



DATE: 21 February  
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## **ORDER PAPER AND POSITION STATEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PACK**

- Order Paper (Pages 3 – 12)
6. To receive position statements under Standing Order 8.
- (i) Position Statement from the Leader of the Council (Pages 13 - 14)



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**MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ORDER PAPER**

**EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

In the event of having to evacuate officers will be able to advise and be on hand to assist any people with disabilities.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1**  
**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The CHAIRMAN will make his announcements.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2**  
**REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER**  
(Pages 5 – 6)

The CHIEF EXECUTIVE will present the report of the Returning Officer on the election of MRS SUSAN PATRICIA JORDAN to the County Council at the election held on 21 December 2023.

The CHAIRMAN will welcome MRS JORDAN.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3**  
**MINUTES**  
(Pages 7 - 20)

The CHAIRMAN will move and MR ORSON will second:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

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

There are no questions.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**  
**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.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**  
**REPORT OF THE CABINET**  
 (Pages 21 – 300)

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

**(A) MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 – 2027/28**

MR BRECKON 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 2024/25 totalling £567.6m, as set out in Appendices A, B and E of the 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 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28, 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, engagement and equality and human rights impact assessments, as may be necessary to achieve the savings specified for those years including savings under development, set out in Appendix D;

- (c) That approval be 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 the general fund and earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix K be noted and the use of those earmarked reserves 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 2024/25 be as set out in Appendix M (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 2024/25 to 2027/28 capital programme, totalling £447m, as set out in Appendix F;
- (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 N, Annex 2 be noted and that the following limits be approved:

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m
Operational boundary for external debt				
i) Borrowing	220	219	243	273
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	221	220	244	274
Authorised limit for external debt				
i) Borrowing	230	229	253	283
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	231	230	254	284

- (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 2024/25 to 2027/28:

- (i) 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

- (ii) An upper limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days is 20% of the portfolio.
- (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 2024/25, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix N;
- (m) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix N, be approved including:
- (i) The Treasury Management Policy Statement, Appendix N; Annex 4;
- (ii) The Annual Statement of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision as set out in Appendix N, Annex 1;
- (n) That the Capital Strategy (Appendix G), Investing in Leicestershire Programme Strategy (Appendix H), Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Appendix I), Earmarked Reserves Policy (Appendix J) and Insurance Policy (Appendix L) be approved;
- (o) That it be noted that the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool will continue for 2024/25;
- (p) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources, be authorised to make any changes to the provisional MTFS which may be required as a result of changes arising between the Cabinet and County Council meetings, noting that any changes will be reported to the County Council on 21 February 2024;

- (q) That the Leicestershire School Funding Formula be subject to capping and scaling to continue to reflect the National Funding Formula for 2024/25;
- (r) That the Director of Children and Family Services, following consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Family Services, be authorised to agree the funding rates for early years providers for 2024/25;
- (s) That in light of the Council's financial position, the proposal to revise the Council's net zero targets for its own operations, from 2030 to 2035, and for the wider County, from 2045 to 2050, be approved;
- (t) That the proposed changes to the Recycling and Household Waste Site service as outlined at paragraph 37 of the report be noted, to be funded from the Service Investment budget, and subject to the outcome of further consultation."

**An amendment will be moved by MR MULLANEY and seconded by MR BRAY:**

- (i) That paragraph (a) of the motion be amended to read as follows:
- “(a) That subject to the items below, approval be given to the MTFs which incorporates the recommended revenue budget for 2024/25 totalling £567.6m as set out in Appendices A, B, and E of the report and includes growth and savings for that year as set out in Appendix C, as amended by paragraph (a) (i) below;”
- (ii) That the following be added after paragraph (a) of the motion:
- “(a) (i) That the list of growth and savings proposals as set out in Appendix C of the report be amended as follows:

	<b>2024/25 £000s</b>	<b>2025/26 £000s</b>	<b>2026/27 £000s</b>	<b>2027/28 £000s</b>
Add new savings items as follows:				
Cease publication of Leicestershire Matters	-108	-108	-108	-108
Reduce Members' Allowances budget by the removal of a Cabinet Member	-22	-22	-22	-22
Amend new growth item as follows:				

Additional investment in public bus subsidies	130	130	130	130
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(iii) That paragraph (b) of the motion be amended to read as follows:

“(b) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28, set out in Appendix B to the report, including the growth and savings for those years as set out in Appendix C, as now amended, allowing the undertaking of preliminary work, including business case development, engagement and equality and human rights impact assessments, as may be necessary to achieve the savings specified for those years including savings under development, set out in Appendix D;”

**An amendment will be moved by MR GALTON and seconded by MRS JORDAN:**

(i) That paragraph (a) of the motion be amended to read as follows:

“(a) That subject to the items below, approval be given to the MTFs which incorporates the recommended revenue budget for 2024/25 totalling £567.6m as set out in Appendices A, B, and E of the report and includes growth and savings for that year as set out in Appendix C, as amended by paragraph (a) (i) below;”

(ii) That the following be added after paragraph (a) of the motion:

“(a) (i) That the list of growth and savings proposals as set out in Appendix C of the report be amended as follows:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Add new savings items as follows:				
Reduce Members' Allowances budget by the removal of the four Cabinet Support Members	-33	-33	-33	-33
Reduce support to the Cabinet	-55	-55	-55	-55



Add new growth item as follows:				
Revenue costs associated with a new Capital Programme allocation of £1.5m p.a. for additional drainage schemes	88	88	88	88

(iii) That paragraph (b) of the motion be amended to read as follows:

