



CABINET – FRIDAY 23 JUNE 2023

ORDER PAPER

ITEM DETAILS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Rushton – apologies.

Mrs Posnett – to attend via MS Teams.

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10)

Proposed motion

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2023 be taken as read, confirmed, and signed.

2. URGENT ITEMS

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL – SHIRE COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT GRANTS (Pages 11 - 30)

- *Mr. C. Smith CC, Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Panel, will attend the Cabinet meeting to present this report.*
- *The Scrutiny Commission considered the Report of the Review Panel at its meeting on 12 June and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked "4a".*
- *Comments have been received from Mr. M. Mullaney CC and are appended to this Order Paper, marked "4b".*

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- b) That the report of the Scrutiny Review Panel on SHIRE Community Grants and SHIRE Environment Grants be accepted;

- c) That the Chief Executive be requested to ensure that the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Panel are acted upon.

5. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2022-23 (Pages 31 - 52)

Proposed motion

That the report be noted.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMERCIAL STRATEGY AND TRADED SERVICES STRATEGY 2023-2028 (Pages 53 - 84)

- *The Scrutiny Commission considered the Annual Report at its meeting on 12 June and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked "6".*

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- b) That the performance against targets in the Commercial Strategy during 2022/23 be noted;
- c) That the future developments, as outlined in the report, and the Leicestershire Traded Services Review and Outlook for 2023/24 (appended to the report) be welcomed;
- d) That the Traded Services Strategy 2023-2028 be adopted.

7. LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOL (Pages 85 - 90)

Proposed motion

- a) That the change to the distribution mechanism for the gains from the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool be noted;
- b) That the County Council's share of the gains from the Pool be allocated through the annual Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) process, with effect from the 2024/25 financial year;
- c) That an initial allocation of £7.5m be made towards capital works on Zouch Bridge, in the event that the Council's share of gains from the Pool for 2020/21 and 2021/22 is received before the next MTFS;
- d) That from the 2024/25 financial year, the Council will:
 - (i) only commit to arrangements for the allocation of gains from the Pool for a single year;
 - (ii) not accept less than one-third of the available funding;

- e) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources, be authorised:
- (i) to approve governance arrangements for the Pool from 2024/25;
 - (ii) in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to approve the associated legal agreements.

8. PARTICIPATION IN THE HINCKLEY NATIONAL RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER PROCESS – RELEVANT REPRESENTATION AND REQUEST FOR DELEGATION (Pages 91 - 102)

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as the Relevant Representation of the County Council on the HNRFI proposal;
- b) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make submissions on behalf of the County Council during the Examination stage on the HNRFI proposals, in line with the deadlines set by the Planning Inspectorate.

9. CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN (Pages 103 – 110)

- *Comments have been received from Mr. J. Miah CC and are appended to this Order Paper, marked '9a'.*
- *A letter to Mr O'Shea from Charnwood Borough Council's Lead Member for Planning in respect of the report and the reply from the Leader of the County Council are appended to this Order Paper, marked '9b'.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the letter from Charnwood Borough Council's Lead Member for Planning be noted;
- b) That Charnwood Borough Council be reminded that:
 - (i) the County Council's support for the Charnwood draft Local Plan, approved prior to Examination in Public, was qualified in respect of committing to constructing new infrastructure upon receipt of funds from developers and the requirement to develop Area Transport Strategies to secure developer contributions; and
 - (ii) the later decision of the County Council to develop an interim approach to transport contributions reflected its concern that the extended period of Charnwood having no Local Plan created the risk of developer contributions being missed;
- c) That the County Council's objective remains in supporting the Borough Council in demonstrating that the draft Local Plan is viable, but it requires the Borough Council to recognise that:

- (i) the Area Transport Strategies and the interim approach will be delivered through the local planning process and therefore should be jointly owned and approved as such by both Councils, without which there can be no assurance that developer contributions will be secured to provide the infrastructure required by the draft Local Plan, something which the Borough Council has chosen not to accept; and
 - (ii) the County Council's affordability limit to support the infrastructure requirements of district councils' local plans has been reached in respect of existing commitments; and
- d) That the chief executive and relevant chief officers, following consultation with the Leader of the County Council and relevant Lead Members, be authorised to respond to information requests from Charnwood Borough Council following the letter to the Borough Council from the Planning Inspectors of 23rd May 2023.

10. STREET LIGHTING – PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES (Pages 111 – 136)

Proposed motion

- a) That an engagement/consultation exercise be undertaken on Option 2 – to dim all street lights, including those on traffic routes, to 30% from 20:00 across the County – as outlined in the report;
- b) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in December 2023 providing feedback on the engagement/consultation exercise and the associated risk assessment and seeking approval for a final scheme proposal;
- c) That the risks associated with each of the four Options (as detailed in the report) for a reduced provision of street lighting be noted, in particular those that would represent a departure from national design standards and an increased exposure to risk.

11. UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITY'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Pages 137 – 144)

Proposed motion

That the Director of Children and Family Services be requested to write to the Home Office and Department for Education to highlight the need for an urgent review of funding for local authorities to support asylum seekers and migrants, in particular Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

12. TRANSFORMING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) AND INCLUSION IN LEICESTERSHIRE (TSIL) PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 145 – 154)

- *Comments have been received from Mr. M. Hunt CC and are appended to this Order Paper, marked '12'.*

Proposed motion

That the Director of Children and Family Services be authorised to move to the next phase of the Transforming SEND and Inclusion in Leicestershire programme with the Service's strategic partner, Newton Europe, making the necessary contract variations under the April 2022 procurement exercise.

13. LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND JOINT LIVING WELL WITH DEMENTIA STRATEGY 2024-28 (Pages 155 – 198)

Proposed motion

- a) That the progress of the work under the current Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Living Well with Dementia Strategy 2019-2022 be noted;
- b) That the draft LLR Joint Living Well with Dementia Strategy 2024-28 be approved for a formal eight-week consultation exercise;
- c) That a further report be presented to the Cabinet in the autumn providing the outcome of the consultation and seeking approval of the final LLR Joint Living Well with Dementia Strategy and delivery plan for Leicestershire.

14. REVIEW OF HOMELESS SUPPORT SERVICES (Pages 199 – 204)

- *Comments have been received from Falcon Support Services and are appended to this Order Paper, marked '14a'.*
- *Comments have been received from Mr. J. Miah CC and are appended to this Order Paper, marked '14b'.*

Proposed motion

- a) That following a review of the current service model, which does not fund the running of the Falcon Centre or any other homeless hostel, the commencement of consultation on a draft revised delivery model for homeless support services be approved;
- b) That it be noted that the proposed new service model continues to provide advice and support for those at risk of homelessness, focussed on the Council's duty to improve health and wellbeing;
- c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in November 2023 regarding the outcome of the consultation exercise and seeking approval to proceed with the proposed model.

15. HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES IN LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (Pages 205 – 210)

Proposed motion

That the adoption of the Health in All Policies approach across the Council be noted and supported; this will include consideration of 'Health Implications' in all reports to the Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees and advocacy within every department to champion and embed Health in All Policies across the Council.

16. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

None.

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

None.

18. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 3 and 10 of Part 1 of Scheduled 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 -

East Midlands Development Company Limited (exempt under Paragraphs 1, 3 and 10)

Report of the Scrutiny Review Panel – Recycling and Household Waste Sites (exempt under Paragraphs 3 and 10)

Proposals to Develop a new Primary School to serve Market Harborough – Expressions of Interest from Academy Proposers (exempt under Paragraphs 3 and 10).

Officer to contact

Gemma Duckworth
Democratic Services
Tel: (0116) 305 6226
Email: gemma.duckworth@leics.gov.uk



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 12 JUNE 2023

**FINAL REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL ON SHIRE
COMMUNITY GRANT AND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT GRANT
PROGRAMMES**

MINUTE EXTRACT

The Commission considered a report of the Scrutiny Review Panel on SHIRE Community Grants and SHIRE Environment Grants. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 10' is filed with these minutes.

Mr C. Smith CC, Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Panel, introduced the report. He reminded the Commission that the Panel had been established at its request following its consideration of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2026/27 in January 2023 which included the proposal to cease delivery of both SHIRE Grant programmes with immediate effect. Members noted that the aim of the review was to determine the impact and value for money achieved through both Grant programmes and to consider the likely effects of discontinuation.

In presenting the report the Chairman welcomed and thanked external witnesses that had contributed to the review.

Arising from discussion, the following points were made:

- (i) Whilst it was acknowledged that it was not unusual for organisations to seek repeat funding, the majority of the Panel had been concerned at the level of such applications, particularly as such organisations had no metrics to show the benefits and outcomes achieved with the grant provided which was sometimes substantial.
- (ii) The Council had a significant funding gap of over £80m that needed to be addressed and so it had to be recognised that its resources needed to be prioritised towards its core statutory duties such as child and adult social care.
- (iii) The situation was regrettable and a reflection of the current financial position of the Council which continued to be the lowest funded local authority in the country.
- (iv) A Member commented that the programmes had grown significantly over the years and were being provided to organisations that were not intended to be the original recipients of such financial support. The Grants had

been established to support small community groups and not to support organisations that already had other funding streams, were large enough to employ staff, or those able to raise money by way of a precept. Such organisations had rightly applied in line with the Council's criteria, but this could no longer be sustained.

- (v) All Members recognised that the organisations that sought either grant funding were undertaking valuable work and providing excellent support to communities and that the Panel's recommendations were regrettable. However, the majority commented that difficult financial decisions were necessary at the current time, though it was hoped this could be reviewed again at some future date.
- (vi) Members noted that there were other grant schemes available from organisations with significantly more funding, such as Lloyds Bank and the National Lottery Fund and welcomed plans to ensure officers were able to continue to provide advice, support and signpost to where such funding was still available.
- (vii) A Member expressed disappointment that a reduced grant programme could not be provided for and that the Panel's proposals would mean the Council went from a position of providing a broad Grants programme to providing nothing within a year.
- (viii) A Member further commented that the Grant Programmes had been expanded during the pandemic and suggested that rather than abolishing the programmes entirely, more could perhaps be done to return the scheme to pre-covid levels or for tighter rules to be imposed to prevent repeat applications.
- (ix) Another Member commented that to remove the grants entirely would inevitably impact communities as many of the organisations receiving funding provided services and support where the Council was already unable to do so due to limited resources. Some Members commented that a recommendation for smaller grant fund programmes that were more targeted so as to address the concerns raised by the Panel had been hoped for.
- (x) In response to the concerns raised, the Chairman of the Review Panel commented that by ensuring the Grant Programmes continued for a further year, though on a more targeted basis, this would ensure organisations would have time to seek advice and source alternative funding streams and that Council officers would be on hand to support them in that process. The Chairman further commented that no one wished to see the Grant Programmes brought to an end, but on balance, in the face of current financial pressures, this was considered the best approach. If circumstances improved, then it was hoped the matter could be revisited.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Scrutiny Review Panel on SHIRE Community and SHIRE Environment Grants be recommended for consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting on 23 June 2023 for consideration.

