cases were risk assessed and any concerns were addressed.

The Board's relationship with other organisations was questioned, in particular local universities in terms of whether they promoted the safeguarding of students. Consideration would be given to partnership arrangements, but there was an expectation that where vulnerable adults in university required additional support, there would be a relationship between the university and the appropriate organisation to ensure that support was being provided. It was stressed that the Board had an overview role but if a specific area of safeguarding concern was identified, this would be looked into. The Adults and Communities Department also targeted resources at those known to be at risk, and this should include students.

It was stated that there were examples of partnership working between Local Safeguarding Boards and other organisations across the country from which lessons could be learnt. It was recommended that the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Board contact the local universities to establish a partnership link and to ensure that they were aware of the Safeguarding Board and its work, including its procedures.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016/17 be noted;

(b) That the comments now made be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 15 September.

10a

Submission to Cabinet

Labour
Leicestershire County Council Labour Group

12th September 2017

From Max Hunt CC,
Labour Spokesperson on Environment & Transport

Item 10: Special Educational Needs and Mainstream Home to School Transport Policies

As the report states "there can be no doubt that the proposed changes represent a radical shift in service delivery from that which has traditionally existed for many years." All members will be concerned and it essential that all options are given the deepest scrutiny.

1. When the consultation reports back an option to continue the present policy by transferring budgets across divisions or generating income from other budgets, within or outside the Environment & Transport division should be considered.

2. The outcomes of the options for those involved needs to be presented in a real and imaginative way, perhaps using typical examples.

3. The consultation needs to include consideration of unforeseen outcomes in terms of increased non-attendance and its repercussions.

4. The consultation needs to approach prospective users as well as current users and designed to engage with some harder to reach groups.

5. Cabinet and Scrutiny will need more information of how Personal Transport Budget (PTB) payments have been managed in other authorities and the levels anticipated.

6. The effects of the options will vary according to the various levels of contribution and respondents will want examples.

Thank you.

10b

Leicestershire County Council
Liberal Democrat Group

Cabinet – 15th September 2017

Liberal Democrat Comments on Proposed Changes to Home to School Transport Policy

This report is deeply concerning.

Up until now, the Council has responded to austerity by targeting available resources so at the least we could protect those on low incomes. While the Liberal Democrats opposed the last review of post 16 school transport, that led to families having to pay hundreds of pounds a year, there was at least some small measure of solace that low income families would continue to get the help they need and that their children would not be excluded from educational opportunities.

Under the proposals here, the opportunities of such children would no longer be guaranteed.

We are also concerned by the proposal to replace Post 16 SEN Home to School Transport services with a Personal Transport Budget. We understand that the Personal Transport Budget is already an option for those that voluntarily choose it. This policy would therefore force it upon parents who have not voluntarily chosen it.

It leads to serious questions about how this will impact on the wellbeing of the children involved. If it is possible to provide them with transport at a lower cost, why is the Council not already sourcing such transport and making the savings through that avenue? If it is not possible to provide these children with transport at a lower cost, then wouldn't the PTB simply put the additional cost upon the parents? What of those who cannot afford it? Could this also lead to vulnerable children being excluded from educational opportunities and the quality of life that this could get them?

I am greatly concerned that a taboo is being broken here. Is the Council deciding that it can no longer to afford to protect even the lowest paid families from cuts? When will be “too far”? Where will this end?

Bill Boulter

Liberal Democrat Spokesman for Environment and Transport

11

Leicestershire County Council

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

LTP3 HINCKLEY AREA PROJECT ZONE 4 - PROPOSED TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2017

