



**CABINET - 6 JULY 2018**  
**PUBLIC ORDER PAPER**

**ITEM**    **DETAILS**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**1. MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 12)

Proposed motion

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2018 be taken as read, confirmed, and signed.

**2. URGENT ITEMS**

The Chairman has agreed to consider one urgent item, a report of the Chief Executive in relation to the East Midlands Strategic Alliance and a unitary structure for Leicestershire.

With the agreement of members this will be taken under item 20 on the agenda.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**4. EARLY HELP REVIEW – FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICE (0 – 19)**  
 (Pages 13 - 26) (Appendices pages 3 - 240)

- *The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 4 July and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '4a'.*
- *Comments have been received from Dr. Matthew O'Callaghan, a copy of which is attached to this Order Paper, marked '4b'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the results of the public consultation be noted;
- (b) That the number of Children's Centres be reduced from 36 to 18 as detailed in paragraph 40 of the report;
- (c) That the Director of Children and Family Services following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Families and the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to develop and implement the new family and wellbeing service on the basis outlined in the report, noting that

this will include:

- (i) A remodelling of the staff structure to reflect the new integrated service and achieve staffing efficiencies,
- (ii) Delivering a buildings model based on the 18 Children's Centres and 3 Supporting Leicestershire Families centres, and finding suitable alternative uses for the redesignated buildings wherever possible, including updating the impact analysis as the model is developed.

**5. IN- HOUSE FOSTERING FEES REVIEW** (Pages 27 - 38) (Appendices pages 241 - 274)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the outcome of the consultation be noted;
- (b) That the revised Fostering Service Fee Policy, attached as Appendix C to the report, be approved and implemented with effect from 1 August 2018;
- (c) That the Director of Children and Family Services be authorised to amend and update the Fostering Service Fee Policy in accordance with the increase in the nationally recommended minimum allowance and to make other minor changes provided that the Cabinet Lead Member and the Director of Corporate Resources have first been consulted.

**6. OUTLINE COMMERCIAL STRATEGY AND WORKPLAN 2018-2022** (Pages 39 - 44) (Appendices pages 275 - 282)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the Outline Commercial Strategy and Work Plan 2018-2022 be approved;
- (b) That an Annual Report on the Commercial Strategy be submitted to the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Commission each June.

**7. CHILDREN'S INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP** (Pages 45 - 54)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the formation of a Children's Innovation Partnership as outlined in the report be approved;
- (b) That the Director of Children and Family Services be authorised to publish an Invitation to Tender to form a Children's Innovation Partnership with the Council;
- (c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in Autumn 2018 regarding the outcome of the Invitation to Tender and chosen provider.

**8. CARE ONLINE SERVICE** (Pages 55 - 62) (Appendices pages 283 - 330)

- *The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on 6 June and a draft minute is attached to the Cabinet report as Appendix A, along with the representations received at that meeting.*
- *Comments have been received from Alberto Costa MP, a copy of which is attached to this Order Paper, marked '8'.*
- *With the permission of the Chairman, Ms Kay Louis will speak on this item.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the outcome of the consultation on the CareOnLine Service be noted;
- (b) That the CareOnLine Service be decommissioned;
- (c) That the measures to mitigate the effect of the cessation of the service as outlined in paragraph 31 of the report, including a transitional fund of £10,000 per annum over the next two years, be approved.

**9. SUPPORTED LIVING IN GREAT GLEN** (Pages 63 - 68)

- *Comments have been received from Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, which are attached to this Order Paper, marked '9'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the purchase of the sheltered housing facility Brookfield Gardens in Great Glen and its conversion to a supported living scheme be approved;
- (b) That subject to approval of (a) above, the Director of Adults and Communities following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to undertake a procurement exercise and enter into the necessary contractual arrangements in order to secure a housing provider to manage the supported living accommodation and undertake the necessary refurbishment.

**10. STRATEGY FOR LEICESTERSHIRE ADULT LEARNING SERVICES 2018-22**  
(Pages 69 - 80) (Appendices pages 331 - 344)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the outcome of the consultation on the draft strategy for Leicestershire Adult Learning Services 2018-22 be noted;
- (b) That the Strategy for Leicestershire Adult Learning Services 2018-22, appended to the report, be approved.

