

**MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 2.00 PM**

**ORDER PAPER**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**(see separate sheets)**

The CHAIRMAN will invite nominations.

MR GALTON will move and MR RUSHTON will second:-

“That MR JEFFREY KAUFMAN be appointed Vice-Chairman for the period until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2021.”

On being appointed, the Vice-Chairman will read out and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which will be witnessed and signed by the Chief Executive.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman will make her announcements.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER**

(pages 3 – 4)

The CHIEF EXECUTIVE will present the report of the Returning Officer on the election of MR LESLIE MARK PHILLIMORE to the County Council at the election held on 12 December 2019.

The CHAIRMAN will welcome MR PHILLIMORE.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – MINUTES**

(Pages 5 to 22)

The CHAIRMAN will move and the VICE-CHAIRMAN will second:-

“that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 December 2019, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – 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. 6**

**QUESTION ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1) (2) &(5)**

**(A) Question by MR HUNT**

“I am very pleased to see that our fourth Local Transport Plan is being prepared to replace LTP3. Can we expect LTP4 to fulfil our Prime Minister’s vision of *“electric buses to convey us cleanly around our towns, roads that are free of the congestion that causes so much pollution, and where a new generation of cyclists pedal safely and happily to school and work in tree-dappled sunlight on their own network of fully segregated cycle paths”*, and if so can you point to any hints of this in your seminal Strategic Transport Plan 2020 to 2050?”

**Reply by MR PAIN**

“I welcome the Prime Minister’s interest in passenger transport, and the Government’s very recent announcements, including the new funding for electric buses and potential additional funding to be made available for extending cycle routes in the future. Officers are currently studying the details of these announcements to understand how the County Council can take best advantage of the new funding that might be available.

The existing LTP3 already talks about promotion of sustainable transport modes, and I would expect this to continue in LTP4. Further, we continue to provide support to passenger transport services through the County Council’s Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy, and, as previously indicated, officers are undertaking work to develop a Cycling and Walking Strategy.

Encouraging people to walk and cycle, and to use public transport are aspects of the draft Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities (LLSTP), which also references the development of town and area wider strategies, within which improving facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and passenger transport users will be important elements. Notwithstanding this, officers will review the draft LLSTP in the light of the Government’s very recent announcements and revise it as necessary.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – 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 ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

- (i) The Lead Member 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. 8  
REPORT OF THE CABINET**

(Pages 23 to 260  
and pages 3 – 53 of the supplementary pack)

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

[NOTE: The final Local Government Settlement will be discussed by the House of Commons on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020. An additional recommendation (recommendation (p)) has been added to allow for the budget proposals to be updated to take into account any new information in the final settlement.]

(A) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2023/24

MR RHODES will move and MR SHEPHERD will second:

- “(a) That subject to the items below, approval be given to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which incorporates the recommended revenue budget for 2020/21 totalling £390m as set out in Appendices A, B and D of this 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 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24, set out in Appendix B to 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 and human rights impact assessments, as may be necessary towards achieving the savings specified for those years including savings under development;

- (c) That approval is 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 Corporate Resources agreeing to funding being available;
- (d) That the level of earmarked funds as set out in Appendix J be noted and the use of those earmarked funds as indicated in that appendix 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 2020/21 be as set out in Appendix L (including 2% 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 2020/21 to 2023/24 capital programme as set out in Appendix E;
- (h) That the Director of Corporate Resources following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources be authorised to approve new capital schemes, including revenue costs associated with their delivery, shown as future developments in the capital programme, to be funded from funding available;
- (i) That the financial indicators required under the Prudential Code included in Appendix M, Annex 2 be noted and that the following limits be approved:

	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Operational boundary for external debt				
i) Borrowing	264	264	263	263
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>264</b>
Authorised limit for external debt				
i) Borrowing	274	274	273	273
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>274</b>

- (j) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to effect movement within the authorised limit for external debt between borrowing and other long-term liabilities;
- (k) That the following borrowing limits be approved for the period 2020/21 to 2023/24:
- (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>
	%	%
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

- (l) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to enter into such loans or undertake such arrangements as necessary to finance capital payments in 2020/21, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix M;
- (m) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix M, be approved including:
  - (i) The Treasury Management Policy Statement, Appendix M; Annex 4;
  - (ii) The Annual Statement of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision as set out in Appendix M, Annex 1;
- (n) That the Capital Strategy (Appendix F), Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy (Appendix G), Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Appendix H), Earmarked Funds Policy (Appendix I) and Insurance Policy (Appendix K) be approved;
- (o) That it be noted that the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool will continue for 2020/21.
- (p) That the Director of Corporate Resources following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources be authorised to make changes to the MTFs which may be required as a result of the outcome of the final Local Government Settlement for 2020/21, noting that any changes will be reported to the Cabinet.”