(The Resolution was put and carried, 8 members voting in favour, 3 members voting against.)

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Submission Cabinet meeting of June 23rd 2023 Item 4 Report of the Scrutiny Review Panel – SHIRE Community Grants and SHIRE Environment Grants

I write to request the Cabinet re-consider its proposal to phase out the SHIRE Community Grants and Shire Environmental Grants. The SHIRE grants support local community groups in Leicestershire deliver important projects. These projects often relate to key issues at the moment of supporting local community organisations and protecting the environment.

I must disagree with the Cabinets recommendation of abolishing the SHIRE grants scheme after 2023/24.

Whilst I understand there has been an increase in the amount allocated to the SHIRE Grants since the outbreak of Covid-19 could the amount allocated to them not be returned to levels similar to the Pre-Covid period? Also concerns have been raised about groups making multiple applications over a number of years, instead of abolishing the scheme altogether just amend rules to limit grants to new applicants only. While the grants are meant for small community groups instead of large organisations again changing the rules to limit them to small community groups rather than abolishing the scheme altogether seems to be the way forward.

I would urge the Cabinet to drop it's proposals to abolish the SHIRE grants and instead continue the scheme with a reduced fund targeted specifically at small local community groups in Leicestershire.

Councillor Michael Mullaney
Leader of the Opposition Leicestershire County Council

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SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 12 JUNE 2023

**COMMERCIAL STRATEGY ANNUAL UPDATE AND PERFORMANCE
REVIEW**

MINUTE EXTRACT

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which provided an update on the performance of Leicestershire Traded Services (LTS) during 2022/23. The report also sought the Commission's views on the revised Traded Services Strategy (previously titled the Commercial Strategy) for 2023-28. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 12' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points arose:

- (i) Whilst all traded services had recovered well over the last 12 months, wage inflation and rising energy costs had unfortunately eroded these improvements and so overall contribution was still down compared to target.
- (ii) Members were particularly interested in the performance of Beaumanor Hall. Whilst it had performed well, the changes having been made to address the deficits in previous years arising from Covid now coming to fruition, its financial performance had been affected by increased energy costs given the age and size of the building, and other inflationary pressures.
- (iii) The school meals service had continued to face significant challenges, but these were also being experienced by other similar organisations providing such services and so the Council's position was not unusual.
- (iv) Whilst it was clear that every effort was being made by officers in the face of some very significant and unexpected challenges, a Member commented that a very significant increase in turnover would be needed to address the gap in contribution versus the MTFs figure. A Member further highlighted that before Covid, the Council's traded services were making a profit and contributing to the Council's budget, avoiding the need for more cuts. Further consideration of the planned approach to return to such a position would be beneficial.
- (v) In response to concerns raised, Members were reassured that in considering the profitability and future improvement of each traded service, all aspects of the business were considered as well as different types of

operating models, including outsourcing. In respect of country park cafes, for example, the cost of car parking was considered to ensure this was not prohibitive. In respect of Beaumanor Hall, external advisors had been engaged to provide advice on future improvements to both its external activities and wedding services.

- (vi) A Member commented that as the Council was facing some stark decisions regarding its future spending it would be necessary to shine a spotlight on all services provided, particularly those that were discretionary, like traded services.
- (vii) Members requested that a Scrutiny Commission workshop be held to discuss in more depth the service action plans and the costs and income generated by all traded services noting the need to manage some commercially sensitive information. A Member further suggested that after the workshop, in approximately six months' time, a further performance update report be presented to a future Scrutiny Commission meeting.
- (viii) Efforts had been made to encourage schools that had missed out on residential activities at Beaumanor Hall as a result of Covid-19, to now take these up, this being beneficial for the business but in particular the children that were otherwise missing out. However, increased transport costs were challenging for some schools. In any event, the service was actively working with head teachers to try and expand and adapt the offer to encourage more visits in future.
- (ix) It was suggested that the proposed workshop would be helpful to demonstrate the journey the Council had been on over the last year and following the pandemic, as well as providing an opportunity to share the input of external advisors on how to make services like Beaumanor Hall more effective for the future.
- (x) It was recognised that some organisations which the Council traded with were also going through difficult times. For example, school budgets were also being squeezed which was affecting both the school meals service and Beaumanor Hall. It was anticipated that the school meals business would be smaller going forward as schools and multi-academy trusts sought to retender their catering operations. As the ethos of the Council's school meal service is to offer food which is both affordable, but also healthy and locally sourced, where possible, a fall in customers was expected if schools valued cheap provision ahead of a quality offer. A degree of flexibility had been built into the service to respond as necessary.
- (xi) A Member commented that, in terms of country parks and cafes etc. it was not entirely clear what assets the Council owned and from which it operated a traded service/generated an income and suggested that more clarity could be provided on this within future reports.

- (xii) The previous Strategy had set both the strategic direction for the service and included an overall action plan of outcomes to be achieved. Such a centralised, prescriptive approach was no longer considered appropriate given the varied nature of the Council's traded services. The new Strategy had been revised to set the overall strategic principles which would guide the Council's approach to traded activity in the future. Action Plans would then be produced and included within service plans, ensuring alignment to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. A Member commented that sight of those service plans would enable more detailed scrutiny to be undertaken on how well each traded service was recovering and the Director undertook to share details with Members outside the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the performance update on Leicestershire Traded Services (LTS) during 2022/23 and the revised Traded Services Strategy (previously titled the Commercial Strategy) for 2023-28 be noted;
- (b) That the comments now made by the Scrutiny Commission be presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 23 June 2023 for consideration;
- (c) That a Scrutiny Commission workshop be held to consider in more depth the Council's traded services, related action plans and the costs (including capital costs) and income being generated;
- (d) That following the workshop referred to in (c) above, a further report be presented to the Scrutiny Commission in six months' time providing a further update on performance.

