

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2015**

**PRESENT**

Mr. G. A. Boulter CC (in the Chair)

Mr. I. E. G. Bentley CC, Mr. D. C. Bill MBE CC, Mr. R. Blunt CC, Mr. S. L. Bray CC, Mrs. R. Camamile CC, Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC, Mr. J. G. Coxon CC, Mrs. J. A. Dickinson CC, Dr. T. Eynon CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mrs. J. Fox CC, Mr. S. J. Galton CC, Mr. D. A. Gamble CC, Mr. S. J. Hampson CC, Mr. G. A. Hart CC, Dr. S. Hill CC, Mr. Dave Houseman MBE, CC, Mr. Max Hunt CC, Mr. D. Jennings CC, Mr. J. Kaufman CC, Mr. A. M. Kershaw CC, Ms. K. J. Knaggs CC, Mr. P. G. Lewis CC, Mr. W. Liquorish JP CC, Mrs. H. E. Loydall CC, Mr. K. W. P. Lynch CC, Mr. J. Miah CC, Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC, Ms. Betty Newton CC, Mr. J. P. O'Shea CC, Mr. J. T. Orson JP CC, Mr. P. C. Osborne CC, Mr. I. D. Ould CC, Mrs. R. Page CC, Mr. B. L. Pain CC, Mr. T. J. Pendleton CC, Mrs. P. Posnett CC, Mrs. C. M. Radford CC, Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC, Mrs. J. Richards CC, Mr. N. J. Rushton CC, Mr. R. Sharp CC, Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC, Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC, Mr. E. D. Snartt CC, Mr. L. Spence CC, Mr. D. A. Sprason CC, Mr. G. Welsh CC, Mr. E. F. White CC and Mr. L. E. Yates CC

**43. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**King Richard III**

The Chairman reminded members that it was the middle of reinterment week and that on the following day King Richard III would finally be laid to rest in Leicester Cathedral. The Chairman said he was honoured to be representing the County Council.

He hoped that all members who had been to the Cathedral and the Visitor Centre the previous evening had enjoyed the occasion.

The County Council had worked closely with partners in planning the events leading up to and including the reinterment and the Chairman acknowledged that the Leader would want to pay tribute to all who had worked hard to ensure this historic event was undertaken smoothly and safely.

The Chairman paid particular tribute to Tim Webster and his Team for the key role that they played and the additional support that they provided to him and the Lord Lieutenant. They had undertaken a huge amount of work not least in respect of the different services at the Cathedral.

**Visitors**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting all visitors and guests of members and anyone who was viewing the meeting via the webcast.

#### **44. MINUTES.**

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Snartt and carried:-

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 February 2015, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

#### **45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

All members of the Council who were also members of a District Council declared a personal interest in the question put forward by Mr Galton concerning recycling credits.

Dr Eynon declared a personal interest in the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2014 (minute 48 refers) as she was a salaried GP.

Mr Sheahan and Mr Coxon declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the Rail Strategy for Leicestershire which formed part of the Leader's Position Statement (minute 47 refers).

#### **46. QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)(2) AND (5).**

**(A) Dr Eynon asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-**

"How does the Leader propose to address the concerns raised at the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) - wide Mental Health Summit on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and how will he evaluate this Council's progress towards the ideals set out in the Mental Health Charter signed on behalf of this Council in 2014?"

**Mr White replied as follows:-**

"It was pleasing that the key messages expressed at the summit were consistent with those captured in the Better Care Together (BCT) Mental Health work stream and the priority themes pursued by Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and Rutland Council as part of their Better Care Fund plans, their Health and Well Being Strategies and the LLR Crisis Concordat.

The public health teams in Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council are also heavily involved in efforts to reduce the risk of suicide locally through leading the LLR Suicide Audit and Prevention Group, and through the group's annual audits, strategy and action plans.

While we await the summit report, comprising of summaries of the presentations, action points from table top discussions and pledges made by

individuals and organisations, it is clear that the summit stressed:

- That service users should be involved in co-production.
- That the third sector should be a more prominent partner in delivery of a much broader recovery and resilience network.
- That organisations should develop embedded peer support.

