



DATE: 17 May 2023  
MY REF: RW/CCouncil  
PLEASE ASK FOR: Mrs. R. Whitelaw  
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**ORDER PAPER, QUESTIONS AND POSITION STATEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PACK**

- Order Paper, Questions and Membership of Commission,  
Committees and Boards. (Pages 3 – 16)
7. To receive position statements under Standing Order 8. (Pages 17 - 22)
- i. Position Statement from the Leader of the Council
  - ii. Position Statement from the Lead Member for Community  
and Staff Relations



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**MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2023 AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ORDER PAPER**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN**

DR FELTHAM will invite nominations.

MR RUSHTON will move and MR MULLANEY will second: -

“That DR. KEVIN FELTHAM be elected Chairman for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.”

On being elected the 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 – TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN**

THE CHAIRMAN will invite nominations.

MR RUSHTON will move and MR MULLANEY will second: -

“That MR JOE ORSON be appointed Vice-Chairman for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.”

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. 3 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The CHAIRMAN will make his announcements.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – MINUTES**

(Pages 5 – 60)

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

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, 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**  
**QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1) (2) & (5)**

**(A) Question by MR HUNT**

- “1. Many people in the north of the county are concerned that a new settlement of approximately 4,700 homes could be without adequate infrastructure or services, thereby impacting significantly on the north of the county. What reassurance can the Leader offer in response to such concerns and what is the relevant planning process?
2. Is there an adequate local transport strategy to service the East Midlands Freeport and what consideration do such plans have on our decarbonisation commitments?
3. Given that the Passenger Transport Strategy has not been updated and bus services including one Skylink service are threatened, has the authority got a plan for delivering a comprehensive public transport system between the centres of population and employment and the East Midlands Parkway.
4. Can the Leader confirm that the closure and decommissioning of Ratcliffe Power Station is still on track for 2024?
5. Are details of the Freeport secure boundary published and if so where are they accessible.
6. Given that concerns are already breaking out about development regulations within the Outer 45km boundary, could the Leader provide an early report on how planning permits will be determined in conjunction with the Freeport?
7. Is there any evidence that industrial or commercial plans in the county are being held back pending possible transfers into the area of the Freeport offering tax and regulation concessions?”

**Reply by MR BRECKON**

- “1. This site currently has no planning status; it is being promoted through the ongoing review of the North West Leicestershire Local Plan. It is for the District Council to determine if the site is potentially suitable as a housing site when it publishes its Regulation 18 Preferred Options Plan later this year.

The timescale for completing the review is unclear as the District Council is currently reviewing its Local Development Scheme to take into account, amongst other things, the need to get a better understanding of the implications of the Freeport proposals in respect of infrastructure and other local impacts. This work is ongoing.

The site has been assessed as part of the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment undertaken by the District Council which

concluded it was one of a number of potentially available and potentially deliverable sites.

The County Council will continue to work with North West Leicestershire District Council to identify the infrastructure requirements arising from the local plan review.

2. I am aware that the Freeport is in the early stages of discussing joint work with Midlands Connect and the relevant highway authorities to understand the transport impacts of the proposals and ensure connectivity is maximised by all modes of transport. This work will need to fully consider national and local net zero targets.
  3. The County Council will work with the Applicants of the Freeport tax sites through the planning process as the applications for each site comes forward to secure appropriate passenger transport provision.
  4. Publicly available information in relation to the future of the Power Station refers to decommissioning at various dates. Disclosure of any other information is a matter for Uniper, the owner of the site.
  5. The designation of East Midlands Freeport Tax Sites was made by Statutory Instrument made on 1<sup>st</sup> March:  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2022/184/made>
- The Statutory Instrument refers to maps showing the designated tax sites:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maps-of-east-midlands-freeport-tax-sites>
6. Appended for Mr Hunt's information is the relevant section from the Government's Freeport's Bidding Prospectus (November 2020). Much of the proposed changes to planning law and guidance is yet to be enacted. A Local Development Order (LDO)<sup>1</sup> is being prepared to help shape the plans for redevelopment of the East Midlands Freeport tax site at the Ratcliffe-on-Trent Power Station within Rushcliffe BC. This was subject to consultation which closed on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
  7. The East Midlands Freeport full business case, approved by the Government, is a confidential document but it places a requirement on tax site operators to take appropriate action to mitigate economic displacement from the wider local area, especially other economically disadvantaged areas. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has published a Policy paper on its strategy for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness

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<sup>1</sup>LDOs provide permitted development rights for specified types of development in defined locations. They are flexible and locally determined tools that LPAs can use to help accelerate the delivery of appropriate development in the right places. LDOs are intended to enable growth by positively and proactively shaping sustainable development in the LPA area through simplifying the planning process and making investment more attractive.

and impacts of Freeports (at programme level) which includes the overall impact of Freeports on economic growth in the wider Freeport areas and displacement is identified as a key research topic.

There is no evidence that industrial or commercial plans in the county are being 'held back' but there is no reliable means of assessing this."

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – TO RECEIVE POSITION STATEMENTS  
FROM MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

(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**

The Leader will make his statement.

**LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND STAFF RELATIONS**

The Lead Member for Children and Families will make a statement on behalf of the Lead Member for Community and Staff Relations.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8  
REPORTS OF THE CABINET**

Principal Speakers: -  
Mover of motion (as appropriate)  
Leader of the Opposition (Mr M Mullaney)

(A) YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023 - 2026  
(Pages 27 - 74)

MRS TAYLOR will move and MRS RICHARDSON will second: -

“That the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 be approved.”

(B) DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022/23 AND 2023/24

MR SHEPHERD will move and MR RUSHTON will second: -

“That Council meetings in 2023/24 and 2024/25 be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 5 July 2023
- Wednesday 27 September 2023
- Wednesday 6 December 2023
- Wednesday 21 February 2024 (to consider the budget)
- Wednesday 15 May 2024 (Annual Meeting)
- Wednesday 3 July 2024
- Wednesday 25 September 2024
- Wednesday 4 December 2024
- Wednesday 19 February 2025 (to consider the budget)
- Wednesday 14 May 2025 (Annual Meeting).”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - APPOINTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
ITEMS 11 AND 12 OF STANDING ORDER 4**

A. TO APPOINT THE LEADER (AND TO NOTE THE MEMBERS WHICH THE  
LEADER PROPOSES TO APPOINT TO THE CABINET)

Motion 1

MRS TAYLOR will move and MR SHEPHERD will second: -

“That Mr N J Rushton be appointed Leader of the Council for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.”

Motion 2

MR RUSHTON will move and MR SHEPHERD will second: -

“That it be noted that the Leader proposes to appoint the members named on List ‘1’ attached to the Order Paper as members of the Cabinet.”

**B. TO APPOINT CABINET SUPPORT MEMBERS AS THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE**

MR RUSHTON will move and MR SHEPHERD will second: -

“That the following members be appointed as Cabinet Support Members until the next Annual Meeting of the County Council, as provided for in Article 7 of the Council’s Constitution: -

Mr R Ashman CC  
Mr T Parton CC  
Mrs M Wright CC”

**C. TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**Motion 1**

MR SHEPHERD will move and MR BRAY will second: -

“That the membership of the Scrutiny Commission, Boards and Committees as set out in List ‘2’ and the Chairmen Elect and Spokespersons named in List ‘3’ attached to the Order Paper be approved.”

