



DATE: 4 December 2024
MY REF: RW/CCouncil
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**ORDER PAPER, QUESTIONS AND POSITION STATEMENT
SUPPLEMENTARY PACK**

- Order Paper and Questions. (Pages 3 - 9)
5. To receive position statements under Standing Order 8.
- (i) Position Statement from the Acting Leader of the Council (Pages 11 - 14)



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MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 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 5 – 18)

The CHAIRMAN will move and MR SHEPHERD will second:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th September 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.

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

(A) Question by MR CHARLESWORTH

“There have been quite a few planning applications at both Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and at the County Council’s Development Control and Regulatory Board which involve a change of use from residential (C3) to a care home for one or more young people (C2). Could the Leader please advise:

- “1. Are all these homes and providers regulated?
2. Do the staff in these homes require any qualifications or training?
3. Are any LCC placements put in unregulated homes?
4. How many young people require a placement by LCC?

5. How many placements by LCC are outside Leicestershire?
6. What is the average cost to LCC of placing a young person in a care home?"

Reply by MRS TAYLOR

- "1. All children's residential homes and supported accommodation for children are required to be registered with Ofsted. Once Ofsted registered, the home will be subject to Ofsted inspections. A useful document to understand the regulations is: [Guide to Children's Homes Regulations, including quality standards.](#)
2. The regulations set out that the registered person is responsible for maintaining good employment practice, including ensuring staff are appropriately qualified, have the necessary experience and receive supervision. In relation to training, regulations set out that the staff should have, or have a date for completion of the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare or equivalent.
3. The County Council takes seriously its duties and responsibilities to ensure all children in care live in a safe home with suitably experienced and qualified carers. It maintains strong senior management oversight of this, and the Director is informed if we are struggling to identify a registered home for any young person. The Assistant Director reviews all options considered and only if the child has nowhere to live, and officers have not been able to source nationally a registered home, will the Director consider unregistered provision. This is used by the County Council on a very minimal basis and tends to be for a short period of time, pending a registered home becoming available.
4. 91.
5. 57 (residential placements).
6. The average weekly cost of placing a child in residential care is £5553."

(B) Question by MR MULLANEY

"There have long been concerns about road safety at the junction of Normandy Way and Ashby Road in Hinckley. Concerns include the speed of traffic along the road and how difficult it can be to cross the road safely at the Ashby Road and Normandy Way junctions. These concerns have been highlighted again following the tragic deaths of Molly Snow and Jordan Hurst in October following a collision on the A47 Normandy Way.

I believe the County Council is proposing safety measures including introducing pedestrian crossings at the Ashby Road and Normandy Way junction. Can I urge the County Council to ensure these works are carried out

as soon as is possible. Also, could consideration also be given to other safety improvements to the Normandy Way A47 as a whole, including the possibility of speed cameras but also other safety measures, to reduce the risks of future casualties on this road?"

Reply by MR O'SHEA

"As Mr Mullaney is aware, the improvements at this junction have been identified as mitigation for proposed developments in the area, most recently as mitigation to the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council planning application 23/00432/OUT.

Whilst it is appreciated that there have been a number of collisions at the junction, up to this point none had involved pedestrians. However, the Council is extremely saddened about the most recent fatalities, and sincere condolences are offered to the families.

Following any fatal collision that occurs in Leicestershire, an investigation is undertaken by Leicestershire Police, and a separate inspection of the site is undertaken by the Council to consider the condition of the highway at the location. Following an initial site review, there were no highway factors identified that could have contributed to the collision, however, the outcome of the investigation by the Serious Collision Unit of the Police is currently awaited.

The Council lowered the speed limit along Normandy Way from 50mph to 40mph as part of the Bloor Homes Development. Following these changes, multiple surveys along Normandy Way have been undertaken.

Speed surveys were undertaken in July 2023 over a week-long period and showed the following data within the 40mph speed limit (NB: 85th percentile speeds show the speed at which 85% of drivers are travelling at or below):

Location	Mean Speed	85th Percentile
Normandy Way (north of Roston Drive junction)	31.8mph	36.5mph
Normandy Way (north of Outlands Drive junction)	35.3mph	40mph
Normandy Way (north east of Wykin Road junction)	40.8mph	46.2mph
Normandy Way (west of Stoke Road junction)	38.7mph	44.4mph
Normandy Way (east of Stoke Road junction)	32mph	36.5mph
Normandy Way (north east of Cornfield Junction)	35.6mph	40.5mph
Normandy Way (west of Drake Way Junction)	36.2mph	41.6mph

The above results clearly show relatively good compliance with the existing 40mph limit, with only a minority travelling above the 40mph limit.

