



CABINET – FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY

ORDER PAPER

ITEM **DETAILS**

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1. MINUTES (PAGES 3 - 8)

Proposed motion

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2018 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. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018/19 – 2021/22. (PAGES 9 - 196)

Comments have been received from Mr. S. J. Galton CC on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group which are appended to this Order Paper, marked '4'.

Proposed motion

That the following be recommended to the County Council;

- (a) That subject to the items below, approval be given to the Medium Term Financial Strategy which incorporates the recommended revenue budget for 2018/19 totalling £361m as set out in Appendices A, B and E of the report and includes the growth and savings for that year as set out in Appendix C;
- (b) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, set out in Appendix B of 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 impact assessments, as may be necessary towards achieving the savings specified for those years including savings under development, set out in Appendix D;

- (c) 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 Finance agreeing to funding being available;
- (d) That the level of earmarked funds as set out in Appendix J be noted and the use of earmarked funds be approved;
- (e) That the amounts of the County Council's Council Tax for each band of dwelling and the precept payable by each billing authority for 2018/19 be as set out in Appendix K (including 3% for the adult social care precept);
- (f) 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;
- (g) That approval be given to the 2018/19 to 2021/22 capital programme as set out in Appendix F;
- (h) That the Director of Finance following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources be authorised to approve new capital schemes including revenue costs associated with their delivery;
- (i) That it be noted that new capital schemes, referred to in (h), are 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 L, Annex 2 be noted and that the following limits be approved:

	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m
Operational boundary for external debt				
i) Borrowing	264.6	264.1	263.6	263.1
ii) Other long term liabilities	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
TOTAL	265.9	265.3	264.7	264.1
Authorised limit for external debt				
i) Borrowing	274.6	274.1	273.6	273.1
ii) Other long term liabilities	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
TOTAL	275.9	275.3	274.7	274.1

- (k) That the Director of Finance 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 2018/19 to 2021/22:
- (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>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</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

- (m) That the Director of Finance be authorised to enter into such loans or undertake such arrangements as necessary to finance capital payments in 2018/19, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix L;
- (n) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix L, be approved including:
- (i) The Treasury Management Policy Statement, Appendix L; Annex 4
 - (ii) The Annual Statement of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision as set out in Appendix L, Annex 1;
- (o) That approval be given to the Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Appendix H);
- (p) That the Capital Strategy (Appendix G) and Earmarked Funds Policy (Appendix I) to this report be approved;
- (q) That it be noted that the partners of the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool have agreed to continue with the arrangements for 2018/19;
- (r) That the Director of Finance following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources be authorised to make changes to the MTFs required as a result changes arising between the Cabinet and County Council meetings, for example the Final Local Government Finance Settlement, subject to any changes being reported to the County Council.

5. DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE PERFORMANCE UPDATE. (PAGES 197 - 208)

Proposed motion

- (a) That it be noted that following the submission of the revised Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC) trajectory on 12 October, the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan has been approved by NHS England;

- (b) That it be noted that a letter has been received from the Secretaries of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health confirming that, due to the improved DTOC performance in Leicestershire, the risk of having Improved BCF (IBCF) funding withheld in 2018/19 has been removed;
- (c) That it be noted that overall DTOC performance in Leicestershire during November showed an improvement compared to the previous month, and was in line with the September target set by NHS England, but did not meet the revised local target in the BCF Plan;
- (d) That the findings of the local system review that has been undertaken to assess the state of preparedness of the Leicestershire health and care system as set out in paragraph 38 of the report be noted.

6. FIRE SAFETY IN LEICESTERSHIRE MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES. (PAGES 209 - 220)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the work undertaken to date by the Council to confirm the safety of pupils and other occupants of all Leicestershire maintained schools and academies be noted, specifically that:
 - (i) Local Authority maintained schools and academies have been asked to provide the Council with their Type 1 and Type 2 fire safety risk procedures,
 - (ii) The outcome of evaluation of the fire safety information provided to date, to confirm that each school is compliant with current fire safety regulations,
 - (iii) Where there are gaps in the information provided the enquiry will be pursued;
- (b) That it be noted that a further report will be made to the Cabinet in summer 2018 regarding:
 - (i) The development of a County Council policy and risk assessment process for the installation of sprinkler systems;
 - (ii) The outcome of assessments for those academies whose fire risk documents are currently outstanding;
 - (iii) Any changes in Government legislation/policy in relation to fire safety in schools.