**Motion 2**

MR SHEPHERD will move and MR BRAY will second: -

“That the Chief Executive be authorised to make and terminate appointments to the Commission, committees, boards and other County Council bodies (not including the Cabinet) in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups to whom the seat in question has been allocated, subject in the case of those bodies set out in List ‘2’ to the Group giving one day’s notice to the Chief Executive of its wishes.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – NOTICES OF MOTION**

**(a) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – Mr Max Hunt CC**

With the consent of the Council, MR HUNT will move and MRS TAYLOR will second the following altered motion:

- “(a) Leicestershire County Council acknowledges that an increasing number of pupils are requiring a place within a special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) setting or with support in mainstream education.
- (b) The Council acknowledges the financial challenge, which is adversely affecting the delivery of SEND education and transport at the present time and notes that:



- (i) Demand for SEND in Leicestershire is higher than most other comparison authority areas;
  - (ii) Leicestershire's geography, the location of existing SEND places, and reliance on independent sector providers contribute to the constant budget pressures in SEND provision despite significant capital investment delivering c600 new places;
  - (iii) The limited funding historically for mainstream education placed additional pressure on the SEND budget, with many Leicestershire primary and secondary schools being on the funding floor;
  - (iv) The law stipulates that processing Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) for a SEND pupil should last no more than 20 weeks. This target is often not met, which creates additional pressure and stress for SEND pupils, their parents, and carers;
  - (v) Some Leicestershire households with SEND pupils are not receiving the level of support that we aspire to deliver;
  - (vi) The Council has been working with Newton Europe – an operational improvement consultant - to develop a plan to manage the financial challenge of the increased demand for SEND in Leicestershire.
- (c) This Council remains concerned that:
- (i) Leicestershire places high numbers of SEND children in the independent sector due to the current lack of sufficient local provision for children with SEN in Leicestershire;
  - (ii) Managing costs within the current level of grant funding is not possible given the current levels of demand and deficits on the SEND budget will grow in the current MTFS;
  - (iii) The wider picture is concerning. SEND budget deficits across English local authorities now exceed £3 billion.
- (d) The Council, therefore, resolves to:
- (i) Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to highlight the need to ensure that SEND funding levels fully cover the costs of the current legislative requirements as set out in the SEND Code of Practice;
  - (ii) Ensure a continued focus on the recruitment and retention of skilled and experienced staff to undertake Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments in the required timeframe.”

## APPENDIX TO AGENDA ITEM 6

## 3.6. Planning

- 3.6.1 Bidders will be able to take advantage of the planning reforms set out in the Consultation Response related to permitted development rights and simpler, area-based planning – in particular Local Development Orders (LDOs).
- 3.6.2 The government recognises the advantages that wider planning reform can bring to Freeports development. Therefore, as part of a longer-term programme of reform to England's planning system, the government is exploring the potential to go further in these areas, as well as the potential to test ambitious planning proposals in Freeports, taking advantage of the controlled spaces that they offer.
- 3.6.3 In addition to the measures set out in the Freeports Consultation, the government is actively exploring a new, simpler framework for environmental assessment, as well as intending to review the National Policy Statement for Ports in 2021.

*i. Permitted development rights*

- 3.6.4 The government has confirmed that it will amend the Part 8 Class B rights used by seaports within Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 so that they are brought into closer alignment with existing rights for airports. This change will allow for a wider range of development and operational activities to take place in seaport areas, specifically in relation to permitting the development of buildings for purposes connected with the operation of the port.
- 3.6.5 This will help to provide planning certainty to developers and enable development plans to progress more quickly through the planning system as developers will be able to benefit from these expanded permitted development rights without the need for local authority planning permission.
- 3.6.6 Some respondents to the consultation suggested additional bespoke amendments to permitted development rights may be appropriate to better support the specific needs of seaport developments. Therefore, in line with the policy consulted on, the government will explore the feasibility of including in the regulations additional amendments to the permitted developments rights of seaports suggested by respondents to the Freeports Consultation.

