

MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2019 AT 2.00 PM

ORDER PAPER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will make her announcements.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – MINUTES (Pages 3 to 32)

MRS POSNETT will move and MR O'SHEA will second:-

“that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 September 2019, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman will invite members who wish to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 -
QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1) (2) & (5)**

(A) Question by MR GALTON

“The Leader will no doubt be aware of the recent BBC investigation into the use of unregulated accommodation by local authorities to house children aged 16 – 18. This looked at how houses being used to accommodate young people in the care of the local authority do not need to be registered with OFSTED if they only provide support and not care.

The investigation raised concerns about the lack of qualified staff employed by private providers and concluded that many of the providers are operating de facto children's homes and should be registered.

Reference was also made to a letter having been sent by the relevant Minister to Chief Executives on the subject of the use of unregulated accommodation.

Could the Leader let me know:-

- (a) How many young people in the care of Leicestershire County Council have been placed in this type of accommodation in each of the last 3 years?

- (b) Are any young people in the care of Leicestershire currently placed in unregulated accommodation?
- (c) What action was the letter from the Minister asking the Council to take on this matter and has a response been sent?
- (d) How are referrals to providers undertaken and what checks are carried out? Specifically are the properties inspected and would the Council require staff working in these homes to be DBS checked?
- (e) Is the Leader satisfied that the process requiring other local authorities to inform the Council when placing a young person in unregistered accommodation in this Authority's area, working as it should do?
- (f) Once notified what duties and responsibilities does this Council have in respect of young people placed in accommodation in Leicestershire by other local authorities?"

Reply by MR OULD

- (a) The number of individuals that have been placed within unregulated 16/18 accommodation broken down by placements made per year is:
 - 2017 – 44 young people
 - 2018 – 46 young people
 - 2019 – 51 young people
- (b) The County Council currently has 84 young people in unregulated accommodation. This accommodation is a mix of supported accommodation, semi-independent living and supported lodgings.
- (c) The letter from Nadhim Zahawi MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, in March 2019 requested that Local Authorities review their procedures when placing young people in unregulated provision to ensure that statutory requirements are being met and that young people are not put at risk. This request was considered and it was acknowledged that good robust procedures for making placements and quality assurance of placements were already in place in Leicestershire. An update on this will be presented to members in the New Year.
- (d) Referrals to providers are anonymised and highlight the needs and behaviours of the young person, their gender and any geographical areas they wish to be in and equally any geographical areas they cannot be placed in. Once a response is received this is sent to the Social Worker to make an informed decision as to whether it is a good placement match. Where possible the young person would get to view the property before moving in.

Providers go through a robust quality process to become a Framework Provider which includes health and safety checks and evidence of all relevant policies and procedures. All Framework providers are also visited, and a full Quality Assurance visit is undertaken before a placement is made. All staff

are required to have a full enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and be checked against the barred list for working with children.

- (e) Notifications should be received where another local authority places a Looked After Child in Leicestershire and the provider includes this information when they offer accommodation for a young person. It is the responsibility of the placing local authority to inform the County Council but this does not always happen.
- (f) The Youth Offending Service, the Special Educational Needs Assessment and Commissioning Services, Child Sexual Exploitation Service and other Partner organisations would work with these young people if they were placed in Leicestershire and the Safeguarding Children's Partnership have safeguarding responsibility for all Looked After Children living in Leicestershire up to the age of 18 years.

If a child is looked after and placed in Leicestershire by another authority and there is a safeguarding concern (called a S47 investigation), the host county has a duty to lead on the investigation until the matter is handed over to the placing authority."