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the LTP3 Hinckley Area Project Zone 4 - Proposed Transport Improvements. A copy of the report, marked “Agenda Item 9” is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

i) To date, £12million had been invested in highway improvements in the Hinckley and Bosworth area by the County Council; which equated to nearly 31% of the Council's capital resources for highways;
ii) Although it was regrettable that further funding had not been made available for Hinckley under the Government's Single Local Growth Fund, the investment of £800,000 in the town was welcomed by the Committee; this £800,000 had been achieved by the good management of the previous three phases of the Hinckley Scheme;
iii) The County Council had also bid for funding from the National Productivity Investment Fund for improvements as part of the wider Hinckley Area project; the outcome of which was expected in autumn/winter 2017;
iv) As part of Phase 1 to 3, significant investment had been made in cycle routes within Hinckley as 54% of journeys to work were less than 3 miles. Such journeys could be made by walking and cycling and increases in these modes by residents would support the reduction in road congestion freeing up road space for those who need to make longer journeys;
v) Further improvements to the infrastructure within Hinckley would be funded by bids to future Government funding pots as well as Section 106 funding as a result of any major housing development within the town.

RESOLVED:

a. That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 15 September 2017 and that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the proposed transport improvements for Hinckley.

12a

Leicestershire County Council

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN.

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2017

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 8" is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

i) The inevitable reduction in the condition of carriageways was noted as a concern. It was recognised that Leicestershire County Council was the lowest funded Authority nationally, but had one of the best road networks in the country which placed it in a good starting position to deal with reducing resources in the future;
ii) That the County Council faced significant financial challenges and the risk-based approach to asset management and maintenance was the best approach to manage the highways assets given the resource envelope available;
iii) The majority of the funding for road improvement schemes was through capital funding bids submitted to Government. Maintenance of the existing highways network was largely funded from the Local Transport Plan allocation supplemented by resources from the Council's revenue budget;
iv) As part of the Strategy, the County Council would resist adopting high maintenance options, for example block paving and grass;
v) That Town and Parish Councils could, if they wished to, adopt and take responsibility for maintenance of assets such as grass, shrubs, and non-standard materials etc.; similarly for new housing developments responsibility could be taken on by residents or management companies;
vi) Detailed Operational Highways Maintenance Procedures would be developed over the next 12-18 months to support delivery of the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan;
vii) Procedures were in place for licencing retailers who used pavements for the operation of their business.

RESOLVED:

a. That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 15 September 2017 and that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the draft Highways Asset Management Plan for implementation.

b. That the Director for Environment and Transport write to Members of the Committee concerning the arrangements in place for licencing retailers to use pavements for operation of their business (street cafes).

12b

Submission to Cabinet

12th September 2017

Labour
Leicestershire County Council Labour Group

From Max Hunt CC,
Labour Spokesperson on Environment & Transport

Item 12: Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan

During the discussion at Scrutiny Committee, the matter of adoption of grassed and pavioured surfaces, including roundabouts, verges and berms, was considered.

The relevant section of the HIAMP would be **5.4 Growth in demand** though this does not spell out our policy regarding when or whether the County Council may choose to adopt such assets.

5.4 Due to development, the County Council may choose to adopt additional assets. Recently, the County Council has adopted approximately 14km of road per year. Between 2017 and 2022 this would equate to an increase in 1.6% in network length.

In Lubbersthorpe, for example, we understood that the verges or berms were not being adopted but a Property Management Company may be choosing to do so. In another village it was suggested that a central area of a roundabout might be adopted by a parish council.

It would be helpful to members and to the public if our policy was spelt out on which highways assets we may choose to adopt and where or when we may not choose to adopt such assets.

13

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PERMIT SCHEME FOR STREET WORKS AND ROAD WORKS

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the Permit Scheme for Street Works and Road Works. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 10" is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

i) Operation of the new Scheme would allow for better co-ordination and reduce disruption;
ii) The Scheme had been developed in line with Government guidance and the proposed permit fees covered the cost of administration and management of the Scheme; it was not a charge per day;
iii) The Scheme would also apply to the County Council, although not for work which took less than 60 minutes to complete; the cleaning of gullies for example;
iv) Enforcement of the Scheme would be by inspection with penalties for non-compliance;
v) Once approved by Cabinet, the Scheme would be trialled in November 2017; with full implementation from February 2018;

RESOLVED:

That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 15 September 2017 and that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the draft Permit Scheme for Street Works and Road Works.