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Member Response to Cabinet Item 9**Charnwood Borough Council's Local Plan**

Dear Cabinet,

I write to you in my capacity as County Councillor for Loughborough East and as well as the Leader of Charnwood Borough Council.

As you may be aware Charnwood's local plan is with the Inspector and is approaching its final stages before it is put before the full council to be voted on before adoption.

The inspector has asked for some further Highway works to be done and presented back. Any delay in this work will delay the adoption of the plan further and give opportunity to speculative development to continue throughout the Borough.

The lead member for planning in Charnwood, Cllr Kanchan Jadeja, has written to Cllr O'Shea twice already to reassure him as the portfolio holder of the new administrations intention to carry on with the current plan.

I see that the paper asks for a public commitment through a resolution at Council. As the next council meeting is not until 4 September this timeline is not practicable and will push any adoption of the plan further in to 2024.

We had a position statement at our last full council 19th June where it was reiterated support for the current plan to move forward and I want to give you that reassurance again today.

I ask for cabinet to withdraw the report and instruct their Highways officer to carry on with the work required by the Inspector and allow the plan to come in a timely manner back to Charnwood for full adoption.

Jewel Miah

County Councillor Loughborough East

Leader, Charnwood Borough Council

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Southfield Road, Loughborough,
Leicestershire, LE11 2TX
Telephone: 01509 634781
Ask for: Councillor Kanchan Jadeja
Email: Kanchan.jadeja@charnwood.gov.uk

20th June 2023

County Councillor O'Shea,
Lead Member, Highways, Transportation & Flooding
Members' Secretariat
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RA

Dear County Councillor O'Shea,

In my previous letter to you of 12 June 2023 I outlined the importance of the County Council and Borough Council working together to evidence the draft Local Plan so it can be moved quickly towards adoption. I explained this is the only way to bring control to unplanned development occurring in the Borough and to ensure that the impact of growth on our communities is appropriately mitigated. I also warned that the County Council's delay in responding to the Planning Inspectors' requests of 23 May 2023 was illogical and was exacerbating the problem of unplanned growth.

I have now seen the published report for the County Cabinet meeting on 23 June 2023 that relates to the Charnwood Local plan and its recommendations seeking formal commitment from the Borough Council. Given all the written commitments that have been given on this subject to you and your officers in the last few weeks and the excellent track record of joint officer working on this plan across Leicester and Leicestershire, I am surprised that your Cabinet feels the need for a formal resolution of the Borough Council before it can have confidence to re-engage and commit its resources. Our next scheduled meeting of Council is 4 September, and I cannot understand why the County Council believes delaying a decision until then is in the best interests of communities in Charnwood and Leicestershire. Furthermore, passing a formal resolution indicating support for the Local Plan could be seen as predetermination and risk legal challenge.

At the Borough's Council meeting on 19 June, the Leader provided a position statement on the draft Local plan and clarified the Labour manifesto commitment. I have copied that statement to this letter for your convenience but in summary it expresses the administration's commitment to progressing the draft local plan through to adoption later this year. It also commits to working with the County Council in developing and implementing its transport strategies, including the Interim Transport Strategy for Charnwood, and the collection of appropriate developer contributions for transport and education infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of growth.



Telephone: 01509 263151

Email: information@charnwood.gov.uk

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For its part, the Borough Council has finalised the Planning Inspectors' requests. The only outstanding information is that from the County Council shown in bold below:

1. **the broad contents of the Transport Strategies for Loughborough Urban Centre, Shepshed Urban Area, North of Leicester and Soar Valley**
2. Updates to the Viability Assessment reflecting **updated school build costs and indicative costs of Transport Strategies**
3. The Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (Exam 57)
4. The proposed approach to increasing housing land supply as set out in Exam 56
5. Updated completions/housing land supply monitoring data to 31.3.23

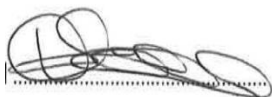
I cannot stress enough the importance of the Charnwood Local Plan being found sound and adopted. If this plan fails, it is likely to undermine efforts to plan the wider Leicester and Leicestershire area and delay the progress of local plans for other authorities. This would have consequential impacts on economic growth, the coordination of infrastructure and the delivery of much needed homes.

I therefore believe it is in everyone's interests to withdraw the County Cabinet report from the agenda or at the very least to amend its recommendations to acknowledge the commitments made to date and to confirm re-engagement.

I have copied this letter to all Leicestershire County Council Cabinet Members and to Charnwood County and Borough Councillors given the serious implications of the Leicestershire County Council cabinet report for plan-making in Charnwood and Leicestershire.

I hope we can overcome this issue and work collaboratively together and I would be pleased to meet with you to help build trust and confidence in our shared agenda.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Kanchan Jadeja
Lead Member for Planning

CC: All Borough Councillors
County Cabinet Members
Charnwood County Council Members
John Sinnott CEO of LCC



This meeting will be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website: charnwood.gov.uk/pages/committees

Please also note that under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of any images or sound recordings is not under the Council's control.

To: All Members of the Borough Council

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Charnwood Borough Council to be held in the Room CC021, James France Building, Central Park, Loughborough University Campus on Monday, 19th June 2023 at 6.30 pm for the following business.