7. RECONFIGURATION OF IN-HOUSE LEARNING DISABILITY RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION. (PAGES 221 - 244)

- *Comments have been received from Mr. D. C. Bill CC, and Dr. T. Eynon CC which are attached to this Order Paper marked '7a' and 7b'. Comments from Mr. D. Tredinnick MP are also attached marked '7c'*
- *Comments have been received on behalf of various individuals accessing services at The Trees residential care home, which are attached to this Order Paper marked '7d'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the Director of Adults and Communities be authorised to commence a consultation exercise on the proposed closure of Hamilton Court and Smith Crescent residential care homes in Coalville and the potential reconfiguration of two units at The Trees residential care home (Ashwood and Beechwood), in Hinckley from long stay accommodation to a short breaks facility;
- (b) That further options for the future use of the Hamilton Court and Smith Crescent sites, should they be closed, including providing accommodation for people in need of adult social care services, be explored;
- (c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in June 2018 regarding the outcome of the consultation and the proposed way forward.

8. HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY PLANNING AND CHARGING REVIEW. (PAGES 245 - 266)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the introduction of revised Highways Standing Advice as set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved;
- (b) That the Director of Environment and Transport, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member be authorised to make minor amendments to the Highways Standing Advice document in line with operational procedures and national policy and guidance changes as required;
- (c) That the results of the consultation on the introduction of charging for non-statutory Highway Development Management services be noted;
- (d) That the introduction of charging for non-statutory Highway Development Management services as set out in the charging schedule in Appendix C of the report be approved.

9. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY.

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

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

None.

11. 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.

- *Oracle ERP System Replacement and the 'Fit for the Future' Programme.*

12. ORACLE ERP SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AND THE 'FIT FOR THE FUTURE' PROGRAMME.**Officer to contact**

Matthew Hand
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Cabinet – 9th February 2018

Comments on the MTFS

MORE CAN BE DONE TO HELP VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Central Government underfunding makes it increasingly difficult for the Council to protect services. Having said that, it does seem that money is not being prioritised in the best way, particularly regarding services for vulnerable children.

As with every budget, the report paints a picture that's even grimmer than the year before. Revenue Support Grant has almost been completely cut. Next year it will disappear altogether.

Yet the Government won't stop there. They will start taking a slice from our Business Rate income. Leicestershire Councils already only keep 36% of the Business Rates collected in the County. If the Government carries on at the current pace, this is expected to fall to just 25% by the end of the four year period.

In the meantime, demand for social services will continue to grow. The report predicts that over the four years, this increase of need that will cost the Council an extra £15m per year for children's social care services, and £10m per year for adults.

This means that despite the largest Council Tax hike in 15 years, residents will continue to see their services cut. And as austerity continues, the cuts become harder to make, and more vicious.

The Liberal Democrats are disappointed to see the re-emergence of cuts to Bus subsidies, even though the Administration amended their own budget last year, promising that it wouldn't appear in the four year plan. Now they're back just a year later.

Liberal Democrats



Leicestershire

Our main concerns are over cuts to services for vulnerable children. The Early Help budget cuts will lead to closure of children's centres across the County. The report to last Cabinet warned that *"The reduction in funding will clearly result in a reduction of services available to vulnerable families."*

And as we all know, the reduction of preventative services will store up trouble for the long run, increasing demand on more expensive statutory services. If we fail to invest in our children at an early stage, we pay a much higher price later on, both humanly and financially!

The cuts to SEN Transport are also a key concern. The listed saving can only be met if Post 16 SEN students lose transport funding averaging £2,400 per child. If this prevents a large number from being able to access suitable Post 16 education then this could negatively impact on the rest of their life.

Continued education is vital to ensure that they gain the skills, confidence and other attributes to live an independent life; determining whether their adult life is as independent tax contributors, or continual need of expensive state support. Again, both the human and financial costs for failing to invest in them at this critical juncture would be huge.

Paragraph 13 shows a table of the changes being made to the MTFS since the December draft. Included is the extra 1% of Council Tax that will raise an additional £2.7m, but only £0.6m is being allocated to protect an on-going service.

In both 2018/19 and 2019/20 a £3m+ surplus is being used to fund "Future Development". Appendix F lists some of the projects it might be spent on. Most of them seem to be desirable projects that would save the Council money. However, I cannot see

Liberal Democrats



Leicestershire

anything there that I think should take priority over services for our most vulnerable children.