14

Leicestershire County Council

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2016-2020

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER

The Committee considered a report advising the Cabinet of the work undertaken to implement the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020, and of the actions that would be progressed to enable the next phase of implementation. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 10' is filed with these minutes.

In his introduction to the report, the Director responded to comments and questions that had been submitted by Dr Eynon CC, the Local Member. A copy of her submission is appended to these minutes. With regard to enabling primary care professionals to register patients for SMART libraries, the Committee was advised that a link between the professionals in localities and libraries would be encouraged to enable them to help people register at their local library.

Regarding the future of the Century Theatre, the Director advised that the Cabinet was being recommended to approve further work, including consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, on the options for maintaining the theatre. The outcome of consultation and proposed way forward would be presented back to this Committee and submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

The Cabinet Lead Member, in introducing the item, confirmed the importance of the Communities and Wellbeing Service. He felt that every proposal in the report would result in an improved service as well as efficiencies and his intention was for the service to be an exemplar. He reminded members that SMART library technology had been piloted following best practice from elsewhere in the country. It would be important for the Council to continue to provide a service that people wanted to use. He encouraged members to volunteer to use the SMART library technology in order to advocate using the service.

Arising from the discussion the following points were raised:-

(i) Members were encouraged by the results from the pilot of SMART library technology at Syston library and gave their support to the proposal to roll this out to the sixteen market town and shopping centre libraries. Some concern was expressed regarding the safety of library users and the possibility of theft during unmanned hours but the Committee was assured that there would be CCTV installed at each library, which would be monitored by Hub Library and County Hall at weekends. Each library would have an individual risk assessment prior to rolling out the scheme. It was stressed that those using the SMART library technology would have to register to use the service and would need a pass to access the library out of normal hours. An induction process would be delivered to all those taking part. It was also noted that libraries would still be staffed at specific times, when it was known that certain groups would be more likely to be using the library, for example children and people with a disability. A mixture of engagement and usage patterns would be considered to determine when these times were.

(ii) Members noted the success of community managed libraries, which they felt provided an improved service with stronger links to the community. It was suggested that consideration be given to introducing more community involvement in the libraries where SMART technology was being rolled out.

(iii) The Committee was pleased to note the intention to continue with the mobile library service as part of the Council's commitment to providing a comprehensive library service. However, concern was raised around the statistics relating to the usage of the mobile library and Members agreed that it was necessary to review the current routes to ensure that it provided the most efficient service. An impact assessment would need to be carried out to ensure that the effects of any changes to the service on particular groups such as parents of young children and older people with mobility issues were mitigated.

(iv) It was confirmed that the library stock was centrally managed with local distribution of books and that more investment was being made in online borrowing as this was a growth area. Members observed that most schools now had their own libraries and it would be important to liaise with schools regarding library stock. It was suggested that there might be a possibility for the mobile library service to be removed from areas where its largest audience was school children.

(v) With regard to the Collections Hub, it was acknowledged that space within the current location was an issue. It was agreed that the Hub needed to be developed in an accessible location, preferably close to the City and County boundary, but this had not yet been identified. The Leader of the County Council and the City Mayor had both indicated support for a location which was accessible to both County and City residents between the two authorities. A further report would be presented to the Committee before a full business case was submitted to the Cabinet in 2018.

(vi) Members agreed that the Green Plaque Scheme was an excellent initiative that should remain. The Cabinet Lead Member stressed that it was the intention to continue with the Scheme, but with less intensity. It was hoped that efficiencies could be identified in the way that the scheme operated in the future.

(vii) It was felt that the Art in Schools collections should form part of the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy. This would enable a further review to be undertaken with a view to consolidating the collection and achieving efficiency savings.

The following motion was moved by Mr Hunt CC and seconded by Mr Richardson CC:

'That the Cabinet be recommended to approve a further review of the art collections to consolidate the collection and achieving efficiency savings'.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:-

(a) That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 15 September 2017

(b) That the Cabinet be recommended to approve a further review of the art collections to consolidate the collection and achieving efficiency savings.