“(b) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28, set out in Appendix B to the report, including the growth and savings for those years as set out in Appendix C, as now amended, allowing the undertaking of preliminary work, including business case development, engagement and equality and human rights impact assessments, as may be necessary to achieve the savings specified for those years including savings under development, set out in Appendix D;”

(iv) That paragraph (g) of the motion be amended to read as follows:

“(g) That approval be given to the 2024/25 to 2027/28 capital programme, as now amended, totalling £453m, as set out in Appendix F;”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**  
**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**  
(Pages 301 – 316)

Principal Speakers:  
Chairman (Mr T Barkley)  
Liberal Democrat Spokesman (Mr G A Boulter)

**(A) PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**

MR BARKLEY will move and MR RICHARDSON will second:

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9**  
**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**(A) SUPPORT FOR CARE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE – MRS D TAYLOR CC**

MRS TAYLOR will move and MR SMITH will second:

- “(i) This Council notes that:
- (a) Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives;
  - (b) Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;
  - (c) Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;
  - (d) Care experienced people may encounter inconsistent support in different geographical areas;
  - (e) As corporate parents, members have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority;
  - (f) All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in any aspect of council work;
  - (g) Members should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society;
  - (h) The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to have due regard of the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.
- (ii) This Council therefore resolves that:
- (a) It recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination;
  - (b) It recognises that co-production and collaboration can help ensure that the needs and aspirations of all people are at the heart of decision making;

- (c) Future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic;
- (d) In the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council will work towards including people with care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment;
- (e) This Council will treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic whilst recognising that the needs of people with legally defined protected characteristics will need to take precedence if there is a conflict;
- (f) This Council formally calls upon other local authorities within Leicestershire to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation;
- (g) To continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.”

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**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2024****POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****Ratby/Kirby Muxloe Gas Outage**

I want to place on record my thanks to the local communities, their representatives, Cadent (the gas distribution company) and the Local Resilience Forum for their quick response after the recent gas outage, caused by a burst water pipe, which affected 3,500 homes in Ratby and Kirby Muxloe and left some people without heating for nearly a week.

The response locally has been exemplary. Our local councils, Cadent and voluntary groups – including Leicestershire Search and Rescue and British Red Cross - and our residents have gone the extra mile to look after their communities, including by supporting vulnerable people, providing hot food and giving out heaters and blankets.

I will give special mention to Jane Moore, Director of Children and Family Services, who chaired the Tactical Co-ordinating Group overseeing the Local Resilience Forum response to the incident. She had a number of difficult decisions to make, all of which she handled in a calm and professional manner, whilst still carrying out her important day job. I'm sure members will agree with me that Jane did an excellent job, for which we are all grateful.

At the Cabinet meeting on 9 February we asked the Local Resilience Forum to calculate the cost to the public purse so that costs can be recovered from those responsible. We have also written to Severn Trent to ask for an explanation of the cause of the incident and the apparent delayed response to the first burst water pipe.

**Flooding/Storm Update**

The Local Resilience Forum also took a central role in supporting the response and recovery phases of Storm Henk.

Storm Henk resulted in the River Soar and many tributaries reaching record levels (worse than the Easter 1998 flooding). In Leicestershire alone, around 535 residential and commercial properties have been reported to date as having suffered internal flooding.

Our Highways team worked around the clock to support the emergency services and communities and to manage the road network with up to 70 roads closed. They are now continuing to clear gullies impacted by floodwater and work through the significant backlog of drainage enquiries.

It is not yet known how many formal flooding investigations have been triggered; this could take several weeks to establish as more information is received. These investigations can be very resource intensive and time consuming and require all responsible agencies to be involved.

This may then result in further actions or future project work to try and address the flooding. Given the unprecedented number of investigations that are likely to be needed, and potential work in bidding for funding to deliver works, I am pleased to say I have been able to allocate an extra £400,000 to help the Council tackle flooding over the new MTFS period.

It is also likely, however, that in some instances there may not be a realistic or affordable solution for flood prevention.

With changing climate meaning more rainfall and greater intensity when it rains, there is a greater need to move communities towards resilience via property protection and community action. The County Council is committed to support our communities in this.

### **Devolution**

I said that I would keep the Council updated on devolution. Since our last meeting we have heard from the Devolution Minister in DLUHC, Jacob Young, that the Government is very keen on a level 2 deal for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and would like to include that in the Chancellor's Budget Statement next month. Members may recall that reference to the Lancashire level 2 deal was made by the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement last year. The Minister will be meeting me, the City Mayor and the Leader of Rutland next week.

### **Members of Parliament**

The Cabinet has continued to work with the Conservative Members of Parliament for Leicestershire to ensure that the County Council's case for fair funding continues to be pressed on the Government. There is now inevitably a recognition across the board that a proper solution will have to await the next parliament but in the meantime we have been able to make some progress. The Government agreed some additional funding for 2024/25 last month, which is reported in the papers for today's meeting. That followed some direct lobbying of the Government and I was grateful in particular to Alberto Costa MP and Neil O'Brien MP for putting their names to a letter to the Secretary of State.

### **Biodiversity Net Gain**

The Environment Act 2021 introduced mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (known as "BNG") as a new requirement to be delivered through the planning system. The legislation requires the delivery of a 10% increase in biodiversity above the pre-development status of a site and this will be secured through the planning system. Mandatory BNG commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 for major applications and will apply to smaller sites from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

This new requirement will affect planning applications that the County Council deals with in its statutory role as the minerals and waste planning authority and will apply to the County Council's own developments, such as schools and roads.

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