As mentioned before, investing in our children saves us huge amounts of money in the long run. The Council's strategies often state this, but that means little unless we back it up with real money. The current funding plan is extremely short sighted in this respect.

If we're to charge Leicestershire residents an average of £70 more a year, I feel it is important that we give them something to show for their money and do more to protect the services that are important to them. I think it's important that the Council ensures that our spending plans value people over property.

For these reasons, I urge Cabinet to re-invest the £7m earmarked for "Future Developments" back into services that help our most vulnerable children.

Simon Galton

Leader of the Liberal Democrats

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Cabinet – 9 February 2018**Item 7 - Reconfiguration of In - House Learning Disability Residential
Accommodation**

Dear Members of the Cabinet

I am writing to express concern at the proposals to close The Trees to the existing residents and to express the hope that you will not accept the recommendation . I represented the area when the project was constructed back in 1987 and can report that it has long been an integral part of the local scene. It has worked well.

The families were invited on 16th Jan to a meeting on 29th Jan without being given any indication of what the meeting was about. I did not receive any notification until being contacted by the media a fortnight later. Needless to say everyone involved is shocked at this proposition as this has been home to the 7 residents ,for many years in some cases.

I understand that there is a need for more respite care but according to the CQC reports there are unoccupied beds throughout the year in other parts of the county and the surplus exceeds the 7 places supposedly needed at The Trees. The buildings were purpose built and are adapted for wheelchair users, for example. It is difficult to reconcile the special needs of the present residents with those requiring respite care without major changes being taken.

The most disturbing aspect of this proposal is the fact that no indication has been given as to where the residents might be relocated. There is a strong bond between the staff and the residents who know and understand their individual needs. They are part of a family and all want to stay together. The residents would be devastated to be parted from their friends . I hope that you will reject this proposition.

Yours sincerely,

David Bill
County Councillor
Hollycroft

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Cabinet – 9 February 2018**Item 7 - Reconfiguration of In - House Learning Disability Residential Accommodation**

As Member for Coalville North I have been contacted by residents and Carers who wish me to raise concerns on their behalf regarding the proposed closure of Hamilton Court and Smith's Crescent.

I recognise that the existing buildings are no longer fit for purpose due to accessibility problems. I appreciate the intention to redirect our resources to short-breaks and respite care.

I share local concerns regarding the process of transition and the impact on current users of the short-break facility at Smith's Crescent, Coalville.

I understand that there are seven long-term residents in The Trees, Hinckley and four residents at Hamilton Court. I am told that officers are working with families to ensure a sensitive transition to alternative accommodation.

I wish to put on record my sympathy for the residents of Hamilton Court. This has been their home for many years. Members need to acknowledge that moving house is likely to be stressful for them and their families. It is disappointing that County Council budget cuts have led to this situation.

I am concerned at this Council's assumption that they can depend on private sector care home providers. According to business analysts Moore Stephens, (14/8/17) '16% of care home companies are exhibiting warning signs that they are at risk of failure'.

I understand that the intention is to focus our resources on short-break and respite services. After this reconfiguration, the overall in-house capacity for residential short breaks will in fact reduce from 27 to 24 beds. Families will find this most disappointing.

Concerns have been raised in Coalville that families will lose a local and much-loved short-break service. Leicestershire is not well-served by public transport. Some Carers who use Smith's Crescent are quite elderly. They fear having to transport their family member to the other side of the County. It is not clear from the proposals if they will be expected to meet this additional expense from their own pocket.

QUESTIONS FOR CABINET

Will this Authority commit to ensuring that any changes will not result in higher cost for families and will it include transport costs in this mix?

Will options for the future use of Hamilton Court and the adjacent Smith Crescent site in Coalville include a fit-for-purpose short-break facility?

Dr Terri Eynon

County Councillor for Coalville North and Labour Group Leader

01530 832622 @terrieynon

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Cabinet – 9 February 2018

**Item 7 - Reconfiguration of In - House Learning Disability Residential
Accommodation**

Dear Nick,

As the local Member of Parliament I have been contacted by relatives of residents of The Trees, Hinckley who are very concerned about the future of this much valued long stay facility.

I appreciate that no decisions have yet been taken and there will be opportunities to participate in the consultation process but I have undertaken to let you know about the strength of feeling locally in respect of this sensitive matter.