(B) Question by MR HUNT

- "1. I understand from the Chairman of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the "non-motorised user audit" on the proposal for the J23/A512 scheme was obliged to ensure the scheme "tied in appropriately" with the walking and cycling provision along the A512, yet the shared pedestrian/cycle way alongside the Ashby Road East section of carriageway widening clearly does not meet highways standards for shared cycle/pedestrian use (notably for cycles or permitted electric vehicles). Bearing in mind that this is a popular route to work for many Shepshed inhabitants, can the Leader explain why this was overlooked?
- 2. How can we ensure future major highways schemes benefit non-motorised users as well as motorised traffic?
- 3. What future arrangements could be made to ensure that cycling and disability groups are consulted before submitting non-motorised user audits in future?"

Reply by MR PAIN

- "1. The key criteria for securing funding for the A512 widening programme was to unlock housing and economic growth. As part of this, a non-motorised user audit on the proposed J23/A512 scheme identified the need to ensure the scheme tied in appropriately with the existing walking and cycling provision along the A512. As part of the scheme, toucan crossings are being provided across the on and off slips of J23 and the new roundabout on the A512 to allow cyclists to access the shared footway cycleway on the north side of the A512 towards Loughborough. It is only possible to improve cycling facilities where funding and land allow. On the northside of the A512, Ashby Road East, there is insufficient land in the control of the County Council to widen the route. Taking additional land on the southern side would require the

entire arm of the roundabout to be realigned along with the circulatory carriageway and this would increase the scope of the developer's scheme beyond that agreed and has no allocated funding. Therefore unfortunately we are unable to widen this section of the route.

2. When developing any bids, such as the Local Growth Fund or the Growth and Housing Fund, Leicestershire County Council, as the local highway authority, will always look to see what transport improvements can be made against the funding stream criteria. If public transport access, cycle provision or pedestrian facilities are appropriate we will bid accordingly or look to ensure these can be accommodated when funding becomes available. However other funding streams such as the Access Fund or Local Sustainable Transport Fund are often more suitable for funding these type of measures. Whilst we always seek to secure sustainable travel infrastructure, it is dependent on the criteria of the funding stream as well as what can be physically delivered. We are embedding the design of infrastructure for non-motorised users as part of the overall highway scheme design process and where possible will include these designs as part of any competitive funding bid.
3. The County Council is always looking to review and improve processes where needed. In line with the most recent guidance we will look to incorporate input from appropriate user groups when considering what facilities can be included in future schemes for non-motorised users, in line with the funding criteria for any bidding process. Dependent on the nature and size of the scheme this input could include workshops, design reviews and consultation.”

(C) Question by MR HUNT

- “1. The public have been told the A512/J23 Major Highways Scheme will affect traffic through Junction 23 throughout 2020 and into 2021. Can the authority take further action to reduce congestion at peak time?
2. What can be done to reduce traffic backing up on Old Ashby Road?
3. Is it possible to provide information of time delays from week to week so that people can time their journeys better?
4. It seems some of the congestion is caused by heavy plant being moved across the carriageway at peak times; can this be limited?”

Reply by MR PAIN

- “1. Unfortunately, when carrying out improvement works on the highway there is inevitably some disruption, particularly when traffic levels are at their highest during morning and evening peak. Whilst construction works are programmed to minimise lane closures during peak times, it is only possible to reopen closed lanes where it is safe, and the surface is suitable. In addition, the installation of traffic management of the scale needed around J23 takes several hours to put in place under a full road closure and therefore it is not possible to install/remove the restrictions during peak times. The impact on the travelling public is constantly reviewed and every effort is made

to reduce delays where possible. Any changes that can be made safely whilst still facilitating the works will be assessed and implemented.

2. The potential to amend the traffic management at this location is currently being explored. Any changes will need to comply with national guidance that aims to protect the workforce as well as minimising the disruption to the travelling public. Local members will be kept informed of progress.
3. There are many different reasons for traffic levels to fluctuate from day to day and across the peak period; including incidents elsewhere on the network. Several weeks of data would need to be collected by officers driving the routes to provide average delays. The possibility of using commercially available data such as Google Maps will be explored. Information on the works programme and restrictions can be found on the dedicated webpage for the project along with contact details for the contractor Morgan Sindall's Public Liaison Officer.
[https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/m1-
junction-23-and-a512-improvement-scheme](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/m1-
junction-23-and-a512-improvement-scheme)
4. We will discuss this with the contractor Morgan Sindall and ensure any movements are minimised but as peaks in traffic cannot always be predicted, there may be times when plant needing to be moved coincides with higher traffic volumes.”

TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

(Pages 33 – 38)

Principal Speakers:-
Chairman (Mr N J Rushton)
Liberal Democrat Spokesman (Mr S J Galton)

(A) **Review of Standing Orders (Meeting Procedure Rules)**

MR RUSHTON will move and MR SHEPHERD will second:-

“That the changes to Standing Orders (the Meeting Procedure Rules), as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Constitution Committee, be approved.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6
TO RECEIVE POSITION STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

GENERAL POSITION STATEMENTS

(Note: Standing Order 8 provides as follows:-

- (a) A position statement may give rise to an informal discussion by the Council.
- (b) At the conclusion of the discussion a formal motion may be moved to the effect that a particular issue relevant to the statement be referred to the Cabinet, the Commission, a Board or a Committee for consideration. This shall be moved and seconded formally and put without discussion. No other motion or amendment may be moved.
- (c) The discussion of any position statement shall not exceed 20 minutes but the Chairman may permit an extension to this period.)

LEADER

- (i) The Leader will make his statement.
- (ii) An informal discussion may then take place.

LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

- (i) The Lead Member will make his statement.
- (ii) An informal discussion may then take place.

CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

- (i) The Chairman will make his statement.
- (ii) An informal discussion may then take place.

TO CONSIDER REPORTS OF THE
CABINET, SCRUTINY COMMISSION, SCRUTINY COMMITTEES,
AND OTHER BODIES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Pages 39 to 206)

Principal Speakers:-
Mover of motion (as appropriate)
Leader of the Opposition (Mr S J Galton)

(A) Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2019

NOTE: The Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 28th November 2019 welcomed and supported the report.

MR BRECKON will move and MR OULD will second:

“That the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2019 be noted with support.”

(B) Annual Delivery Report and Performance Compendium 2019

MR RHODES will move and MR SHEPHERD will second:-

“That the Annual Delivery Report and Performance Compendium 2019 be approved.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

REPORT OF THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

(Pages 207 to 222)

Principal Speakers:-

Chairman (Mr J B Rhodes)

Liberal Democrat Spokesman (Mrs L Broadley)

Labour Spokesman (Ms B Newton)

(A) Pay Policy Statement 2020/21

MR RHODES will move and MR SHEPHERD will second:-

“That the County Council’s Pay Policy Statement 2020/21, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Employment Committee, be approved.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

(Pages 223 to 258)

Principal Speakers:-

Chairman (Mr T Barkley)

Liberal Democrat Spokesman (Mr B Boulter)

Labour Spokesman (Mr S Sheahan)

(A) Proposed Changes to the Financial Procedure Rules

MR BARKLEY will move and MR RICHARDSON will second:-

“That the proposed amendments to the Financial Procedure Rules, set out in Appendix A to the report of the Corporate Governance Committee, be approved.”

(B) Proposed Changes to the Contract Procedure Rules

MR BARKLEY will move and MR RICHARDSON will second:-

“That the proposed amendments to the Contract Procedure Rules, set out in Appendix B to the report of the Corporate Governance Committee, be approved.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

SECOND REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

(Pages 259 – 270)

Principal Speakers:-

Chairman (Mr N J Rushton)

Liberal Democrat Spokesman (Mr S J Galton)

(A) Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances

MR RUSHTON will move and MR RHODES will second:-

- “(a) That those Members who submitted an Annual Report be thanked for doing so;
- (b) That those Members who have not submitted an Annual Report for the municipal year 2018/19 do so at the earliest opportunity;
- (c) That all Members of the County Council be asked to submit an Annual Report for the municipal year 2019/20 for publication on the County Council's website;
- (d) That officers be asked to investigate what support can be provided to Members with regard to writing content relevant for their constituents;
- (e) That the allowance payable to Group Whips continues to be paid at the current rate of £61.40 per Member and increased annually in line with the Local Government Employee Pay Award).”