**11. COMMUNITY MANAGED LIBRARIES (Pages 81 - 88)**

Proposed motion

- (a) That Community Managed Library groups throughout Leicestershire be congratulated on their achievements in having developed their local libraries into thriving community hubs;
- (b) That the continued support in place to help Community Managed Library groups to run their libraries, including the availability of temporary support funds be noted;
- (c) That the process to be followed should any Community Managed Library group be unable to continue to provide a library service as set out in paragraphs 28–30 of the report be approved, noting in particular that this includes:
  - (i) Delegation to the Director of Adults and Communities, following consultation with Local Member(s) and Cabinet Lead Member, to agree alternative arrangements if this will result in no significant effect in the level of library provision;
  - (ii) A report to the Cabinet in the event that significant changes to library provision might result.

**12. NORTH AND EAST SECTIONS OF THE MELTON MOWBRAY DISTRIBUTOR ROAD PROPOSALS (Pages 89 - 114) (Appendices pages 345 - 376)**

- *The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 28 June and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '12'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the progress with regard to the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR) scheme development be noted, in particular:-
  - (i) Agreement of the Preferred Route by the Director of Environment and Transport, following consultation with the Lead Member, which will be used as the basis for continuing work;
  - (ii) The award of £49.5m from the Department for Transport Large Local Majors Fund; and,
  - (iii) The latest cost estimate of £63.5m for the scheme, which will form the basis for the planning application;
- (b) That the Director of Environment and Transport be authorised to submit a planning application for the north and east section of the MMDR in accordance with the Preferred Route;

- (c) That the Director of Environment and Transport and Director of Corporate Resources be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Lead Members, to:-
- (i) Agree minor alterations to the scheme that may arise as a consequence of detailed design work;
  - (ii) Continue discussions with landowners and other stakeholders, with a view to reaching voluntary agreement over the purchase and/or reservation of land for the northern and eastern sections of the MMDR where possible and,
  - (iii) Take all necessary steps to make, confirm and implement Compulsory Purchase Orders and Side Roads Orders associated with the scheme pursuant to the Highways Act 1980 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981;
- (d) That it be noted that further reports will be submitted to the Cabinet on progress with the scheme, including following the consideration of the planning application (expected early 2019);
- (e) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the County Council and Melton Borough Council, which sets out the financial arrangement for funding the local contribution to the scheme.

**13. A5 STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIP** (Pages 115 - 122) (Appendices pages 377 - 462)

- *Comments have been received from Mrs. Maggie Wright CC, which are attached to this Order Paper, marked '13'.*
- *The A5 Partnership meeting of 29 June as part of its agenda discussed the proposed final version of the A5 Strategy as well as a revised Governance and Terms of Reference for the Partnership. The County Council had previously made clear that the wider strategic infrastructure context, as set out in the Council's Prospectus for Growth (2017), that has evolved since the original A5 Strategy was developed in 2011 should be referenced within the Strategy. Whilst acknowledging this evolving context and including reference to the wider priorities, the Partnership was not supportive of including reference to a number of these other infrastructure schemes as strategic priorities, namely the development of a Junction 20a and the A46 Expressway. Further to this, the Partnership debated the proposed Governance and Terms of Reference but concluded that these could not be finalised until it met again in October.*

*The decision of Cabinet on this matter at its meeting of 21 March 2018 was that unless the draft Strategy reflected the County's Council's requirements in its role as Local Highway Authority, and the Governance and Terms of Reference moved the Partnership onto a more formal footing in order to provide sufficient credibility and weight to its activities in seeking to influence Midlands Connect, Highways England and the Department for Transport, then*