Chief Executive

Southfields
Loughborough

16th June 2023

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

8. POSITION STATEMENTS

8.1. LOCAL PLAN

3

To consider a Position Statement submitted by the Conservative Group under Full Council Procedure 9.10.

10. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

4 - 9

To deal with the following questions on notice, submitted under Full Council Procedure 9.9(a):

10.1. LANDLORD SERVICES

Question submitted by Councillor D Taylor.

10.2. VOIDS IN RESIDENTIAL HOUSING STOCK

Question submitted by Councillor Infield.

10.3. PUBLIC EV CHARGING POINTS IN CHARNWOOD

Question submitted by Councillor Bokor.

10.4. SOLAR PANELS ON NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN CHARNWOOD

Question submitted by Councillor Bokor.

10.5. NEW COUNCIL HOUSING

Question submitted by Councillor Bokor.

10.6. NET-ZERO BY 2023 GOALS

Question submitted by Councillor Lawrence.

10.7. WASTE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Question submitted by Councillor Needham.

Councillors, please send your question, request for position statement or motion on notice to:

Karen Widdowson, Democratic Services Manager
Council Offices, Southfield Road, Loughborough, LE11 2TX
Email: democracy@charnwood.gov.uk

ITEM 8 - POSITION STATEMENT – LOCAL PLAN

The Conservative Group have given notice of the following Position Statement to be presented at the meeting:

“The Conservative Group note the statement made in the Labour Manifesto:

Develop a new local plan covering the whole of Charnwood that by default refuses any development outside of existing town or village boundaries and instead setting a preference for brownfield sites to be developed first.

Accordingly, the Conservative Group believe clarity needs to be established on the following.

1. Do the Labour/Green administration support the current new local plan which is in the final stages after examination?
2. Confirm the Labour Group voted for the current new local plan when agreed to send to examination at Full Council?
3. What are the timescales to deliver a new local plan by the Labour/Green administration?
4. What effect will this new proposal have on delivering a five-year housing land supply?”

Response:

1. Yes. Without being predetermined, the Labour and Green groups both intend to support the current draft Local Plan, if it is found to be sound during the final stages of examination.
2. Yes.
3. The timescales associated with the current draft Local Plan were agreed by Cabinet in March 2023 and are set out in the Local Development Scheme. The Labour Manifesto refers to a future local plan beyond the current draft Local Plan, which if adopted runs to 2037. A timetable for this future local plan will need to be developed.
4. When the current draft Local Plan is adopted, the Council will be able to demonstrate a five-year housing supply. The Labour Manifesto statement has no implications for the five-year supply in this case. However, it should be noted that the timetable for the draft local plan is not currently within the control of the Council, as the examination process is driven by the Planning Inspectorate. The progress of the plan will therefore be dependent on all participants, including the County Council, responding to the demands of the Inspectorate quickly and without interruption. The position outlined by the County Council in its published Cabinet report for 23rd June 2023 risks slowing the progress of the Local Plan and increases the risk of unplanned development. It also puts at risk the opportunity to secure appropriate developer contributions. It should be noted that Charnwood Borough Council will continue to support the County Council in developing and implementing its transport strategies, including the Interim Transport Strategy for Charnwood, and the collection of appropriate developer contributions for transport and education infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of growth prior to the adoption of the draft local plan.

COUNCIL – 19TH JUNE 2023ITEM 10 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE10.1 Councillor D Taylor – Landlord Services

Following the Landlord Services Capacity paper that went to Cabinet on 1st June, can the Lead Member please provide the following information:

The Leader or his nominee will respond;

1. How many council-owned void properties does the council have at the current time?

404

2. How many council-owned properties are waiting for major repairs that are empty?

139, of which 50 are sheltered.

3. With the additional HRA salary increase budget of £102.8k how many council-owned properties will be decarbonised and how many sheltered accommodation blocks will be improved?

This investment will fund a dedicated Head of Landlord Services post to provide capacity to (amongst other things) take forward key actions contained in the Housing Asset Management Strategy 2023-2028 which was approved by Cabinet on the 9th March 2023. These actions include development of a roadmap for delivery of SAP C by 2030 and net zero carbon by 2050, and plans for improvements to sheltered accommodation. The quantities will be determined through development and progression of these plans.

4. With the additional £500k each year to be drawn down from the HRA Financing Fund, how many council-owned void properties are planned to be brought back to rentable condition each year?

It is expected a significant proportion of the £500k made available for investment will be used to increase the resources focussed on void repairs.

The number of void properties repaired by the in-house team over the last two years is set out below.

<i>21/22</i>	<i>263 voids</i>
<i>22/23</i>	<i>380 voids</i>

Whilst properties require varying degrees of work it is reasonable to presume that an increase in the capacity of the in-house team (or equivalent contracted capacity) would lead to a broadly proportionate increase in voids repaired.

10.2 Councillor Infield – Voids in Residential Housing Stock

What plans does the administration have to reduce the present high number of voids in its residential housing stock, and also to reduce the considerable backlog of housing repairs?

The Leader or his nominee will respond;

The recent Cabinet report titled Landlord Services Capacity set out a plan to put a dedicated Head of Landlord Services in place. It is anticipated this officer will play a key role around increasing our capacity to deal with the backlog of voids and deliver repairs faster.