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 4TH DECEMBER 2019
POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Flooding.

During October and November, Leicestershire experienced prolonged rainfall across northern and western areas of the County. In October our highways team attended 246 callouts in relation to flooding. 59 roads were closed and sandbags delivered to 56 properties. In November there were 160 callouts, 27 road closures and 15 requests for sandbags.

The County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority continues to work with residents, parishes and the flood risk management authorities to investigate flooding, the priority being to investigate areas where properties have flooded. We are also working with the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Resilience Partnership ensuring adequate plans are in place to deal with sudden extreme weather events.

I would like to thank the County Council's highways and flood risk teams who have provided continued support to areas and residents affected by the recent flooding including round the clock activity on many occasions.

We will carry on engaging with members of the public to offer on-going advice and guidance and I would encourage members to have a look at the information on our [website](#) and the appendix to this position statement so they can point their local communities to the right place for advice or assistance in relation to flooding.

Green Council/Carbon Reduction Strategy

As members will be aware the Council has made a commitment to be carbon neutral in its own activities by 2030 and to work with others to achieve carbon neutrality for the county by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement.

Work is taking place to turn these commitments into action.

- We are revising the Strategic Plan and the Strategic Outcomes to embed the climate emergency commitments at the heart of the work we do as a Council;
- We are updating the 2018 Environment Strategy and developing a detailed Action Plan setting out a roadmap of the actions needed to take the Council to carbon neutral by 2030 and this will be consulted upon early in the new year;
- We have switched to a green electricity tariff, so all our electricity is now coming from renewable sources;
- We have installed charging points at Council sites which are available for Council vehicles, staff and visitors to use. We will expand the network of EV chargers at Council sites to support the growth of Council and privately-owned electric vehicles;

- We will be progressing with the planning application to develop a 10-megawatt solar farm at Quorn which will produce enough electricity to supply around 2,500 homes

I was proud to support National Tree Week. Trees are an essential resource which provide a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits. We are currently undertaking consultation on our updated Tree Management Strategy. We are a Green Council and are committed to the long-term conservation, sustainability and development of our precious tree stock for the people of the county, and future generations.

Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Bids

Leicestershire continues to grow and planning ahead to ensure communities have the right infrastructure to support new development in the county is essential.

The County Council has a strong track record of securing funding to deliver transport infrastructure to enable growth, supporting the delivery of its strategic outcomes to promote a strong economy and to ensure a supply of quality and affordable homes.

We previously secured £49.5m of Large Local Major funding from Department for Transport towards the northern and eastern sections of the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road and have just been awarded a further £14.7m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) towards the southern section of this road. This funding enables us to support the delivery of the Melton Local Plan with this latest award unlocking housing and employment development as part of the Melton South Sustainable Neighbourhood.

When the new government forms later this month, we will continue to lobby to secure vital funds to invest in homes, regeneration and infrastructure across Leicestershire.

Impower Index – Most Productive Council

I am delighted to report that for the third year running the County Council has been named the most productive council in the Impower Index.

The Impower Index measures the performance of 149 Councils 'against outcomes (per pound invested) through seven different lenses':- children's social care; children with high needs; older people; all age disability; health and social care interface; housing and homelessness and waste and recycling. Each council is scored for productivity through each lens and ranked accordingly.

We are the lowest funded Council in the country and this has meant we need to ensure we innovate to drive down costs so that we get the most out of each pound spent. This achievement is a credit to the hard work of all staff and their commitment to deliver good quality efficient services to the people of Leicestershire. If I may say so, it also recognises some tough decisions which we as members have had to take. As members we need to continue to play our part to press for fair funding so we can deliver much more.