When assessing if a road would be considered an area of concern, Leicestershire Police would normally advise that the 85th percentile speed should be above the National Police Chiefs Council threshold for prosecution, which is 46mph in a 40mph limit. The Police is unlikely to class Normandy Way as an area of speeding concern based on the survey results above, but that is not for the Council to determine.

Based on the data, the Council would not consider further road safety measures along the route as a whole; however, the Traffic and Safety team will continue to keep the safety of this route under review as is done for all routes on the County's network."

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.)

ACTING LEADER

The Acting Leader will make a statement.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6
REPORT OF THE CABINET
(Pages 19 - 140)

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

(A) ANNUAL DELIVERY REPORT AND PERFORMANCE COMPENDIUM 2024

MR BRECKON will move and MR POLAND will second:

“That the Annual Delivery Report and Performance Compendium be approved.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7
REPORT OF THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
 (Pages 141 - 158)

Principal Speakers:
 Chairman (Mr L Breckon)
 Liberal Democrat Spokesman (Mrs L Broadley)

(A) PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2025/26

MR BRECKON will move and MR BEDFORD will second:

“That the County Council’s Pay Policy Statement 2025/26, as set out in the Appendix to the report of the Employment Committee, be approved.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8
REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
 (Pages 159 - 176)

Principal Speakers:
 Deputy Chairman (Mrs D Taylor)
 Liberal Democrat Spokesman (Mr M Mullaney)

(A) REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

MRS TAYLOR will move and MR BRECKON will second:

Motion 1

- (a) That the proposed changes to the Constitution, as set out in the Appendix to this report, other than those which relate to Standing Orders (the Meeting Procedure Rules), be approved;

Motion 2 – Procedural Motion in accordance with Standing Order 36

- (b) That the changes to Standing Orders (The Meeting Procedure Rules), as set out in the Appendix to the report of the Constitution Committee, be approved.”

AGENDA ITEM NO.9
TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION

(A) IMPACT OF THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S 2024 BUDGET AND INCREASES TO EMPLOYERS' NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS – MRS D TAYLOR CC

MRS TAYLOR will move and MR BRECKON will second:

“(a) That this Council notes that:

- (i) the first Labour Budget since 2010 added £40bn additional taxation on hard working families and businesses;
- (ii) this is the largest increase in taxation in history, as independently reported by the Office for Budget Responsibility and Institute for Fiscal Studies;
- (iii) the 1.2% increase in employers' national insurance contributions to 15%, reduction in the NI threshold to £5,000 and 6.7% increase to the National Living Wage will add in the region of £20m to this Council's costs;
- (iv) cumulatively, these increases will also have a severe impact on our contractors, supply chain, our care providers and charities such as Age UK, to deliver their services locally, as much needed resources will be diverted to cover their additional costs;
- (v) the imposition of 20% Inheritance Tax duty on farm holdings over £1m will have devastating effects on many rural families, implications for food production, security and employment and what the National Farmers' Union describes as a “Farmers Farm Tax”;
- (vi) despite the government's stated wish to drive upwards local and national economic growth, these Budget proposals will potentially have the opposite effect, dampening economic activity and increasing unemployment.

(b) That this Council resolves to call on the government to:

- (i) reverse these massive increases in taxation and revert to their manifesto promise not to increase rates of national insurance contributions;
- (ii) reverse the Inheritance Tax changes on farms and farming families;
- (iii) fully compensate local government for their additional costs;

- (iv) provide adequate support to those charitable and third sector organisations mentioned in (a) (iv) above to continue to enable them to provide their essential services locally.
- (c) That this Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to inform her of its decision.”

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 4TH DECEMBER 2024

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE ACTING LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

MTFS Position

The Council's financial position remains extremely challenging, although the strong grip that we've maintained over our finances has ensured that we are not at crisis point. The Chancellor's budget on 30th October did little to improve the position. Whilst some new funding was announced, we don't expect it to cover the additional costs announced in the budget.

We are still awaiting the actual details of the budget, and particularly how much of the National Insurance increase we will be compensated for, but it's likely that we will still be facing a gap approaching £100m by the final year of our Medium Term Financial Strategy. The 'Policy Statement' last Thursday from the Local Government Minister gave little clarity and we await the provisional settlement which the Minister said is still due before Christmas.