Contracts worth over £20 million have recently been procured to deliver planned maintenance activity and are at various stages of mobilisation. Some of this is taking longer than expected as contractors have experienced labour and supply chain problems, which is a national issue. Contractors are taking steps to address this; however, the position has been further compounded by a slowdown in the provision of asbestos surveys to the Council, which are necessary for renovation works to take place. The Council has, in recent weeks, procured an additional asbestos surveying contractor. Delivery is therefore expected to increase significantly over the coming months as contractor resources increase in parallel with asbestos surveying.

10.3 Councillor Bokor - Public EV Charging Points in Charnwood

Could the Labour/Green Leader inform Council of its plans for introducing more public EV charging points in Charnwood as this is proven to be the main obstacle to people purchasing electric cars? There are only three in the Borough at the moment at Thurmaston, McDonalds Dishley & McDonalds Shelthorpe. What about Syston and Anstey?

The Leader or his nominee will respond;

There are other Electric Vehicle (EV) charging sites in the Borough which can be found on the Zap Map App. Charnwood Borough Council have four publicly available charge points on car parks in the Borough.

Charnwood Borough Council's Street Management Team put in a public electric vehicle charger in Beehive car park in 2012. This is a dual 7kW fast charger. The Council also have electric vehicle chargers dedicated to our Street management all electric wardens' vehicles (since 2014).

The Council have worked in partnership with the national highways authority to site a 50kW dual 'rapid' charger on Sileby car park for public use.

Projects Street Management are currently working on or supporting:

ORCS (On-Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme) – Sileby and Anstey

ORCS is a government funded scheme to provide Electric Vehicle infrastructure for residents that do not have driveways and therefore cannot charge vehicles from their homes. ORCS funding has been awarded to CBC and a contractor procured for: Anstey 4 x fast dual units, Sileby 3 x fast dual units. Legal contracts and lease agreements have finally been completed, so installation work should commence on-site imminently

Beehive and Southfields Offices Charge Electric Vehicle Charge Points

The Council has agreed the expansion of Electric Vehicle Charge Points (EVCPs) at Beehive Lane and Southfields Offices car parks. It is considered prudent to have the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) supply set up first with distribution and cabling installed and then the charge points can be added incrementally as demand increases. Initial supplier information has been received with cost estimates. Procurement will commence once further information on operating options is received.

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Funding Leicestershire County Council (LCC) on street EVCPs

(LCC) are leading on a project for on-street residential charge points. LCC have been awarded funding through the government's LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) scheme. Charnwood Borough Council will have little involvement other than discussions on the proposed on-street site locations – All sites being on County Council highways

Flex-D solar hubs partly using LEVI funding and car share scheme Charnwood Borough Council is part of a Leicestershire wide project which has been awarded LEVI funding for the installation of Solar canopies, battery storage and electric vehicle charge points in Public car parks throughout the County. The project is headed up by Harborough District Council and supported by Nottingham City Council "Green" experts.

10.4 Councillor Bokor - Solar Panels on New Housing Developments in Charnwood

Could the Labour/Green Leader inform Council about making solar panels mandatory on all new housing developments in Charnwood, similar to the new houses being built in Rushcliffe off the A6006 at Sutton Bonington? If not, why not? In the same vein, is there any plans for installing solar panels on the Council offices and building assets, such as the Town Hall. Since the latter is having extensive roof repairs after the fire, surely this is a golden opportunity to make the Town Hall more energy self-sufficient and save money in the long term ?

The Leader or his nominee will respond;

Core Strategy Policy CS16 seeks to encourage sustainable construction to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. However, planning policies cannot mandate the installation of solar panels because the regulation of these is governed by the Building Act 1984 and its Building Regulations. In setting the Building Regulations for this country the government has not chosen to mandate the installation of solar panels on new dwellings.

The Head of Assets & Property advises the option to install Photo Voltaic (PV) panels on the Council Offices and Town Hall to generate electricity has been explored along with options to improve several other significant assets. Energy efficient project feasibility studies are under regular review through the Climate Action Delivery Board.

However, the council is also currently conducting a strategic review of its operational assets to determine the future needs for the authority. It would not be appropriate to invest in further studies or installations until such time as the results of this wider assets review are known.

10.5 Councillor Bokor – New Council Housing

Could the Labour/Green Leader confirm what Council owned land is available in Loughborough or other towns in the borough to build new council housing as promised in their manifesto. How many could be achieved and at what estimated cost to the taxpayer? How would they raise the money?

The Leader or his nominee will respond;

The housing revenue account is funded by tenants' rent payments, not through taxes. Potential sources of funding for new council housing are:

- *Use of the HRA Self Financing Fund*
- *Additional borrowing*
- *Right to Buy receipts*
- *Grant from Homes England*

An indicative map showing land owned by the Council can be found on the Council's website at the page Interactive Maps. Work will need to take place to determine sites that are suitable for development.

10.6 Councillor Lawrence - Net-Zero by 2030 Goals

What steps will the administration take to ensure that the Council is on track to meet its net-zero by 2030 goals?

The Leader or his nominee will respond;

The Council has historically maintained two separate strategy documents for moving the Council towards Net Zero: The Climate Action Strategy (CAS) and the Carbon Neutral Plan (CNP). The CAS was originally used to capture service actions that contributed to environmental goals, whereas the CNP focused more on actions to reduce the Council's carbon score. The separate nature of these strategies meant that there was opportunity for actions to not be recognised or coordinated.

Officers have completed a new, combined strategy that blends both, and has had significant consultation with the public and partners. This The Plan is overseen by the Climate Action Board. Actions in the Plan are being progressed with collaboration from a number of Council services. Planned investments and efforts being made by different parts of the Council are taken into account to ensure the 2030 Net Zero goal is progressed. There are 13 projects within the Plan some of which require feasibility studies. There has been a notable change in costs of low carbon technology which has had an impact on progressing some actions. These changes have created new challenges but may create new opportunities or priorities which are not featured in this plan.

