



DATE: 12 May 2015  
MY REF: MIS/Council  
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Dear Sir/Madam

I summon you to the MEETING of the LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL to be held at COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD on WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2015 at 2.30 p.m. for the transaction of the business set out in the agenda below.

Yours faithfully



**Chief Executive**

### AGENDA

1. To elect a Chairman.
2. To appoint a Vice - Chairman.
3. Chairman's Announcements.
4. Report of the Returning Officer. (Pages 3 - 4)
5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 March 2015. (Pages 5 - 26)
6. To receive declarations by members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
7. To answer questions asked under Standing Order 7(1)(2) and (5).
8. To receive position statements under Standing Order 8.



**To consider reports of the Cabinet, Scrutiny Commission, Scrutiny Committees and other bodies:**

9. Reports of the Cabinet:-
  - (a) Dates of Council Meetings 2015/16 and 2016/17. (Pages 27 - 28)
10. To make appointments in accordance with items 11 and 12 of Standing Order 4.
  - (a) To appoint the Leader;
  - (b) To note any changes to the membership of the Cabinet made by the Leader;
  - (c) To appoint Cabinet Support Members as the Council considers appropriate;
  - (d) To appoint members of the Scrutiny Commission, Boards and Committees (including the naming of Spokesmen/Spokespersons).

**COUNTY OF LEICESTERSHIRE****REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER****ELECTION OF A COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR THE NARBOROUGH  
AND WHETSTONE ELECTORAL DIVISION – 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

To report that the person elected was as follows:-

<b><u>Name and Address</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
Terry Richardson 21 The Pastures, Narborough, Leicester LE19 3DS	The Conservative Party Candidate

J. Sinnott

Returning Officer

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**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

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015**  
**LEADER'S POSITION STATEMENT**

**KING RICHARD III**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank officers of the County Council who have played key roles in co-ordinating the events leading up to this reinterment week.

The Chairman has paid tribute to the Civic Team but there have been valuable contributions from across the County Council, particularly staff from highways, museums and heritage and communications, and not forgetting 200 plus staff who volunteered for duties such as acting as traffic marshals.

The event at Bosworth Battlefield on Sunday was splendidly organised and very well received. I would particularly like to thank Franne Wills from the Communities and Wellbeing Service, and Richard Knox and Richard Mackinder from the Battlefield for all that they did over many months to make the event so successful. Ian Vears in Environment & Transport did a tremendous job in co-ordinating all the traffic and transport arrangements across the road network on Sunday.

The organisation involved in the week was always going to be extensive. The City Council and ourselves decided some time ago that we would second two senior officers to lead a project team working with the church and other authorities. Our secondee has been Julian Haywood from Corporate Resources, who has evidently done a great job.

Of course, what we all have to do now in Leicester and Leicestershire is make sure that our area capitalises on the Richard III legacy. I'm confident we will do so.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Positive progress continues to be made in securing funding to support local businesses and the creation of jobs. I was delighted to sign the Growth Deal with the Cities Minister Greg Clark alongside the City Mayor and Nick Pulley, Chair of the LLEP. I was especially pleased that this deal secures much-needed funding to regenerate Melton cattle market, improve the Midland Mainline

through Market Harborough and improve workspace provision in Coalville. It was also very good news to hear that a food enterprise zone has been secured for Melton, that work is well underway to construct the Advanced Technology Innovation Centre at Loughborough University and that the MIRA Technology Enterprise Zone is to be extended.

The Council's contributions to these projects, and a wide range of other economic activity, are captured in the Enabling Growth Plan recently approved by the Cabinet. It demonstrates how the Council will deliver its economic priorities by investing over £37m into projects, leveraging a further £70m from the Government, local partners and private businesses.

The meeting with Greg Clark provided an opportunity to discuss with him how we can strengthen our partnership working and collaboration locally, including exploring the creation of a combined authority. This is a conversation I will pursue with Greg Clark or his successor after the general election. I believe we have shown locally that we are serious about supporting growth and that we can, and should, be trusted with more powers and greater control over funding so that we can do even more.

### **SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

Excellent progress is being made to increase superfast broadband coverage across Leicestershire. In partnership with BT, our initial contract is delivering on time with almost 30,000 premises (out of 62,000 planned) now able to access high-speed broadband. Last week, for example, improvements were completed in Sharnford, Donisthorpe, Dunton Bassett and Stoke Golding. In January I was pleased to attend a community event in Diseworth to celebrate the launch of its broadband cabinet and was delighted to hear about the benefits that fibre broadband will bring to small businesses and residents in the village.