The BCT Mental Health workstream is being progressed through inclusive and collaborative involvement of the local authority, the NHS, the Voluntary Sector, patients, service users and carers. The voluntary sector, Healthwatch, patients and carers have been especially influential in developing and shaping the work.

Providing leadership and working with CCG partners and Healthwatch we intend to synthesise the actions from the summit and use these as a basis for forming a clearer BCT implementation plan for Resilience and Recovery. This will include our commitment to, amongst other action, the Crisis Concordat, a social prescribing pilot, the extension of the Leicestershire Partnership Trust recovery college model and our ongoing work on suicide prevention.

Leicestershire County Council recognises that the mental health charter lays out comprehensive standards of care that every person has the right to expect from mental health services locally. The County Council is working on a number of fronts to meet these expectations.

As noted earlier, the BCT mental health programme aims to improve the quality of care of and overall experience for patients with mental illness. The programme adopts a life course approach from the peri-natal period right through to old age and encompasses primary prevention, early detection and treatment and ultimately through to recovery.

In conjunction with the Council's Mental Health Champion, Mrs Pam Posnett CC we have taken the view that the 13 points in the Charter are more principles than specific, measurable actions.

As such our priority has been to a) promote the Charter and b) try to embed these principles wherever possible. Examples of the latter include:

- Running a Communities Strategy workshop on Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing.
- Supporting the Mental Health First Aid programme throughout the Council and introducing pilot training for sections with high levels of mental health absence which focusses on the interrelationship between mental and physical health.
- Setting up a new Engagement, Representation and Equalities Challenge contract that includes mental health as a priority theme.
- Including mental health as one of the priority groups for the Local Area Coordination 18 month pilot (along with frail elderly, physical disabilities and learning disabilities).
- Including mental health as a priority within the 'My Profile' sheet for Carers and as a focus for the Working Carers Group established last year.

- Set up 'Mind Apples' sessions so people experiencing, recovering from or living with someone with mental health issues can meet/network/learn together.

Finally the Council recognises its responsibilities as guardian of the mental health of its employees and offers mental health and wellbeing programmes to its staff. This includes mindfulness sessions.”

**Dr Eynon asked the following supplementary question:-**

“I was wondering if I could find out how our Mental Health Champion enjoyed the day and wondered how many officers from the Public Health department were able to accompany her. I agree that the Mental Health Charter is a set of principles rather than measurable actions and I would contend that the list of actions proposed in this answer are also a set of promises so I do need to ask how this Council intends to measure the adequacy of these policies by their impact on population health?”

**Mr White replied as follows:-**

“If you look at the Mental Health Charter and the ideals in it, many of them are not measurable in the sense that you would understand measuring other kinds of outputs. Dr Eynon needs to be assured that this Authority takes mental health issues and complying with the charter very seriously. Our Mental Health Champion is of enormous help to me in delivering the portfolio priorities I have. Pam and I have done a lot together on Mental Health and the work that she does should be applauded.”

**(B) Mr Charlesworth asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-**

“Will the Lead Member for Heritage, Leisure and Arts be attending the Richard III event on the 26<sup>th</sup> March?”

**Mr Blunt replied as follows:-**

“No. I was not invited, something of which I had been aware for some time. The Cathedral Quarter Partnership Board, which has overseen all the arrangements for reinterment week decided, rightly in my view, to restrict civic and political attendance to the minimum, in order to ensure the best opportunity for the general public to attend.”

**(C) Mr Galton asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-**

“Further to the Cabinet’s decision on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Transport following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member to take various decisions relating to Recycling Credits, could the Leader update the Council as follows:

1. How many District Councils as waste collection authorities have entered into new local agreements for green garden waste?

2. Has notice been served on all district councils to terminate the 2006 local arrangements for the payment of recycling credits?
3. Have any district councils been issued with a direction to deliver green garden waste to a facility under the County Council's waste composting contracts? If so, which District Councils and where to?
4. Have any changes been made to the existing system for the payment of recycling credits to voluntary and community groups and other third parties that collect household waste for recycling? If so, please list the organisations affected."