*the Council would cease participation in the Partnership.*

*The position outlined above leads to the revised recommendations below.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That it be noted that at its meeting on 29 June the A5 Partnership agreed that
- (i) the proposed governance arrangements and Terms of Reference for the Partnership would be reviewed and considered again by the Partnership at its next meeting on 19 October, and
  - (ii) reference in the draft A5 Strategy regarding the A46 and Junction 20a of the M1 would be included but not as part of the strategic context for Leicestershire and the wider region,

and that, accordingly, the Council cannot support the draft A5 Strategy nor is able to endorse continued participation in the A5 Partnership on the basis that the revised governance arrangements and Terms of Reference has not been agreed by the A5 Partnership at this time;

- (b) The Council withdraws its membership of the A5 Partnership until such time as the A5 Strategy and the governance arrangements and Terms of Reference for the Partnership meet its requirements;
- (c) The Council will continue its support in principle for the upgrade of the A5, as part of the Council's wider transport infrastructure priorities as set out in the Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy and the Prospectus for Growth, through direct interaction with Highways England, Transport for the East Midlands, Midlands Connect, and the Department for Transport;
- (d) The Director of Environment and Transport be requested to inform relevant stakeholders, including Highways England, Midlands Connect, Transport for the East Midlands, and the Department for Transport, of the Council's position with regard to the A5 Partnership.

**14. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY** (Pages 123 - 130) (Appendices pages 463 - 510)

- *The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the matter on 28 June and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '14'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the outcome of the engagement exercise be noted;
- (b) That the Environment Strategy 2018-2030, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved;

- (c) That the associated Action Plan 2018-2021, attached as Appendix B, be supported;
- (d) That the Director of Environment and Transport be authorised, following consultation with the Lead Member, to make any minor amendments to the Environment Strategy 2018-2030 that are necessary to ensure that it complies with national policies and legislation in force from time to time and accords with other County Council strategies;
- (e) That, recognising the growing public concern over the negative environmental impacts of single use plastics, work identified in the Action Plan to explore options to reduce the use of single-use plastics within the Council be brought forward as a priority.

**15. ASH DIEBACK** (Pages 131 - 136) (Appendices pages 511 - 532)

- *The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the matter on 28 June and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '15'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the Ash Dieback Action Plan be approved;
- (b) That the Director of Environment and Transport be authorised to make such amendments to the Ash Dieback Action Plan as are considered necessary to ensure that it remains current and conforms to legislation and good practice.

**16. EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT – DRAFT NOISE ACTION PLAN 2019-2023 CONSULTATION** (Pages 137 - 144) (Appendices pages 533 - 540)

Proposed motion

That the comments set out in paragraph 33 of the report on the Draft Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 be forwarded to the East Midlands Airport as the views of the County Council.

**17. SECTION 106 (DEVELOPER) CONTRIBUTIONS** (Pages 145 - 150) (Appendices pages 541 - 542)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the position with regard to repayment of Section 106 funding be noted;
- (b) That the further work outlined in paragraph 28 of the report to improve the processing of Section 106 agreements be supported;
- (c) That it be noted that a further report will be submitted to the Cabinet in Autumn 2018.

**18. CORPORATE COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018** (Pages 151 - 154) (Appendices pages 543 - 560)

Proposed motion

That the Corporate Complaints and Compliments Annual Report be noted.

**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 - EAST MIDLANDS STRATEGIC ALLIANCE AND UNITARY GOVERNMENT IN LEICESTERSHIRE**

Proposed motion

(a) That the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources be requested to work with counterparts in the region in the development of a Strategic Alliance for the East Midlands;

(b) That work be undertaken on the development of a unitary structure for local government in Leicestershire;

(c) That the following timetable for consideration of the above be approved:-

Cabinet	16 <sup>th</sup> October	- to consider outline proposals and agree to engage with stakeholders on options.
Scrutiny Commission	14 <sup>th</sup> November	- to comment on the outline proposals.
Cabinet	23 <sup>rd</sup> November	- to consider the outcome of stakeholder engagement and the way forward.
County Council	5 <sup>th</sup> December	- to debate the proposed way forward recommended by the Cabinet.