Kind regards,

David

David Tredinnick MP

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Cabinet – 9 February 2018

Item 7 - Reconfiguration of In - House Learning Disability Residential Accommodation

Representation on behalf of Service Users of the Trees Residential Care Home

(Following legal advice, names and other personal information detailed in the submissions below have been removed)

To each member on the cabinet,

Our Son was born with cerebral palsy, is quadriplegic and epileptic. He is both physically and mentally handicapped, reliant totally on his wheelchair for mobility and also reliant on 24 hour care.

We have cared for him in our home, full time for almost 30 years, meeting all his personal needs and everyday/night requirements. We have had respite care breaks for him at The Trees, Hinckley, which we started 20 years ago.

These breaks gave us time to recharge ourselves and spend better time with our other two children. Six years ago we had our chance to settle our Son in a full time residential care at The trees. This was not an easy decision for our family to make but as we were so happy with the care The Trees had provided him whilst going to respite care, we decided it would be the best for all of us.

He has now lived at the Trees for the past six years, all of his personal needs everyday/night requirements have been met by a fantastic group of people. The staff at The Trees past and present have gone over and above caring for him. He has grown into the most pleasant and loving young man with their support and care. They have dealt with his behaviours and personal traits and treated him like a true person giving him love and confidence to enable him to live the life he truly deserves.

This all happens at The Trees, a complex built 30 years ago for this very reason, in the town, Hinckley, that he comes from and is well known. He has six very close friends who also live at The Trees, some for much longer, all with complex needs and requirements, all with no or very limited mobility, all cared for and made to feel secure and loved by the fantastic staff.

Monday 29th January we were informed by LCC that the use of The Trees may be changing to allow for a small amount of short term respite beds to meet a county shortage.

This change of use would mean long term residents, would no longer be able to live at and call The Trees their home, severely unsettling for many many people.

People who have worked so hard for our Son and friends to bring them together, giving them the feeling and happiness, love and security to live as family.

Not only did we have this horrific news, when we asked the lcc representatives where their intentions to rehome our Son and friends may be, they answered, 'we don't know.'

Not very professional or organised at all.

The Trees is a special place, purposely built for the needs of people like our Son and friends who must be allowed to live within this safe secure environment, within their local community and local town.

We ask can you please consider all and any other options to meet our county's shortage of short term respite situations, and let these 7 vulnerable, wonderful, unfortunate adults continue to live, feel safe, secure, loved and cared for in this place they know as home, The Trees.

Yours Sincerely

Parents of a resident at the Trees Residential Care Home

I am writing this letter on behalf of my Auntie

Reasons for recommendations

In this bit of the in the report its saying about The Trees - is no longer considered to be an appropriate physical environment from which to provide residential care services. This statement is untrue because The Trees is purposely built for disabled special needs people and there is nothing wrong with the building or the layout and if there was anything wrong with the building the residents would be moved out straight away. I also have evidence to back this up because the CARE QUALITY COMMISSION this 2017 report is online and its saying The Trees safety is GOOD. So if The Trees was not a good appropriate physical environment the CARE QUALITY COMMISSION would not rated The Trees to be safe.

The screenshot shows the CARE Quality Commission website for 'The Trees'. The overall rating is 'Good'. The website includes a navigation menu with 'Overview', 'Inspection Summary', 'Reports', 'Registration Info', and 'Contact'. Below the navigation, there is a section titled 'Overview and CQC Inspections' with a legend for 'Click for key' (checkmark, X, star, and colored dots). A table lists the inspection categories and their ratings:

Category	Rating	Type of service
Safe	Good	Type of service
Effective	Good	Residential homes
Caring	Good	Specialisms/services
Responsive	Good	Accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care, Learning disabilities, Mental health conditions, Physical disabilities, Sensory impairments, Caring for adults under 65 yrs
Well-led	Good	

On the left side of the table, there is a green box with the text 'Overall Good' and a link to 'Read overall summary'.

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION website - <http://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-123424944#accordion-1>

My Auntie will be 70 years old in March and for an old person to be kicked out of their home at that age is heartbreaking. But for a 70 year old vulnerable disabled special needs person it could kill my auntie.

My auntie as grown up around Barwell and Hinckley all her life and she is in involved in the community by going to Age Concern in Earl Shilton 3 days a week. My auntie is also as been brought up as a Jehovah witness my grandma. So my auntie goes to the kingdom hall about 2 times a week. So moving my auntie from her community and area she got brought up in would not be good and this also could kill my auntie.