**Mr Pain replied as follows:-**

- "1. Local agreements have been completed with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, and Harborough District Council. Agreement has been reached with Blaby District Council and it is now with that council for execution.

Charnwood Borough Council has agreed the principles of the agreement and it is in the process of being finalised.

Agreement in principle has been reached with Melton Borough Council and we expect that agreement will also be finalised shortly.

2. & 3. The termination of the 2006 local arrangements for the payment of recycling credits is included in the new local agreements outlined above. Notice to terminate the 2006 arrangements has been included with the directions sent to North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. Those two councils have been issued with a direction to deliver green garden waste under the County Council's contracts:

North West Leicestershire – to Lount Composting Facility.

Oadby and Wigston – to Welland Waste Management Ltd, Theddingworth, pending the identification of another location closer to Oadby and Wigston.

In addition, a portion of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's green waste has been directed to Grendon House Farm, Grendon and to Whetstone Transfer Station. This direction is contained in the local agreement.

The agreement with Charnwood Borough Council provides for a proportion of its green waste to be directed to the Lount composing facility.

4. No changes have been made to the system for the payment of recycling credits to voluntary and community groups and other third parties.

However, we are currently considering options for making changes to reduce the amount that is spent on paying recycling credits to charities

and community groups and are currently consulting residents and groups that may be affected. The consultation is open until 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and all responses will be considered before any changes are implemented.

As Mr Galton will be aware from the scrutiny of the MTFs earlier this year, the savings requirement from the waste management budget means that further changes are planned, including ceasing payment for recycling credits for dry materials.”

**(D) Mr Kaufman asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-**

“According to Department for Information (DfE) figures, Basic Need allocations for Leicestershire in the financial year 2017-18 will be just £4.5m. What are the Leader’s thoughts on the money being used for purposes other than Basic Need, such as supporting age range changes?”

**Mr Ould replied as follows:-**

“Basic Need funding is given to the local authority to ensure that we meet our duty to make sure there are enough school places available.

The Local Authority is working closely and in a creative/flexible way with the DfE/Education Funding Agency to maximise the use of capital resources for the benefit of Leicestershire children and young people, but it must be noted that Basic Need funding is not provided to fund the same number of overall places, albeit that those places may have transferred into other schools.

The funding is provided based on the projections of pupil numbers required to meet future demand. The £4.5m allocated for 2017/18 will be sufficient to meet the anticipated number of schools places that will be needed.”

**Mr Kaufman asked the following supplementary question:**

“As any school reorganisation needs to have a good business plan, would you please clarify that, if a school decides to take in year 6, where would they find the funding from, bearing in mind the answer here?”

**Mr Ould replied as follows:**

“The answer makes it quite clear that Basic Need funding is not to maintain the same number of places in schools that reorganise and I haven’t got anything I can add to that because the other issues will be dealt with through the Education Funding Agency which is a quango.”

**47. POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.**

The Leader presented a position statement on the following matters:-

- King Richard III;
- Economic Development;
- Superfast Broadband;

- Rail Strategy for Leicestershire;
- Fairer Funding;
- Leicestershire Public Sector Commissioning Skills Academy;
- Harborough District Council Symington Building.

The Lead Member for Children and Family Services presented a position statement on the following matters:-

- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Achievements of young people in care;
- Redmoor Academy – National Finalist in the 2015 Pupil Premium Award;
- F40 meeting with the DfE;
- Supporting Leicestershire Families.

The Lead Member for Health presented a position statement on the following matters:-

- Better Care Together;
- Mental Health Services;
- New Congenital Heart Disease Review.

A copy of the position statements is filed with these minutes.

#### **48. REPORT OF THE CABINET.**

##### **(a) Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2014.**

It was moved by Mr White, seconded by Mr Houseman and carried:-

“That the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014 be noted with support.”

#### **49. REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.**

##### **(a) Electoral Review of Leicestershire County Council - Statement on Council Size.**

It was moved by Dr Feltham, seconded by Mr Hunt and carried:-

“That the submission on Council size set out in Appendix 1 to the report of the Constitution Committee be approved for submission to the Local Boundary Commission for England.”