**21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed 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.



**22. PROPOSALS TO DEVELOP A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL TO SERVE  
LUBBESTHORPE - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM ACADEMY  
PROPOSERS (EXEMPT ITEM)**

**Officer to contact**

Anna Poole  
Democratic Services  
Tel: (0116) 305 2583  
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**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE – 4 JULY 2018**

**EARLY HELP REVIEW – FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICE (0 – 19)**

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services seeking the Cabinet's approval to reduce the number of Children's Centres from 36 to 18 and to redesign the various elements of the Council's Early Help Services for children and young people into an integrated family and wellbeing service for 0-19 years. A copy of the Cabinet report, marked 'Agenda Item 8', is filed with these minutes.

In introducing the report, the Director of Children and Family Services drew the Committee's attention to the results of the public consultation and the final proposals for the Family Wellbeing Service. Attention was also drawn to the financial pressures faced by the service and the Committee was advised that there was currently no indication that there would be additional national funding made available to address these.

The Chairman invited Mrs Liz Blackshaw to present her petition entitled 'Save Our Children's Centre', containing 4,283 signatures. In presenting the petition, Mrs Blackshaw commented that although it was pleasing to see that the County Council had reconsidered its position in relation to the number of children's centres no longer being used by the service, it was disappointing that this was only a further six Children's Centres. Mrs Blackshaw stressed the difficulties faced by some families due to the distance to their nearest Children's Centre, and also explained the overall importance of the centres to the children and families who used them.

Mr. I. D. Ould CC, the Cabinet Lead Member, advised the Committee that he was confident in the proposals set out in the report. He noted that the quality of work provided by Children's Centres was not in question but praised officers for developing the concept of a new 0-19 family wellbeing service, informed by the success of the Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme. He confirmed that he was lobbying at a national level for the funding of the Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme to continue beyond 2020.

Arising from the discussion, the following comments were raised:-

- i) Members welcomed the extra funding that had been found and were pleased to note that concerns raised during the consultation period had been taken into account in the development of the final proposal. Assurance was given that colleagues across the Council recognised the difficulties facing the Children and Families Service and were supportive of

the development of the new Family Wellbeing Service. There was a confidence in the robustness and sustainability of the new service.

- ii) Lots of work was being undertaken to mitigate the risk around disabilities, for example, by spreading the location of the buildings around the county as much as possible. Consideration had been given to the alternative provision which could be used if the demand was there. The aim was to create a more flexible service focussed on providing targeted services to the most vulnerable children and families.
- iii) The importance of ensuring that a robust model was in place to continue to support those with disabilities in travelling to a Children's Centre was stated. This was highlighted by the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment. It was confirmed that consideration had been given to where current users lived and where they would be able to access services. Where appropriate, service users were already supported to access children's centres. This would continue and where it was not possible, provision would be delivered at home.
- iv) In response to a query around the continuing use of volunteers, reassurance was given that the ongoing strategy would ensure that the existing volunteer base would be retained. It was hoped that there would be a greater use of volunteers operating certain provision from community venues, for example continuing community networks to allow parents to connect with others from their locality to prevent loneliness.
- v) It was noted that the Health service was present in many of the Children's Centres and it was queried whether there was the possibility of approaching Health for a financial contribution to the service post 2020. Discussions were currently ongoing with a number of partners, including Health, and part of this involved partner contributions.
- vi) Consideration had been given to capital clawback figures so that the potential risk was known. Dependent on the decision made by the Cabinet, work would take place towards identifying the future use for those buildings which would no longer be used by the service. A clear analysis would be undertaken to assess the capital clawback risk, but there was confidence that the risk would be significantly mitigated, particularly if it was possible to continue to use the buildings for early years provision. For those buildings that would still be used by the service, assurance was given that they would be able to cope with the increased footfall and would be able to provide greater flexibility to service users.
- vii) The national Troubled Families Programme was due to end in 2019/20, but it was noted that Leicestershire was one of the highest performing authorities in terms of meeting the requirements of the national programme. It was currently not known whether the national programme would continue and there would be a significant funding gap if it did not. The proposed Family Wellbeing Service would incorporate a number of services, including Supporting Leicestershire Families, into an integrated

early help service which would reduce duplication and take forward the most successful elements of each service.