The Chancellor's budget and the 'Policy Statement' also failed to provide any certainty or solution for the High Needs Deficit, which is one of the biggest risks facing the Council. The additional £1bn SEND funding, whilst helpful, will barely make a dent in the deficit.

Innovation, efficiency and tough decisions mean that we have been able to avoid the crisis point many councils are now in. We're still working hard to provide vital support to vulnerable people and protect other services our residents value, but what we really need from Government is a credible, long-term plan. In the meantime, we are refreshing our MTFS based on a number of assumptions, and Cabinet will be receiving a report on 17th December on the draft budget proposals for 2025/26 and updated MTFS. The report will be circulated next week, and I would urge you all to read and understand the Council's difficult financial position and the actions we need to take to ensure that the Council remains financially sound, despite increasing costs, demand and funding uncertainty.

Household Support Fund

The UK Government has provided the council with £3.6m of funding through the Household Support Fund to support our communities over the winter months with the cost of living. This is allowing us to support children in receipt of free school meals with food vouchers during the school holidays, provides £200,000 of funding to

foodbanks and charities to purchase food and energy efficient white goods, and makes available over £1.4m in food and fuel vouchers to help the most vulnerable households through our referral scheme.

Demand for the Household Support Fund has been unprecedentedly high in this round and we are grateful to the many referring bodies who are supporting their clients to access support through the HSF. This adds to the frustration felt when external analysis of the budget indicated that the overall grant will be cut by 10% for the next financial year.

The recent cold weather has reminded many of the financial impact of the loss of winter fuel payment for pensioners in Leicestershire. We know that there are many residents in the county who will lose out on this support but who could be eligible for pension credit, unlocking winter fuel payment and other benefits. We have used a small amount of our funding from the HSF to support Age UK's information and advice services which can offer support to pensioners to help them to see if they are eligible for pension credit and to make an application.

Getting Ready for Winter

Our winter gritting teams carried out their first precautionary treatment of the season the night of Sunday 17th November 2024. On the following night, Monday 18th November, our gritting teams worked throughout the night carrying out two treatments to 48% of the Council's road network ensuring the heaviest used routes were safe and traffic could keep moving.

To promote preparedness for winter flooding, the Council is working with other risk management authorities, community groups and flood wardens, and the 'Be Flood Ready' messaging is being used. Two community drop-in sessions were recently held in Market Harborough and at County Hall with high levels of engagement. We will continue to issue communications prior to significant forecast storms. This work helps us achieve one of the five objectives in the Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy: 'To manage local flood risk through effective preparedness, response to, and recovery from flood events.'

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Funding

On 19th November, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced a further allocation of Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding for 2025/26.

FUNDING TYPE	AMOUNT
Capital	£3,145,798
Revenue	£4,379,636
Capacity funding	£94,000
Total	£7,619,434

Conditions and detail surrounding the funding are expected imminently. The additional funding will be used, in addition to the previous BSIP grant allocations, to:

- Review/re-design the County's supported bus network to increase access and pump-prime services to increase patronage and secure more sustainable services for the future.
- Trial new services to assess demand.
- Introduce more flexible demand-responsive transport solutions.
- Offer fixed term and targeted promotions such as free travel for all, free or reduced travel for young people and seasonal/festive journeys.
- Work with operators to improve operational standards such as punctuality and passenger satisfaction.
- Investigate travel hubs and look to improve bus stop infrastructure where appropriate.
- Improve public transport information for all.

The grant funding allocated will assist the Authority further in moving towards achieving some of the ambitions detailed within the recently updated Leicestershire BSIP24.

The grant funding is being awarded with an initial spend date of March 2026.

Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership (BSP)

Members will be aware that the responsibilities of the former Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) were transferred to the two upper tier local authorities with effect from 1st April 2024. These responsibilities include

business representation, strategic economic planning, and the delivery of government programmes.

In the Chancellor's Budget of 30th October, the Government announced that it was minded to cease support funding for the BSP and similar post-LEP bodies across England. Funding was provided for the current financial year but will now end on 31 March 2025. Funding for specific programmes is the subject of separate decisions by Government.

Officers from the City and County Councils are considering the implications of ending funding and a review of the future aim and purpose of the Business and Skills Partnership has been instigated. Options will be presented to the City Mayor and myself.