*ii. Simpler, area-based planning*

- 3.6.7 The government has confirmed that it will encourage local authorities and prospective bidders to consider how certain planning freedoms – in particular, Local Development Orders (LDOs) – could be used to support appropriate development in Freeport areas. These measures would help accelerate and provide greater planning certainty for defined types of development in Freeport locations. Measures would also empower local authorities to take a strategic approach to Freeports development. Bidders should provide evidence on how their development plans could be supported by an LDO.
- 3.6.8 To support this process, the government is committed to providing further assistance to successful bidders to implement LDOs in their areas and will work in partnership with local authorities to ensure successful delivery. Details of this further assistance will be provided to successful bidders.

*iii. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)*

- 3.6.9 Some respondents to the consultation noted that the threshold to meet the need to conduct an EIA is lower for ports development than other types of similar development. This subsequently affects the scope of permitted development rights for ports as developers cannot use such rights if a development requires an EIA. As part of the wider planning reforms, the government will be considering how environmental assessment can be streamlined across all forms of development while ensuring better outcomes for the environment.

*iv. National Policy Statement for Ports (NPSP)*

- 3.6.10 In the Consultation Response, the government set out that it will consider whether a review of the National Policy Statement for Ports is appropriate. As per the Secretary of State's ongoing duties in relation to reviewing the National Policy Statement for Ports under the Planning Act 2008, the government intends to review the National Policy Statement for Ports in 2021.

*v. Bidder requirements*

- 3.6.11 Bidders will need to demonstrate relevant stakeholder support for their proposals to ensure successful delivery. At a minimum, the government would expect the relevant local authorities to:
- a. Be part of the bidding coalition
  - b. Have discussed development plans as part of compiling the bid
  - c. Offer statements of support for implementing a Local Development Order (LDO) or similar mechanism
- 3.6.12 Such cooperation will be vital for ensuring development plans are able to progress smoothly through the planning system. The government expects bids to demonstrate local authority support for commercial property development within tax and customs zones, to support their growth, which could be set out in an LDO. Bidders should also account for where Freeports development affects the local housing market and demonstrate proposals to address those impacts.
- 3.6.13 In addition to the minimum requirements, successful bids should:
- a. Include qualitative proposals explaining how a Local Development Order (LDO) or similar mechanism may be used to support Freeport objectives
  - b. Provide map-based evidence of where underutilised land, including the tax sites, may be redeveloped for the purposes of Freeports development, with the appropriate support of the relevant local authority
  - c. Consider how their Freeport proposals affect local housing markets
  - d. Show how the existing local planning environment can respond or propose an approach to mitigating any adverse impacts (for example, by revising the relevant Local Plan)
- 3.6.14 The government also welcomes bids which present innovative development proposals, including those that are forward leaning on using available land to bring forward infrastructure and support businesses that further the UK's decarbonisation agenda or Net Zero ambitions.

**LIST 1****THE LEADER**

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL: Mr N J Rushton CC

**THE CABINET**

The Leader (elect) has given notice that he proposes to appoint the following members to serve on the Cabinet.

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL: Mrs D Taylor CC (Lead Member for Children and Young People)

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET:-

1. Mr P Bedford CC
2. Mr L Breckon CC
3. Mr O O'Shea CC
4. Mr B L Pain CC
5. Mrs P Posnett CC
6. Mrs C M Radford CC
7. Mrs L Richardson CC
8. Mr R J Shepherd CC

**LIST '2'****MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS****SCRUTINY COMMISSION (11)****Conservative (8)**

- 1 Mrs Page CC
- 2 Mr Poland CC
- 3 Mr Richardson CC
- 4 Mrs Fryer CC
- 5 Mr Gillard CC
- 6 Mr Morgan CC
- 7 Mr Frisby CC
8. Mr Barkley CC

**Labour (1)**

- 1 Mrs Hack CC

**Liberal Democrat (2)**

- 1 Mr Mullaney CC
- 2 Mr Galton CC

Membership to include the

- ♦ Leader of the main Opposition Group as Chairman;
- ♦ 3 Commissioners (2 Administration and 1 minority Opposition); and
- ♦ Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees (5).