##### **(b) Establishment of a Local Pension Board.**

It was moved by Mr Hart, seconded by Mr Rhodes and carried:-

“(a) That the terms of reference for the Leicestershire Local Pension Board

as set out in Appendix 2 of the report to the Constitution Committee be approved;

- (b) That Mr Kershaw CC and Mr Jennings CC be appointed to serve as the County Council representatives on the Leicestershire Local Pension Board;
- (c) That the Pension Fund Management Board be renamed the Local Pensions Committee."

## **50. REPORT OF THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.**

### **(a) Pay Policy Statement 2015/16.**

It was moved by Mr Rhodes, seconded by Mr Shepherd and carried:-

"That the County Council's Pay Policy Statement 2015/16, as referred to in the report of the Employment Committee, be approved."

## **51. APPOINTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEMS 11 AND 12 OF STANDING ORDER 4:-**

### **(a) To appoint a Church Representative to serve on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Report of the Chief Executive.**

It was moved by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Charlesworth and carried:-

"That Carolyn Lewis be appointed as Church of England representative on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or other appropriate scrutiny committee dealing with Education) for the period ending with the County Council elections in 2017."

## **52. NOTICES OF MOTION.**

### **(a) Grammar Schools - Mr. D. A. Sprason CC**

It was moved by Mr Sprason, and seconded by Mr Yates:-

"The destruction of Grammar Schools has led to the destruction of social mobility in our society. In December 2013 the then Secretary of State for Education blocked a Grammar School being created in Kent. Government policy is not to create anymore Grammar Schools. There are now just 164 state Grammar Schools in the country with 11 of them being in Leicestershire which are now potentially under threat as a result of the government's academy policy. We find this very worrying.

In light of this, we call upon the County Council to:-

- (a) recognise the importance of Grammar Schools and to reaffirm its commitment to protecting them;
- (b) write to the Secretary of State for Education asking for her assurance



that our Grammar Schools in Leicestershire are safe and under no threat.”

The motion was not carried, 2 members voting for the motion and 48 members voting against the motion.

**(b) Oadby School Age Range Changes - Mr D A Gamble CC**

It was moved by Mr Gamble, and seconded by Mr Kaufman:-

“1. That this Council:-

- (a) Recognises the excellent results being achieved by students attending Gartree High School, Manor High School and Beauchamp College, and congratulates these schools for their hard work and effective partnership working.
- (b) Notes the disconnection between the proposals by these schools to change their age ranges and become 11+ schools.
- (c) Notes the significant concerns expressed by parents during the recent consultation including:
  - (i) The potential reduction in the number of A Level places.
  - (ii) The impact on school transport policy.
  - (iii) The risk that these changes could lead to a drop in standards.
  - (iv) The capital cost of these changes in respect of primary schools.
  - (v) The lack of cohesion between the independent plans.
- (d) Notes that the Cabinet in November 2014 in considering a strategy for the provision of school places agreed a priority to remove the 10+ system, subject to there being a strong local demand for change evidenced by consultation.

2. This Council therefore resolves to scrutinise the age range change business cases being put forward by schools if and when requested to do by the Regional Schools Commissioner on behalf of DfE and only to support changes where there is evidence that it will lead to improved educational outcomes for young people in the Oadby area.”

An amendment was moved by Mr Ould, and seconded by Mr Rhodes:-

“That the motion be amended to read as follows:-

‘1. That this Council:-

- (a) Recognises the excellent results being achieved by students attending Gartree High School, Manor High School and Beauchamp College, and congratulates these schools for their hard work and effective partnership working.

- (b) Notes the significant concerns expressed by some parents during the recent consultation.
- 2. That this Council, in line with the policy agreed by the Cabinet in November 2014, therefore resolves to scrutinise the age range change business cases being put forward by schools if and when requested to do by the Regional Schools Commissioner on behalf of DfE.’ ”

The amendment was put and carried, 28 members voting for the amendment, 11 against and 7 abstentions.

The substantive motion was put and carried, 28 members voting for the substantive motion, none against and 18 abstentions.

2.30 pm – 5.45 pm  
25 March 2015

CHAIRMAN