

MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 10 JULY 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 disabled persons.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1
CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The CHAIRMAN will make his announcements.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2
MINUTES
(Pages 3 – 18)

The CHAIRMAN will move and MR SHEPHERD will second:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th May 2024, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman has agreed to vary the order of business as provided for in Standing Order 5(1) to enable Agenda Item 5 – to receive Position Statements under Standing Order 8, to be taken next.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5
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 a statement.

LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, SAFER COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY SERVICES

The Lead Member will make her statement.

LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND STAFF RELATIONS

The Lead Member will make her statement.

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

(A) Question by MR GALTON

- “1. Approximately how much does it cost the Council in energy charges per LED street light per annum having regard to the Council’s policy on part time night lighting and dimming?
2. How much does it cost in energy charges to operate all street lights across the county per annum having regard to the Council’s policy on part time night lighting and dimming?
3. How much money is currently being saved per annum from implementing the policy of dimming street lights across the county?”

Reply by MR O’SHEA

- “1. Average cost per street light is approximately £43.60.
2. £3,045,654 is the actual cost for 2023/24 financial year.
3. Anticipated full year savings is to be £380,000. Actual savings achieved for Q4 in 2023/24 financial year was £131,224.”

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
(Pages 19 – 60)

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

**(A) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
2023/24**

MR BARKLEY will move and MR RICHARDSON will second:

“That the information contained in the Corporate Governance Committee Annual Report 2023-24, attached as Appendix A to this report, be noted.”

(B) REVISED MEMBERS’ PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

MR BARKLEY will move and MR RICHARDSON will second:

“That the revised Planning Code of Good Practice, attached as Appendix A to this report, be adopted.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION
(Pages 61 to 86)

Principal Speakers:
Leader of the Opposition (Mr M Mullaney)
Leader of the Council (Mr N Rushton)

(A) OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Mr MULLANEY will move and MRS PAGE will second:

“That the information contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24, attached as Appendix A to this report, be noted.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – TO NOTE THE MEMBERS WHICH THE LEADER
PROPOSES TO APPOINT TO THE CABINET**

MR RUSHTON will move and MRS TAYLOR will second:

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

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10TH JULY 2024**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****General Election**

I would like to congratulate Peter Bedford and Amanda Hack on their election as Leicestershire MPs, and at the same time commiserations to Craig Smith and Michael Mullaney who stood for election.

'East Midlands' County Combined Authority

At the last meeting in his position statement the Leader congratulated Claire Ward on her election. He subsequently wrote to the Mayor and they agreed to meet later this month. We want that meeting to go ahead and we will be in touch with her office after today.

Leicester and Leicestershire Business Board

The Board is being set up as an advisory body to the new Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership, the successor to the LLEP, which will be led by the City and County Councils.

Andy Reed, who was Chair of the LLEP prior to its abolition, has accepted a joint invitation from the Leader of County Council and the City Mayor to chair the Business Board, which they have welcomed. Arrangements are in hand to recruit to the Board. In addition to business representatives, membership will include higher education, further education, the district councils and the voluntary sector.

Member update

Following the Leader's announcement, Council will be invited later in the meeting to note the changes that the Leader proposes to make to the Cabinet. There will also be some consequential changes to the Scrutiny Commission membership and Mr Bannister will be joining the Commission. The Chief Executive will implement this under his delegated authority. It will also be proposed at the next Council meeting that Mr Champion be appointed as a Cabinet Support Member to Mrs Richardson.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10th JULY 2024

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, SAFER COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY SERVICES

Inspection of the Leicestershire Children's Services

In April this year Ofsted undertook a full inspection of Children's Services in Leicestershire as part of the Inspection of Local Authorities Children's Services Framework.

The inspection looked at all areas of children's social care and targeted early help across the department over a three week period. The final report on the inspection, including the final judgement is being published on 12th July.

Whilst I can't share the final judgement ahead of the publication date, I can share that I am very pleased with the outcome of the inspection and look forward to sharing the full judgement and grades with you on Friday.

In the meantime, I would like to share feedback from inspectors.

Inspectors found that services for children and families in Leicestershire have much improved since the previous inspection in 2019, when the judgement for overall effectiveness was 'requires improvement to be good'.

The improvement that has taken place across the department has been underpinned by an ambitious and child focused approach that has created a culture whereby the experiences and progress of children are at the heart of social work practice.