My auntie as been going to The Trees since it open in 1987 that's 31 years and my grandma let my Auntie go to The Trees for respite. My grandma could not look after

my auntie anymore in 2010 because my grandma was unwell so the perfect place for her to live was The Trees. After month and half of her getting her place at The Trees my grandma sadly past away it was like my grandma was just waiting for her to get her place at The Trees because my grandma knows my auntie would be very happy at The Trees. Most of the other residents have done respite as well so they know each other from the respite as well. My auntie as been living at the trees 8 year but spent the rest 31 doing respite at The Trees. Splitting the 7 residents up who are very happy and settled at The Trees is very wrong. Also the staff are wonderful with the residents at a The Trees.

My auntie does not like loud noise and it hurts her ears and she starts to lose her patience with people. She also finds it hard to walk. She will walk around The Trees with a wheel walker but when she goes out her need to go into a wheelchair because of falls.

Kicking out 7 vulnerable special needs disabled adults is wrong, disgusting and immoral behaviour by the Leicester council all just to save money because of cuts. So please can you stop Leicester city council from doing this. Thank you

Dear Member of the Cabinet

We write to you in relation to the Committee meeting due on Friday 9th February and in particular the proposal item relating to the change of the use of The Trees from a proper Residential home to a short term Respite establishment.

Our sister is one of 7 permanent residents at The Trees. She was born with a Chromosomal abnormality which meant that she was physically and mentally handicapped and she would require permanent care for the whole of her life. She has many difficulties but is a happy soul who loves to be in the company of people she knows with a beaker of tea in one hand and a handbag in the other.

Her mother and father looked after her at home until they were in their mid-70's when they became too elderly to care for her at home, They looked around for suitable accommodation and carers who they believed could look after her for the rest of her life. In 2001 they found the Trees Care Home, a purpose built facility perfect for Our Sister's needs. The carers look after her as if she were family, giving her friendship, support and care. Her Parents believed that this would be her Home for the rest of their Daughter's life.

Sadly her Father passed away at Christmas aged 93 still believing she would continue to be safe and looked after in her home at The Trees. Following his death his wife had to go into a care home which we are privately funding, and she still believes her Daughter will continue to live at The Trees forever.

This proposal is causing a lot of pain and anguish to relatives, carers and staff and we are writing to you asking that this proposal is rejected on Friday. If it continues, the harm to the health of the 7 residents affected by this move could be immeasurable.

Difficult decisions have to be made with budget deficits and costs reviewed, however, we honestly believe this is wrong on many different levels and the proposal is also flawed.

Point 3 of this Proposal states it is not 'particularly accessible for people with disabilities'.

Point 12 states "reconfiguration and refurbishment of the Trees will cost approximately £390,000" to bring this up to standard. We would dispute these items for the following reasons.

The Trees Care Quality Commission (CQC) report in December 2017 makes no reference to any requirements or deficiencies in the layout or facilities, in fact receiving a "Good" grade in every area.

The Trees is a purpose built Residential home specifically for people with the type of disabilities that are currently living here now, so we know it works. Of course its 30 years old so some updating work might be required but much of the layout is still acceptable.

Residents with physical disabilities require it all on one level, bedrooms, lounges, kitchens and outside areas patio all flat. This is essential for our Sister and the other wheelchair or mobility restricted residents who live there now. She is unable to

communicate verbally and can only indicate if she is hungry, tired or wants to go out or use the bathroom. The layout of the Trees is perfect for her, as rather than get frustrated trying to communicate what she wants, she is able to make her own way to the kitchen area to indicate she wants drink or food, or she can make her own way safely to her bedroom when she is tired or wants some quiet time. She is able to make her own way around because of its excellent design. Private sector homes invariably are over two floors and with stairs or lifts installed. These homes are totally unsuitable for her and the friends she lives with at the Trees.

We have also recently paid for her bedroom to be redecorated & upgraded including having a new basin/vanity unit installed. This is her room in her home where she feels safe and secure.

Our Sister and some of the other residents also use the Day Service facility, Deveron Day. This again is linked to the Trees and is easily accessible on one level. All in all it is a perfect location and home for her and the other permanent residents.

Points 10 and 11 makes reference "that Adults & Communities are required to identify a saving of £11 million by 2021". It is said in the report that 'implementing these proposed changes will save a potential £100k per annum'.