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (7)****A. ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES (7)****Conservative (5)**

- 1 Mr Richardson CC
- 2 Mr Chapman CC
- 3 Mr Champion CC
- 4 Mr Hadji-Nikolaou CC
- 5 Mrs A Wright CC

**Labour (1)**

- 1 Mr Miah CC

**Liberal Democrat (1)**

- 1 Mr Boulter CC

**B. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (7)****Conservative (5)**

- 1 Mrs Fryer CC
- 2 Mr Hills CC
- 3 Mr Hadji-Nikolaou CC
- 4 Mr Ghattaroya CC
- 5 Mr Frisby CC

**Labour (1)**

- 1 Mr Hunt CC

**Liberal Democrat (1)**

- 1 Mr Welsh CC

**C. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT (7)****Conservative (5)**

- 1 Mr Gillard CC
- 2 Mr Merrie CC
- 3 Mr Phillimore CC
- 4 Mr Lovegrove CC
- 5 Mr Allen CC

**Labour (1)**

- 1 Mrs Hack CC

**Liberal Democrat (1)**

- 1 Mr Bill CC

**C. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (7)****Conservative (5)**

- 1 Mr Frisby CC
- 2 Mr Harrison CC
- 3 Mr Chapman CC
- 4 Mrs Seaton CC
- 5 Mrs Page CC

**Labour (1)**

- 1 Mr Hunt CC

**Liberal Democrat (1)**

- 1 Mr Boulter CC

**D. HEALTH (7)****Conservative (5)**

- 1 Mr Morgan CC
- 2 Mrs Seaton CC
- 3 Mr Pendleton CC
- 4 Mr Harrison CC
- 5 Mr Hills CC

**Labour (1)**

- 1 Mrs Newton CC

**Liberal Democrat (1)**

- 1 Mr Charlesworth CC

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND REGULATORY BOARD (11)****Conservative (9)**

- 1 Mr Phillimore CC
- 2 Mr Lovegrove CC
- 3 Mr Bannister CC
- 4 Mr Grimley CC
- 5 Mr Merrie CC
- 6 Mr Allen CC
- 7 Mr Harrison CC
8. Mr King CC
9. Mr Smith CC

**Labour (0)****Liberal Democrat (2)**

- 1 Mr Charlesworth CC
- 2 Mr Gamble CC

**CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE (7)****Conservative (6)**

- 1 Mr Rushton CC
- 2 Mrs Taylor CC

**Labour (0)****Liberal Democrat (1)**

- 1 Mr Mullaney CC

- 3 Mr Shepherd CC
- 4. Mr Breckon CC
- 5. Mr Bedford CC
- 6. Mr Poland

### **EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE (7)**

#### **Conservative (6)**

#### **Labour (0)**

#### **Liberal Democrat (1)**

- 1 Mr Breckon CC
- 2 Mr Bedford CC
- 3 Mr Shepherd CC
- 4 Mr Pendleton CC
- 5 Mr Harrison-Rushton CC
- 6. Mr Champion

- 1 Mrs Broadley CC

### **LOCAL PENSION COMMITTEE (5)**

#### **Conservative (4)**

#### **Labour (0)**

#### **Liberal Democrat (1)**

- 1 Mr Barkley CC
- 2 Mr Grimley CC
- 3 Mrs A Wright CC
- 4 Mr King CC

- 1 Mr Bill CC

### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (7)**

#### **Conservative (5)**

#### **Labour (0)**

#### **Liberal Democrat (2)**

- 1 Mr Barkley CC
- 2 Mr Richardson CC
- 3 Mr Orson CC
- 4 Mr Champion CC
- 5 Mr Bannister CC

- 1 Mr Boulter CC
- 2. Mr Bill

## LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMEN AND GROUP SPOKEPERSONS

	Conservative		Liberal Democrat	Labour
<b>Scrutiny Commission Commissioners</b>	Mrs Page CC	Mr Poland CC	Mr Mullaney CC	Mrs Hack CC