In the feedback about services for children who need help and protection, our early help offer and range of preventative and targeted services were highlighted, alongside praise for the Family Hubs and early help assessments.

Inspectors praised the work undertaken to re-shape services for children and their families through the development of the new Family Help service that brings together targeted early help and work with children in need.

Our work at the front door to children's services was praised for responding quickly and according to the level of need and risk in the presenting information and for its strong assessments and decision making to ensure that children benefit from the right service at the right time.

Assessments across services were complimented for being timely, comprehensive and of good quality. Children's plans are said to be realistic, identify clear desired outcomes, and are child focused and written to the child which helps to capture the child's lived experience.

Inspectors saw that social workers know their children well and develop effective relationships with parents, enabling them to understand concerns and what needs to change.

Inspectors commented on our work to support young carers in Leicestershire and the bespoke individual and group support provided. One child who spoke to inspectors said, 'Being a young carer is hard work and demanding, but the help I've had has made a massive difference. I have been encouraged to share my views with council leaders and this has made a difference for me and other young carers. Going to the groups has also been good, it's been a friendly, welcoming, and safe place for me to go and share my experiences.'

Inspectors also looked at our services that support children in care and those services that work with care leavers. In relation to these services inspectors commented that children in care receive a service that results in their life experiences significantly improving. The department is aspirational for the children in their care and demonstrates a determination to improve children's experiences.

They saw a strong commitment by leaders, managers and social workers to support children to remain with their families where appropriate.

Ofsted commented that the relationships that social workers have with children are a notable strength that gives children much needed stability and helps them to feel cared for and cared about.

Fostering and adoption services were highly commended by Ofsted who commented that our foster carers are offered consistent and reliable support from social worker and they feel valued.

Our work to support care leavers was recognised as being strengthened and care leavers fed back to Ofsted positively about the support they receive. One care leaver said, 'The service I have received has changed my life. My PA is kind, and they care about me.' Another said, 'The service has been amazing and over time they have helped out as much as they can.'

Finally, Ofsted noted the fact that the Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services, Lead Member and senior leaders have worked tirelessly to transform the quality of help and protection for vulnerable children in Leicestershire and praised the progress and improvements made across the services.

An overwhelming majority of staff told inspectors that they like working in Leicestershire and value the investment and support that they have had from their managers and as a result of this they are making a positive difference to children's experiences and progress.

The inspectors saw the evidence of the culture created across service that enables social work practice to develop and thrive, which results in many families achieving positive change and improved outcomes for children.

I want to end by thanking staff across the department for their hard work, their focus and determination to improve services for children and their families in Leicestershire. This inspection outcome is a significant achievement for children's services and for children and their families across Leicestershire.

Mrs. D. Taylor
Lead Member for Children, Families, Safer
Communities and Regulatory Services

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COUNTY COUNCIL – 3rd JULY 2024**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR
COMMUNITY AND STAFF RELATIONS**

I am very pleased to have this opportunity introduce the 2024 Communities Annual Report. The Report brings together and celebrates work within my portfolio that has been carried out with communities in the County over the past financial year. We have a lot to be proud of in Leicestershire, and the Annual Report brings to the forefront some of the very many ways in which the Council is collaborating with communities to bring forward some great initiatives, with a focus on people coming together to support each other, building on the strengths of people, places and local institutions.

The Council's Communities Strategy: Our Communities Approach continues to set the context for our engagement with communities centred on partnership and developing solutions based on the assets, priorities and aspirations of our different communities. This approach is well illustrated by our collaborative support for parish and town councils, neighbourhood planning groups and the Leicestershire Rural Partnership. We have also helped to support and strengthen communities over a wide range of themes, including working towards net zero, community resilience, health and wellbeing, neighbourhood planning, equality and diversity, employment and training and volunteering.

There are many inspiring examples of our work within the Report, and I would urge Members to continue to link with and support social action and collaborative grassroots initiatives in our role as Community Leaders and Champions.

The Annual Report was circulated you yesterday in the Members' Digest. It is also available on the Leicestershire Communities website and on the Members Hub.

Mrs Pam Posnett CC

Lead Member for Communities and Staff Relations

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LIST 1**THE CABINET**

The Leader has given notice that the following members are now appointed to serve on the Cabinet.

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

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET:

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

The Deputy Leader will act in the Leader's place in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution and Local Government Act 2000 Schedule A1 para 2(7) and, in such circumstances, be referred to as the 'Acting Leader'.

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