This will be coming to Members for consideration, following approvals from the Senior Leadership Team.

10.7 Councillor Needham - Waste Management Scrutiny Panel

Late last year, the Waste Management Scrutiny Panel made thirteen recommendations to Cabinet. Please could the Lead Member provide an update on the progress of these recommendations and assurances that they will be implemented, with a view to ensuring that the Council can demonstrate its commitment to good waste management and recycling?

The Leader or his nominee will respond;

It is standard practice to submit six monthly follow up reports to the Scrutiny Commission to confirm progress with the implementation of Panel recommendations. A detailed implementation update report will be considered at the Scrutiny Commission meeting on 3rd July 2023.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO COUNCIL – PROCEDURE

- Councillors are required to submit a question on notice in writing by 12noon on the eighth working day prior to Council, the title of the question is published on the Council Agenda.
- Questions and responses will be published at the end of the previous working day (usually the Friday prior to a Council meeting on a Monday) and will be available at the Council meeting for Councillors, the press, and the public.
- After the questions and responses are published **Councillors may indicate that they wish to ask a supplementary question by noon on the day of the Council meeting.**
- The Mayor will invite those Councillors who have indicated that they wish to do so to ask a supplementary question.
- The Leader (or relevant Lead Member on behalf of the Leader) or Chair of the Committee is able to respond.
- The total time each person can speak on a single question is time limited.

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Cllr Kanchan Jadeja
Lead Member for Planning
Charnwood Borough Council
Southfield Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 2TX

22nd June 2023


Dear Cllr Jadeja

Charnwood Local Plan

I am replying to your letter of 20th June to Mr O'Shea. We will not be withdrawing the report to the Cabinet this Friday but will amend the recommendations to take your letter into account.

Your letter and your Leader's Position statement on the draft Local Plan provide the opportunity for the Cabinet to reaffirm the County Council's position in respect of the Local Plan. I am not aware that has previously been reported by your officers to the Borough Council's Cabinet or Council.

Yours sincerely



Nicholas Rushton CC
Leader of the Council

CC: All Borough Councillors
County Cabinet Members
Charnwood County Council Members
John Sinnott CEO of LCC

Cabinet Office
Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire. LE3 8RA
Telephone: 0116 3056111
Email: nicholas.rushton@leics.gov.uk

Nicholas Rushton, Leader Leicestershire County Council
www.leicestershire.gov.uk

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Submission to Cabinet
23rd June 2023



From Max Hunt CC, Labour Children and Family Services Spokesperson

Item 12: TRANSFORMING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) AND INCLUSION IN LEICESTERSHIRE (TSIL) PROGRAMME UPDATE

In seeking to understand the extension to the TSIL contract, Council needs to be clear

- a) Exactly what the *cost and period of the extended contract* is (not shown in the MTFS figures)
- b) The difference between *identifying* and *delivering* savings
- c) Some clearer *deliveries from the current year* and subsequently.
- d) The *risk associated* with the number of mainstream places needed in the county.

The Labour Group supports the delivery of benefits and efficiencies which meet parents' reasonable expectations. We understand that the rising deficit is not sustainable but are mindful that it is the consequence of many years of public service austerity falling on the most vulnerable children.

We are concerned that the programme may not yield adequate places in mainstream school or of the right standard. And as such we believe the extended contract has yet to demonstrate that it will actually deliver.

Finally, our greatest fear is that the outcome of the exercise will result in a second rate education for many SEND children. Whilst we are confident this is not the aim of the project, we will be vigilant to that possibility.

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CABINET – 23 JUNE 2023 - REVIEW OF HOMELESS SUPPORT SERVICES

COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF FALCON SUPPORT SERVICES

Introduction
We are submitting these comments and further context in relation to the Cabinet Paper “Review of Homeless Support Services” that is being presented to Cabinet on Friday 23 rd June.
Comments
<p>The current funding model for homeless support services does not pay for the running of homeless hostel buildings, such as the Falcon Centre. However, for the Falcon Centre to be classed as exempt accommodation and therefore eligible for the Housing Benefit it must have 5-7 hours per week, per person or care, support, and supervision.</p> <p>As such if this funding is fully withdrawn, the Falcon Centre would close and remove 30 bed homeless hostel building*, and this will directly impact the number of people rough sleeping in Leicestershire, going directly against the Governments Manifesto 2019 and the Ending Rough Sleeping for Good 2022, but also will negatively impact the Health and Wellbeing of the population in Leicestershire.</p> <p>“If the support stops it would mean that the Falcon Centre would no longer be classed as exempt accommodation and all Housing Benefit would have to stop.” Capita Team Leader</p>
Need
<p>We understand that Leicestershire County Council does not have a statutory responsibility for homelessness, but we still feel there is a substantial need and benefit for Leicestershire County Council to keep commissioning a homeless provision. The investment in homelessness services generates a saving to other areas of public spending such as health, social care, and the criminal justice system.</p> <p>We house and support 100 people a year at the Falcon Centre. We had 269 referrals for the Falcon Centre 2022-23, (an increase of 42% in the last 5 years). In addition, we had 486 individuals, (8,072 visits) last year, supported through the Community Drop In held at the Falcon Centre which delivers homeless prevention, early intervention and health services to reduce health inequalities.</p> <p>We are the only accommodation provider in Leicestershire accommodating complex needs, dual diagnosis and high-risk individuals. This includes non-priority and priority need that have been found intentionally homeless.</p>
Proposed Model
We agree that First Contact Plus and the Local Area Co-ordinator service are good existing services which deliver low level generic support, where eligibility is wider, although it lacks the knowledge and expertise required for homelessness. With evidence showing that the homeless population are the most marginalised group, we know they struggle to engage in generic service offers as well as lack digital competency, literacy skills, access to computer, phone, and internet we therefore have concerns that this would meet the needs of this population.
Moving Forward
As part of the review of homeless support services we would be more than happy to be involved in the consultation process, assist with engaging with district councils, and would welcome you to visit the current provision and open to working together so Leicestershire County Council can make some savings and we can find a way forward that doesn’t remove the vital safety net for vulnerable homeless individuals.