<b>Overview and Scrutiny</b>		Conservative		Liberal Democrat	Labour
		Chairman (elect)	Deputy Chairman (elect)	Spokesmen	Spokesperson
A.	Adults and Communities	Mr Richardson CC	Mr Chapman CC	Mr Boulter CC	Mr Miah CC
B.	Children and Families	Mrs Fryer CC	Mr Hills CC	Mr Welsh CC	Mr Hunt CC
C.	Highways and Transport	Mr Gillard CC	Mr Merrie CC	Mr Bill CC	Mrs Hack CC
D.	Environment & Climate Change	Mr Frisby CC	Mr Harrison CC	Mr Boulter CC	Mr. Hunt CC
E.	Health	Mr Morgan CC	Mrs Seaton CC	Mr Charlesworth CC	Mrs Newton CC
<b>Development Control and Regulatory Board</b>		Mr Phillimore CC	Mr Lovegrove CC	Mr Charlesworth CC	-

<b>Other Regulatory Bodies</b>	<b>Conservative Spokesperson</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat Spokesperson</b>	<b>Labour Spokesperson</b>
Constitution Committee	Mr Rushton CC	Mr Mullaney CC	-
Employment Committee	Mr Breckon CC	Mrs Broadley CC	-
Local Pension Committee	Mr Barkley CC	Mr Bill CC	-
Corporate Governance Committee	Mr Barkley CC	Mr Boulter CC	-

### Chairmanship

The Council's Constitution makes provision for the leader of the largest opposition party to be ex officio the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission.

The membership of the Scrutiny Commission includes the Chairmen of the five Scrutiny Committees.

The appointment of Chairman and Deputy Chairman are matters to be determined by the bodies themselves, but the nominations are reported to the Council (shown as "Chairman or Deputy Chairman elect").



**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023****POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****Ukrainian Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

The Council has a proud record of reaching out and supporting refugees. We continue to stand side by side with our Ukrainian friends and I am pleased to say we have supported over 1000 Ukrainian guests to build new lives in the county. We are ready to do more, if required.

We have also worked with our partners to manage the challenges presented by the relocation of asylum seekers into both hotels and houses across the county. We recognise that the sudden placement by the Home Office of asylum seekers is placing unfunded demands on council services such as education and social care. Meetings are taking place with the Home Office and we are pressing our case for additional resources to help us support these individuals and families. We have also written to all our MPs highlighting the costs involved, the deficiencies with the Home Office's consultation and engagement process, and pressed them to ensure that the distribution of asylum seekers across the region is fair.

**Meeting with Chancellor and F20 Update**

Mrs Taylor, Mr Breckon and I met the Chancellor at the end of April to discuss a fairer funding deal that Leicestershire deserves. We put our case forward for a pragmatic temporary solution that targets the lowest funded councils. The Chancellor had a very good grasp of the issues presented and acknowledged the strength of our argument.

It is a positive start, but there is still a long way to go due to the national finances.

We'll be meeting up with Lee Rowley MP, the Minister for Local Government, who was at the meeting with the Chancellor, and look forward to progressing our work with him to achieve a better funding outcome for Leicestershire.

Finally, it would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the support of the Leicestershire MPs in arranging the meeting and actively supporting us to make the case for a better funding deal.

## **Devolution Update**

Although the current deal on offer from Government for Leicestershire remains at level 2, through no fault of our own, a level 3 deal isn't available.

This has been the position for some time, and it is deeply frustrating for us knowing our original bid for a level 3 deal was the most ambitious from any of the original nine councils invited by Government to bid. On 7<sup>th</sup> February, the leadership of the county council and its chief officers held a meeting with Dehenna Davison MP, the Minister of State at DLUHC with responsibility for Devolution and County Deals, at her request, to discuss our position. I have to say it was one of the more positive and constructive meetings we have had with Government.