- viii) Due to the nature of early help services, it could be difficult to monitor outcomes. However, the Committee was advised that the service provided by children's centres received high rates of satisfaction. In addition, data was now being collected on the trajectory for children using the children's centres. This would provide a useful resource in the future.

The Committee supported the proposals within the Cabinet report, and agreed that this would ensure that there was targeted help for vulnerable children and that the service would be able to support Leicestershire families in the future.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report be noted;
- b) That the Cabinet be advised of the views of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the proposals for a Family Wellbeing Service.

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## **COMMENTS FROM DR MATTHEW O'CALLAGHAN**

### **EARLY HELP REVIEW – FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICE (0 – 19)**

I am writing to voice my concern at the proposal to close the service offered at The Cove in Melton Mowbray in favour of Venture House on the Asfordby Road.

Firstly, I do not believe the running costs of Venture House, said to be £4,570 are accurate. For a start the non-domestic rate on the building is in excess of £3,000 and there are other costs which I don't believe have been taken into account in the calculation of running costs.

Secondly, Venture House is in the wrong place, it is on the wrong side of a busy road right on the edge of the Egerton Ward which it is supposed to serve. I live on the Asfordby Road and so know it well. To the South of the Venture House is nothing but the river and fields. Most of the immediate surrounding housing is populated by an aging demographic. The Cove on the other hand is right in the centre of the community which most needs its services. This is the reason why it was built there in the first place.

Despite what the profile claims; access and parking at Venture House is poor, which is why it is no longer used as a polling station. It used to be the main youth centre in the area but this was abandoned as the young people did not want to use the building.

Far better to relocate the services in the building elsewhere such as the Cove and use the proceeds from the sale of the building for other purposes.

Dr Matthew O'Callaghan

Former County Councillor (Melton North)

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## **COMMENTS FROM ALBERTO COSTA MP**

### **CARE ONLINE SERVICE**

I understand that on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July the Cabinet will be making a decision on the future of the CareOnline programme.

Whilst I fully understand that difficult decisions have to be made in regard to making sure that money is spent in the most efficient way and that given the constraints on local government finances that these decisions are never easy.

I would like to have reassurance that if the service is to cease then effective mitigation is put in place to prevent my constituents from being disadvantaged and that the appropriate level of replacement services can be sought, in conjunction with the relevant voluntary bodies and constituents affected.

I would appreciate if these views could be communicated to the cabinet before any final decisions is made.

**ALBERTO COSTA MP**

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**COMMENTS FROM DR. R. K. A. FELTHAM CC**

**SUPPORTED LIVING SCHEME IN GREAT GLEN**

I am very supportive of this scheme which will provide suitable accommodation for 20 adults with disabilities. It will provide the opportunity for people with long-term disabilities to have the chance to be supported in their own flats, so improving their wellbeing.

Last evening (5 July), staff from Adults & Communities and Properties put on an information event between 6pm and 7.30pm in the Youth Club in Great Glen. I attended for the first hour and over 60 residents were present including some parish councillors. The display boards and video clips provided by Adults & Communities outlined the proposals and there were around 6 or 7 staff on hand to answer questions.

However, there was very considerable negativity expressed by several of the residents, so much so that it became increasingly difficult for our council staff to provide relevant information about the scheme because of the many concerns being raised. A number of residents had the erroneous idea that the council was going to let the flats to youth offenders and drug addicts and despite reassurances, the concern was palpable. I was very worried by the attitudes being expressed by some of the residents, many of whom were clearly not happy with my support for this scheme, but it has such a potential benefit to help 20 adults that I stand by my support.

I would therefore like to suggest that the Cabinet agrees to more information sharing events are held in the village to keep residents and parish councillors updated as the project progresses over the next 12 months. A request for a formal public meeting was made, together with the need for more information about the process that will be used to select the individuals who will be placed in this supported living scheme, and ideally evidence from similar sized supported living schemes where residents have an enhanced independence in their local communities.