Firstly it is only a potential amount so no guarantee it is going to be anywhere near as much. In addition the report also states that to oversee and implement these changes they have already employed a Business Change Officer at a salary of £60,000 per annum. As you know the actual cost of this post will be quite a bit higher with additional contributions. This reduces further any potential saving to less than 40k per annum at most.

Our Sister and her friends will still need continued care costs, even in Private sector homes it will still be partly financed by Social Services so there are no savings to be made.

The amount of savings carrying out this proposal is actually very small compared to the massive impact this will have on the 7 residents who will be emotionally harmed by losing their home where they have lived, some for nearly 20 years and the loss of very close friendships when they are separated. Not to mention the carers who are also their friends. Please consider the viability and is it really worth it?

Point 5 of the report makes mention 'the short break service at Smith Crescent has declined over recent years'. From information obtained through the CQC, Carlton Drive has a 6 bed capacity. At the time of inspection 21/3/17, four people were staying. And in the 12 month period only 55 had been accommodated.

Similarly, Melton Short breaks had 6 beds and at the time of inspection 25/5/17 only 4 were occupied with only 42 people 'supported at various times throughout the year'.

The proposal is for The Trees to be reconfigured for respite care only which means ALL beds will be short stay only and No full time residential places in the whole of the county.

Respite beds are not filled throughout the year and so perhaps they need to be managed better to increase occupancy on a more consistent basis. If this was the case we will not need the additional Respite at the Trees.

The Trees had a Good CQC rating across every area with no issues for concern in Dec 2017

The Melton Short Breaks had 3 areas requiring improvement in May 2017– areas of safety, leadership and effectiveness, yet it is The Trees that is facing reconfiguration. This does not make sense.

Point 6 makes reference to the Strategic direction and that there is demand now for only Supported Living establishments, and that there has been no interest in places in a residential home since 2013 when the last permanent resident joined the Trees. Of course there is a requirement for some Supported Living buildings but there is other demand also. Supported Living or Community Care types of establishment would not meet our Sister's, and her 6 friend's needs.

A new campaign this week by the charity Sense called WHEN I'M GONE refers to their findings that two thirds of councils have no idea of the amount of Adults being cared for at home by relatives currently and what provision might be required in the future. The claim that The Trees is not full and 2 residential places remain empty because there is no demand is surprising as placements have always been sought after and the Trees is very highly regarded across the county.

Equal Opportunities and Human Rights legislation emphasises that 'persons with disabilities should have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement'.

Her family are making this choice for her, which is to remain at The Tree's. We can assure you that our Sister's health, safety and happiness is at the top of our agenda. The residents of The Trees have an excellent quality of life here and they should be allowed to continue to live here without hindrance or interference.

We have asked officers at the County Council about where our Sister and her friends would go if The Tree's residential should cease but no-one can say. Only that it will be with the Private sector. I have not seen one long term residential place come close to The Trees in terms of quality, facilities and layout.

These 7 residents have lived together and with a lot of the same staff at the Home for many years now. This is not just a building it is their Home in the same way where you live is your Home. They know each other so well, having parties, entertainment, trips out etc. They show concern for each other especially when one of them is ill. They are like a family, some going on holiday together and to Lourdes. Also the staff care for them as if they were their own relatives. You cannot imagine the relief that this brings to the family knowing that they are so well looked after and with dignity.

Can we suggest that you make a visit yourself to The Trees to see the Residents and staff? You will be made very welcome. See first-hand how well this home works for them all.

Please do not simply look at the bottom line of this proposal when you see some savings to be had. Instead please look at this as the opportunity to keep The Tree's as a Residential Home. Onsite work here also gives the Council a supported Living accommodation option as well as the short term Respite in other locations. Deveron Day Service are also here so you are able to truly say that there is real choice dependent on each person's needs. Use The Trees as an example to show how all types of care provision is available and Leicestershire can lead other Authorities in this way. Please take a few minutes to read the CQC report on The Trees as it shows what an excellent service they are providing to the residents.

Since the proposal we understand that there may be a 3% precept for Adult Social Care provision. We would hope this would help secure the Trees for these 7 vulnerable residents for the future.

What we ask is that you reject this proposal as sometimes even in cash strapped times we have to take the correct decision on moral and humanitarian grounds and when something works so well. These 7 residents and friends need to be able to live where they belong in their Home together.

Thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely

Relatives of a resident at the Trees Residential Care Home