I have now received a follow up letter from the Minister, copied to the City Mayor, which encourages the County and City Council leaderships to be ambitious in pursuing a level 3 deal with Government. I am sure that will be helpful in our ongoing discussions.

## **Coronation of King Charles III**

Further to your announcements, Chairman, I would like to say that in order to help Leicestershire residents celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty The King, we waived the standard fee for applying for a road closure or holding an event on highway land adjacent to the road to facilitate street parties and celebrations. In total we approved 151 applications, comprising 120 road closures and a further 31 for permission to hold an event on highway land. Leicestershire County Council also provided traffic management guidance and advice to event organisers and loaned 220 road-closed signs and over 500 traffic cones to event organisers. I hope our communities across the county had an enjoyable and safe Coronation celebration.

## **Additional Pothole Funding**

Maintaining the 2700 miles of roads in Leicestershire to the standard our residents expect is becoming increasingly difficult. The impacts on our roads of traffic growth, climate change, along with decreasing budgets and the impact of inflation is becoming easy to see, so the additional £3.1m pothole funding made available by the Government is welcome. As with all maintenance money, this additional £3.1 million to reduce potholes will be used where it is most needed and in a way that will deliver the biggest benefit.

This extra money will be used alongside the current road maintenance budget to carry out additional repairs to individual potholes or groups of potholes

through patching works. While the cost of pothole repairs and patching work will vary depending on size, location and traffic management, this latest allocation will help to repair over 30,000 potholes or up to 75,000m<sup>2</sup> of carriageway patching work.

**Mr N. J. Rushton**  
**Leader of the Council**

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## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

### **POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND STAFF RELATIONS**

#### **BECOMING AN ANTI RACIST ORGANISATION**

The Council has a strong and enduring commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. This applies to the services we deliver to the communities of Leicestershire as well as the people who work for the Council. As Lead Member I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all three Group Leaders for their support.

This week has been dedicated to anti-racism. There are several events and workshops taking place across the organisation. It is part of the commitment the Council made in February 2022 to work towards becoming an anti-racist organisation.

The Council is on a continuous journey to challenge racism, prejudice, and discrimination in all its forms, and to develop a culture which is welcoming, inclusive, fair and transparent. I'd like to set out some of our achievements in the past 15 months.

- New guidance for managers to respond effectively to incidents of racist abuse of staff. This is part of the commitment to a “zero-tolerance” of racism.
- Representative interview panels and specific support for recruitment to senior positions, to ensure that the best people for the job are selected.
- A robust and thriving staff network for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff. The network provides support for staff and constructive challenge to the organisation.
- Heritage projects with people from the South Asian and Traveller communities to value their experience of living in Leicestershire and promote understanding.
- Analysis of the Census 2021 data to ensure that the workforce is representative of the communities of Leicestershire at all levels.
- Promoting an open culture where issues of race and ethnicity are discussed. The “Big Conversation” is an on-line forum, open to all staff where topics related to equality are shared. In the past year it has covered Anti-Semitism, Traveller prejudice and the Black Lives Matter movement. The authority also encourages staff to become speak-up champions and diversity champions.

The Director of Children and Families is the executive sponsor for this work and chairs a corporate task group dedicated to this work. She is supported by a dedicated senior Anti-Racism policy officer who leads on the day-to-day implementation of the action plan.

If they have not already done so, I would encourage all Members to look at the exhibition boards in the Members' Lounge and also encourage them to attend one or more of the events that are taking place this week. There will also be a special Members' Briefing on 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This will look at recent reports into the culture of the Metropolitan Police and the Fire and Rescue Services, identifying the lessons all large public sector organisations, and the need to remain vigilant and active in challenging racism and all forms of prejudice.

**Mrs P Posnett**  
**Lead Member for Community and Staff Relations**