**Kevin Feltham**

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**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE – 28 JUNE 2018**

**NORTH AND EAST SECTIONS OF THE MELTON MOWBRAY  
DISTRIBUTOR ROAD PROPOSALS**

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road. A copy of the report, marked “Agenda Item 10” is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:-

- i) The Preferred Route remained a 4.3 mile single carriageway which passes to the north and east of Melton Mowbray. As a result of consultation on the design the route had been amended at two locations, the crossing of the River Eye and the alignment between Scalford Road and Melton Spinney Road. This amended route is now the Preferred Route for the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road;
- ii) Extensive community engagement had been carried out throughout the initial feasibility and design stage and would be ongoing through the planning process. To date, there has been good support for the proposed route;
- iii) That the proposed realignment of the River Eye would put it closer to its natural line, this was supported by the Environment Agency and the County Council was working closely with them to mitigate any ecological disturbance;
- iv) Members were assured the appropriate cycle/footway provision had been included along the route and would be looked at further during the detailed design process and as part of the consultation during the planning process.

RESOLVED:-

That the Cabinet be advised of the views now expressed and that this Committee supports the proposed route.

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**COMMENTS FROM MRS MAGGIE WRIGHT CC**

**A5 STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIP**

Although this is specifically a strategy for the A5 it does significantly impact exits through my Division (Stoney Stanton and Croft) in villages already experiencing traffic and safety issues. It is therefore imperative partners engage proactively in a duty to cooperate and keep everyone affected by traffic congestion and pinch points updated.

Regards  
Mrs Maggie Wright CC

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**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE – 28 JUNE 2018**

**ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the Environment Strategy. A copy of the report, marked “Agenda Item 12” is filed with these minutes.

In response to comments and questions the Committee was advised as follows

- i) The Strategy sets out six broad themes with supporting aims and objectives. These have been written in such a way to allow for flexibility to respond to the nationally changing picture as and when the Government sets out its policy position on the environment and how it expects its policy position to be delivered.
- ii) Single use plastics was recently identified as a key issue in the public consciousness. Within the theme “Reduced Resource Use and Low/Zero Carbon Energy” the action plan includes an action to explore reducing the use of single use plastics. Whilst this was scheduled to start in October officers had already began looking at how plastic use could be reduced within the County Council.
- iii) The governance arrangements would enable the Council to look at its position across all departments allowing a more joined up approach than had previously been taken.
- iv) The Carbon Reduction Strategy would be subsumed within the new Environment Strategy to allow for a more joined up approach. It was however noted, that due to economic growth and the slow pace of moving to low emission vehicles nationally, that the challenges of traffic emissions were likely to increase.
- v) The County Council had come a long way with introduction of its biomass boiler, LED lighting and solar panels. The Environment Strategy would enable the Council to go further in minimising its environmental impact and improving the health and wellbeing of people whilst contributing to the sustainable economic development of the County.

The committee also suggested that the vision statement of the Strategy was considered too wordy and could be shortened.

RESOLVED: -

That the comments of the Committee be submitted to the Cabinet and the Cabinet be advised of its support for the Environment Strategy.



**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE – 28 JUNE 2018**

**ASH DIEBACK**

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the Ash Dieback Action Plan. A copy of the report, marked “Agenda Item 11” is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:-

- i) The Ash Dieback Action Plan applied a risk based approach with an emphasis on maintaining the highest levels of health and safety for the public while aiming to minimise the impact on landscape, ecology and the environment. The Action Plan had been developed in line with the latest Defra and Tree Council guidance.
- ii) The potential loss of trees will have a significant impact on the county’s landscape and was likely to result in significant financial cost to the County Council. The Medium Term Financial Strategy included this as a future potential financial pressure.
- iii) Trials had been established elsewhere in the country looking at resistant strains with the aim of identifying a strain resistant to Ash Dieback.
- iv) A comprehensive communications and engagement plan had been developed to support work with private and other public landowners regarding Ash Dieback.
- v) The County Council was also looking into potential commercial opportunities linked to Ash Dieback such as tree management services and potential options for the use of felled wood as a by-product. .

**RESOLVED: -**

That the comments of the Committee be submitted to the Cabinet and the Cabinet be advised of its support for the Action Plan.

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