CCN Conference

The annual County Councils Network conference was held in Guildford this year with a theme of “Unleashing the Power of Counties.”

It was good to see both Simon Galton and Betty Newton attending alongside other delegates from Leicestershire. Unfortunately, the general election campaign prevented any attendance from politicians from the main parties, but the conference continued its business nonetheless.

Central to this year’s theme was showcasing the role County Councils play in delivering infrastructure to support development, highlighting excellence in both children and adult social care, despite serious demand pressures, and arguing the CCN’s priorities for the new government: a fairer funding deal for local government, devolution and reform, and health and social care integration.

Andrew Neil, a BBC political commentator, was this year’s guest speaker and he was without doubt brilliant in his analysis of the state of British politics and the potential likely outcomes of the general election.

Remembrance Sunday

Chairman, you have referred to Armistice Day, but I would like to refer to Remembrance Sunday. It was marked on 10th November across Leicestershire with crowds gathering at services and parades both large and small, in our towns and villages.

Chairman, you joined the service and parade in Victoria Park, which sees the largest gathering of service personnel, veterans and members of the public. It has been traditional for the Chairman to lay a wreath at the memorial in Victoria Park because, whilst situated in the city, it is dedicated to all those who lost their lives in the Great War from across Leicester and Leicestershire.

I was honoured to attend the service and parade in my home town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch and was able to lay a wreath on behalf of the County Council. I was expecting that the crowds might have subsided after last year’s centenary anniversary, but the public support was just as strong, which was very pleasing to see.

Having laid a wreath at Ashby, it struck me that there will be many other members attending local Remembrance services who do not have the opportunity of formally representing the County Council within the wreath laying party. And so, going forward, I would like to offer all Members a wreath which they can then lay at their local service. Those wreaths will be prepared so that they carry the County Council coat of arms and will be available on request. The Members’ Secretariat will contact all Members in advance of Remembrance Sunday next year, to take your orders.

Mr N. J. Rushton CC

The County Council's Role in Flooding and the Role of other Relevant Agencies

As the Lead Local Flood Authority, the County Council leads on co-ordinating flood risk across the county, creating and maintaining local flood risk management strategies and carrying out investigations when there is a flood. As highway authority we are responsible for highway drainage.

When internal property flooding occurs, as Lead Local Flood Authority we have a duty to investigate, with the other relevant parties, the cause of that flooding and identify which parties may have a responsibility to address any issues causing that flooding. As Lead Local Flood Authority we do not however have the duty or resources to address all instances of flooding in the county, our role is to encourage the appropriate party to take action.

The other relevant agencies or Flood Risk Management Authorities, are the Environment Agency who manage the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea, the water and sewerage companies such as Severn Trent who are responsible for managing the risks of flooding from water and foul or combined sewer systems and the district councils who will provide sandbags to offer protection against flood water and assist with the recovery phase including setting up emergency centres if required during a flooding event. The final party with a role in flood risk management are riparian owners. These are private landowners who are responsible for the watercourses in their land.

As the Lead Local Flood Authority we therefore have a role in co-ordinating these parties to address flooding, although we do not have powers to ensure another party takes action. Enabling better co-operation between these organisations means we are working to minimise the risk of flooding and repeat flooding in the county.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 4th DECEMBER 2019

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Ofsted

In September this year Ofsted undertook a full inspection of Leicestershire Children's Services and considered the quality of work across Early Help and Children's Social Care and the impact of services on children and young people in Leicestershire. The inspection concludes in gradings indicating how the service is judged to be performing in 4 broad areas. The last inspection of Children's Services in 2016 concluded that all areas required improvement to be good.

The outcome of this inspection is that the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families is now judged to be good, the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection requires improvement to be good, the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers is good and the overall effectiveness requires improvement to be good.

Alongside the judgements Ofsted recognised that progress has been made in many areas of children's services in Leicestershire and that the commitment and investment by political and corporate leaders, together with effective work by staff and senior managers, have meant that responses to the needs of children and families have improved in many areas across children's services.