*In 2015 Leicestershire County Council cut funding from Kennedy House, the South Leicestershire hostel building which subsequently closed; demonstrating the impact of the support contract cuts on providing homeless hostel buildings.

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Submission to Cabinet23rd June 2023

From Jewel Miah CC, Labour Adults and Communities Spokesperson and County Councillor for the Division the Falcon Centre is located in.

Item 14: REVIEW OF HOMELESS SUPPORT SERVICES

I am concerned that the withdrawal of funding would lead to the closure of the Falcon Center, Loughborough and the loss of a vital service to some of the most vulnerable people in Leicestershire.

The Falcon Centre is an established service provider for homelessness, and I am informed by it's CEO, Marie Davis, that the Cabinet's decision if enacted will lead to its closure.

Marie has been in contact to make the following points which I echo,

*Existing Service Provision**Point 20.*

We agree that the funding does not pay for the running of homeless hostel buildings, such as the Falcon Centre. However, for the Falcon Centre to be classed as exempt accommodation and therefore eligible for the Housing Benefit, the residents must receive 5-7 hours per week, per person of care, support, and supervision.

"If the support stops it would mean that the Falcon Centre would no longer be classed as exempt accommodation and all Housing Benefit would have to stop."

Capita Team Leader

Therefore, if this funding is withdrawn, the Falcon Centre would close, and the County would lose a 30-bed homeless hostel building.

Point 21.

We would like to express our opinion on the word 'underutilised' which we feel is an unfair comment. Our bed spaces are always full and oversubscribed due to the increasing demand for homelessness services across Leicestershire, seeing 269 referrals for the Falcon Centre last year (a 42% increase over the last 5 years) we provide accommodation to 100 vulnerable homeless individuals each year.

We have met all contractual obligations throughout the contract, which includes the eligibility set by Leicestershire County Council of non-priority need. Districts do not have a duty to accommodate:

- *non-priority homeless*
- *priority but found intentionally homeless.*

We deliver services from Loughborough (where the highest need of homelessness is) for the benefit of the whole of Leicestershire. There used to be a provision based in South Leicestershire called Kennedy House that had its funding cut by Leicestershire County Council in 2015 and subsequently closed; demonstrating the impact of the support contract cuts on providing homeless hostel buildings.

Therefore, if this funding is withdrawn, the Falcon Centre would close, and the County would lose a 30-bed homeless hostel building.

Proposed Service Provision

Point 22.

We agree that First Contact Plus and the Local Area Co-Ordinator service are good existing public health services where eligibility is wider. But evidence shows that the homeless population are the most marginalised group with the worst health outcomes, and they struggle to engage in generic health service offers. I would also ask why we have increasing numbers of homelessness and complex needs when the First Contact Plus and Local Area Co-Ordinator's are already in place? Is the proposal to extend these services?

Point 26.

The First Contact Plus is an online tool which assume adults have access to the internet, computer or phone access, digital competency, and literacy skills. It also relies on information being up to date, which currently, it is not. We would like to highlight that the existing service provision of homeless support services actively undertake and engage with all the services listed, with many operating out of the Falcon Centre in order to engage our client group.

Point 27.

The Local Area Co-Ordinator service delivers low level generic support which lacks the specialised knowledge and expertise with regards to homelessness. Given the numbers of individuals we work with, do the Local Area Co-Ordinator have knowledge and capacity for this?

Health Implications

Point 34.

We would like to understand what the broader range of health and wellbeing services are as part of the proposed model.

The Falcon Centre is regularly used as a community hub to deliver health and wellbeing services in partnership with; Hep C Network, Opticians, Dental work, Turning Point nurse, Vita Minds, to those that don't engage in the current health and wellbeing services.

"The Falcon Centre have been a key external partner for the Leics Hepatitis C Network, supporting our service with testing and identification of patients at significant risk of Hepatitis C and other liver health concerns. We have been able to have 40+ patients supported on to treatment and cure this virus, as part of the NHS England elimination strategy. Having their clients have an available site to stay and attend regularly has been integral to this success" Hep C Network.

Therefore, if this funding is withdrawn, the Falcon Centre would close and remove 30 bed homeless hostel building where health and wellbeing services are delivering to those facing the biggest health inequalities.

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Taking all the above and more that the center provides It is clear to me that the Falcon Centre gives back more to us in outcomes and benefits to those that use it then the cost of our funding to it.

It would make no sense to withdraw the funding, face the total loss of the service and move the issue on to other service providers and authorities where the cost to the public purse may be greater.

I ask Cabinet to consider the services provided by the Falcon Centre as an essential service and continue it for at least the entire period of this MTFS and the loss of savings to be mitigated by the unexpected higher gains in the Councils investment portfolio and interest receipts.

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