(B) Community Safety Strategy

MR OULD will move and MRS TAYLOR will second:

“That the Community Safety Strategy 2019 – 2021 be approved.”

(C) Corporate Parenting Strategy

MR OULD will move and MRS TAYLOR will second:

“That the Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved.”

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**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**  
**POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**Fair Funding**

There is a lot of interest understandably in the Government's levelling up agenda. In that I am very clear that my priority is to get fair funding for Leicestershire.

With that in mind I very much welcome Rishi Sunak's appointment as Chancellor of the Exchequer. He knows us and has spoken positively about our fair funding model. He knows the current system of funding is broken and that it is in dire need of reform.

Earlier last week I met with all the Leicestershire MPs alongside my senior team. The MPs are with us in wanting to secure fair funding but the issue for all of us and for the Chancellor of the Exchequer is if it will be possible to increase the quantum of funding for local government. If that does not happen, the impact of the funding review cannot be as significant as we would hope.

The MPs have met with MHCLG but I have asked them to meet also with DfE given the critical funding issues for which that Department is responsible.

I notice that Rishi Sunak is quoted as saying that all Government Departments still have to find 5% savings. I can give him a few pointers as to how to achieve savings to reinvest in front-line services.

**Devolution**

Talk of devolution is around but I don't think that we can separate it from funding. The Government's manifesto was ambitious for devolution to people and places but contained no specific plans. They are to feature in a White Paper later this year.

Ahead of the White Paper and after speaking to my Group and the Opposition Group Leaders, I paused progress of a Cabinet report on a unitary structure for Leicestershire. In my view it is inevitable that any successful model of devolution to

a region or a sub-region will require local government reorganisation where there are two-tier areas. But we need to see what the White Paper says.

Where additional funding in 'devolution deals' has been achieved elsewhere, it has been mainly to improve economic growth, infrastructure and connectivity. The growth agenda here has, of course, not been supported by all local politicians. The Government's mantra is 'no mayor, no money' and so, if the financial offer is good, I can accept that. However, I am aware that devolution deals have not increased funding in supporting vulnerable children and adults, or for improving the conditions of roads, pavements and verges, or for reinvesting in a range of preventive services, or for keeping communities safer.

So, I think we should proceed with a degree of caution and not rush into anything. I can give an assurance that there will be full consultation within my Group and through the Council's decision making process before any proposal is put forward on behalf of the County Council. There is no doubt that Leicestershire and the East Midlands have been left behind in comparison to other places, but we need to ensure that any response to the government is informed by what is best for Leicestershire, locally and regionally, and does not weaken democratic control over services or our ability to work with partners.

### **Flooding**

I want to extend my sympathy to every individual, family, business and community affected by flooding in recent days. Blake Pain will be making a separate statement about the County Council's response, funding and the seriousness of the situation.

### **Coronavirus (COVID19)**

Members will be aware of the threat posed by Coronavirus (COVID19). I would like to thank Public Health England, supported by our own public health staff, for their efforts in testing suspected cases in the East Midlands and in leading the NHS operational response locally. There has been much coverage of the positive cases in the UK but in the same time period well over 3000 suspected cases have been tested and come back negative.



Within the Council, we have issued guidance to staff on the intranet and via a manager's digest advising good hand hygiene and signposting staff to the latest national guidance. The Public Health department have answered a number of queries from schools, care homes, the private sector and departments within the Council. The Council is awaiting Government guidance on who has responsibility for housing somebody should they present as having symptoms in Leicestershire but who doesn't have somewhere to self-isolate for a fortnight.

LLR Prepared (the Local Resilience Forum) provides daily updates from national teleconferences whilst a 'briefing' Strategic Command Group, chaired by the Director of Public Health, was held last Thursday to brief public sector organisations across Leicestershire as to the current position, immediate actions and future planning.

Even though much remains unclear as to the clinical attack rate and severity of the virus it is prudent that we 'hope for the best and plan for the worst'. To that end, Departments have been requested to ensure their business continuity plans are robust and up to date as part of our preparedness planning, if this does develop into something more widespread.