Department for Education (DfE) Care Leavers Visit

In November the Department hosted a visit from the DfE National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers who noted positively the rapid progress Leicestershire has made in relation to our offer for care leavers, in particular our Corporate Parenting response, our local offer for care leavers, apprenticeships, links with businesses and full council tax exemption that are all contributing to better outcomes for our care leavers. His view was that we are in the top ten of improving Local Authorities in England

Stonewall

Leicestershire County Council has been awarded the **Gold CYPs Champion Award**. (one of only 5 to achieve Gold). The programme of work that leads to the award helps put LGBT inclusion at the heart of Children's Services and Public Health and helps to devise innovative solutions based on local needs to better support vulnerable LGBT children and young people as well as improve their health and wellbeing.

Children's Innovation Partnership

Since joining with Barnardo's to work together on the Children's Innovation Partnership, additional grant funding has been achieved as follows:

- In May this year we were told we'd been successful in our bid for The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) and received a total of £798,000 – to specifically focus on 'school hunger' and to run holiday activities for children eligible for free school meals. 2023 children accessed the programme over the summer
- Youth Engagement Funding to work with around 3,000 children over 2 years on Advanced LifeSkills (an evidence-based, whole-school, early intervention resilience building programme) to 11 – 14 year olds across a group of 8 secondary schools in Loughborough.
- DfE funding for 18 months to deliver 102 Family Group Conferences with families pre-court proceedings - £234,600

Significant success in securing funding for programmes to support children in Leicestershire.

Mr I. D. Ould CC

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 4 DECEMBER 2019
POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY
COMMISSION

Overview and Scrutiny Statutory Guidance

Members will be aware that the Government issued new statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny earlier this year. The Scrutiny Commissioners have compared the guidance to current practice at the County Council and we are satisfied we are meeting the requirements.

The guidance makes a number of important points about the culture of the organisation. I'm happy to be able to say that here in Leicestershire all three political parties recognise scrutiny's legal and democratic legitimacy, treat the process with respect and fully engage with it. Each Committee has early and regular engagement with its Lead Member and I know how much this is valued.

Where I do think we were falling a little short of what is recommended in the guidance was in ensuring that we maintain the interest of full Council in the work of the overview and scrutiny committees. That is why I have brought this position statement today and why the Scrutiny Commissioners have agreed that I should continue to give position statements on our work on a regular basis.

A document setting out our response to the statutory guidance has been prepared and I will make sure a copy of it and the guidance is circulated to all members of the Council.

Volume of Work

It won't have escaped members' notice that all our overview and scrutiny bodies have been very busy recently, scrutinising issues across the range of services provided by the County Council. I would like to thank all members of the overview and scrutiny committees for the time and effort they put into the scrutiny process. I would also like to thank the officers who have supported us by providing full and frank reports and giving us plenty of opportunity to delve into the issues that are causing us concern.

Work of Scrutiny Review Panels

Members will recall that the Scrutiny Review Panel on Corporate Parenting completed its work in June of this year. I am pleased to report that a number of the Panel's recommendations have already been acted on. Three Member Champions for children in care have been appointed and are due to start in their new roles later this month. The key roles of a County Councillor, set out in the Constitution, now include the need to fulfil our responsibilities as a corporate parent for children and

young people in the care of the local authority. The Corporate Parenting Strategy is currently being revised and will be submitted to the full Council in February for approval.

I am pleased to report that the work of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Multi Academy Trusts is nearing its conclusion. The Panel has held four meetings to date and has met with Chief Executive Officers from two MATs, one for primary schools and one for secondary schools, who have helpfully shared examples of good practice. The Panel has recognised that the link between elected members and MATs needs strengthening and will make a series of recommendations to this effect. The Panel's report will go to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 March for approval and then on to the Cabinet for consideration. I would particularly like to thank Dr Feltham for chairing the Panel.

Simon Galton CC
Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission
4 December 2019