## **HS2**

I welcome the Government's go-ahead for HS2. This rail link will bring significant economic benefits to Leicestershire and the wider economy acting as a catalyst for growth and investment in the cities it connects and will help to rebalance the economy north of London. HS2 will provide extra capacity both for the public and freight, relieving our already congested railway networks, whilst supporting the country's carbon reduction ambitions by taking cars and lorries off the road network.

Improved connections from the HS2 line to the wider rail network will create a step change in rail travel connecting the East Midlands to many parts of the UK with fast, efficient trains. This will sustain and add to the economic growth in our area, allowing people to access training and jobs in a much wider span of the country.

The Council is committed to playing a full and proactive role in representing local communities to put Leicestershire in the strongest possible position to benefit from

HS2. The priority will be to minimise the impact of the new railway construction and operation on Leicestershire's residents by working closely with HS2 Ltd and its contractors to ensure they consider the needs of the people affected. We will continue to work with our partners to reduce the railway's impact on the environment and local wildlife and will endeavour to limit road closures and hence disruption to local transport networks.

We will continue to work with our partners across the East Midlands to secure even better connectivity. This will be particularly around the Midland Main Line where we will keep pushing for electrification and subsequent direct HS2 services between Leicestershire stations and Toton.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Holocaust Memorial Day was established in 2000 following the Stockholm Declaration. The commemorative event held by this Council every year rightly focuses on the unique horror of the Holocaust while also recognising subsequent and ongoing atrocities. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the causes of prejudice and hatred, whether potential or actual, in our own communities and what we can do to stop identity-based hostility on any grounds from taking root.

One way to send an unequivocal message to those who wish to cause harm or distress to our local communities is through the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Antisemitism (IHRA) which the Cabinet did on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Adoption of the definition, in addition to our existing Hate Crime policies, will ensure that we have a robust approach to tackling all forms of hate crime, including those perpetrated on religious grounds, and to supporting Leicestershire's diverse communities.

**N. J. RUSHTON CC**

## COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 FEBRUARY 2020

### POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

#### Storm Dennis update

Last weekend, as a result of storm Ciara, Highways responded to 170 call outs, the calls were mainly for fallen trees and branches which caused disruption to the network. Storm Dennis followed this weekend. This storm brought with it heavy rainfall and high winds causing even more disruption on the network. The north of Leicestershire appears to have been the worst affected, with a total of 82 call outs over the weekend.

The Highways Control Room remained open throughout the weekend, with 13 gangs responding to 124 incidents which were mainly related to trees/branches down and flooding issues. The increased rainfall resulted in 65 residential properties and 9 commercial properties being flooded throughout the County (*figure based on current information*).

During the weekend of Storm Dennis the highways team main activities were dealing with flooding, signing flooded areas, providing sandbags, dealing with fallen trees and the closure of 33 roads across the County due to floodwater. This latest flooding unfortunately brings an increased risk that the condition of the network is likely to be affected by the flood water which could result in damage to carriageways with more potholes developing over the coming day. This is particularly so as our crews are currently out gritting overnight due to low temperatures with the freeze thaw action increasing the likelihood of defects occurring.

16 road closures are currently in place due to floods and 2 teams are on flood patrol today collecting signs as appropriate.

Government has opened up the Bellwin scheme in relation to storm Dennis and Leicestershire has been one of a number of counties eligible to apply. It should be noted however that this funding is only for recovery costs and has a relatively high threshold spend before any claim can be made. We will however be collating the necessary information to understand if we will be in a position to make a claim under this scheme.

In order to address the impact that severe weather events have on the highway network and local residents an additional £550K of LCC funding has been allocated to the highways budget for the coming financial year. The funding will be used to support Section 19 investigations where properties have been flooded, drainage diagnostic work using specialist equipment and to carry out the necessary repairs that this work identifies. While this is a very welcome boost to the Department's budgets, it should be recognised that this will not meet the growing level of demand for flood and drainage related works across the county.

Members will be aware that the Conservative General Election manifesto included £4bn for a 'new flood defence programme' over five years. While we don't yet know what this means for individual authorities, allocations are likely to be made as part of the March budget and we will be pressing with Government the need to maximise funding to help us address the substantial flood related issues across the county and indeed, the country.

As a reminder, Members can find the latest position on the County's roadworks by logging onto the one.network site (link - <https://one.network.org>) where an up-to-date position on roadworks and traffic interruptions such as flooding incidents, is available.