A further 10,000 premises will benefit as part of the Superfast Extension Programme. Earlier this month, we signed a new £9.2m contract with BT with £1.45m of the funding provided by the County Council and £2m secured through working with the LLEP.

The challenge to deliver superfast broadband to all premises remains a real one though. The Council has set aside £500,000 to help communities identify and fund alternative solutions, and I welcome the Chancellor's Budget



announcements last week which seek to guarantee much faster speeds for households and businesses in remote rural areas and outlined an ambition to deliver 'ultrafast' broadband of 100mbps to nearly all homes. We will be ready to work with Government, the LLEP, district councils and broadband providers to turn this ambition into reality in Leicestershire.

## **RAIL STRATEGY FOR LEICESTERSHIRE**

Members will be aware that Leicestershire is set to see two significant changes in its rail network. An announcement is due this year from the Government on HS2, and the Midland Mainline is due to be electrified in the next 5 years or so.

If the Government does progress with its plans for HS2, we need to ensure that Leicestershire people and businesses are able to benefit from the new route. Improving our local rail services is going to be key, first for places like Loughborough and Melton Mowbray that are already on the network, but then also for Coalville and Ashby who have lost their train services but still have a railway line.

I have asked the Director of Environment and Transport to look at how we can improve the strategic network in Leicestershire, providing better local rail services and even re-opening lines that were closed to passenger traffic some decades ago.

The strategy will be a high level study looking at the potential for future rail investment to address issues such as:

- Freight trains having to cross the Midland Mainline at Mountsorrel and Wigston, which impacts on the efficiency of the Midland Main line;
- Improvements at Market Harborough in terms of line speed and the station, as mentioned earlier;
- The potential for introducing passenger services to the Leicester to Burton Line;
- Leicester to Coventry improvements through Warwickshire's KNUCKLE3 project.

I hope this study will support the development and prioritisation of future business cases for Government investment into rail infrastructure and services.

The work on re-appraising the viability of passenger services on the line through Coalville and Ashby, with a focus on improving connections to the national rail network, would bring significant economic benefit to North West Leicestershire. As such I have been in discussion with the Leader of the District Council and he has agreed to look at the possibility of his Council making a financial contribution to the cost of the study.

### **FAIRER FUNDING**

I wrote to Eric Pickles to raise our well documented concerns about Leicestershire County Council's low funding position. I was very pleased to receive a personal response with positive comments on our agenda for change. I have replied to this letter explaining further our funding position and pointing out that we intend to continue to campaign for fair funding and will make our case to the incoming Government.

I also explained that we would like to explore the possibility of greater devolution of business rates and possibly other responsibilities and that we will be working up proposals for discussion in the near future. We want to be self-funding and have more local control over services. As mentioned earlier, I also had the opportunity to discuss this and other combined authority possibilities with Greg Clark, the Cities Minister, when he visited Loughborough.

It is pleasing to see that the Chancellor's budget promised a review of business rates, although disappointing it will not report until early 2016. The budget also designated two pilot areas that will be able to retain 100% of the growth in business rates above existing forecasts. Although our ambition is for full devolution it does show that there is an open door to discuss these possibilities. I hope after the election in May this remains the case.

### **LEICESTERSHIRE PUBLIC SECTOR COMMISSIONING SKILLS ACADEMY**

We know that how services are commissioned is vital to our Transformation Programme and the MTFS savings more widely.

I am pleased to report that support has recently been secured from the Cabinet Office for the development of a local public sector wide commissioning academy in Leicestershire. This follows work which has been ongoing with the Government since August 2013.

Discussions will now be held with our partners across the local public sector, such as the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups and the district councils to move forward so that we can improve our collective expertise in the area of commissioning.

### **HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL SYMINGTON BUILDING**

I recently visited Harborough District Council's Symington Building where the County Council has worked with Harborough District Council to transform the Council offices that were only 60 percent used and which had a maintenance backlog of £1.8million.

Through careful design and excellent joint working, this £6million project was completed on time and on budget. From a County Council perspective, it has replaced four buildings and means that the library, museum, register office, adult learning, social care and a touchdown point are now under one roof, alongside the District Council, the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Job Centre.

This is yet another example of how the county has worked with a district council to respond to the financial challenges facing us all, whilst at the same time achieving co-location of services in a modern, fit for purpose building.

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**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015****POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEAD MEMBER****CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

In my statement to the Council in September 2014 I referred to the need for us to be prepared for the increasing focus on safeguarding children from sexual exploitation. Sadly, that cautionary message has proved to be borne out through the national reporting of large scale cases.

The arrangements that we had already put in place, on a temporary basis, to create a multi-agency team with the police to respond to this increasingly prevalent area of child protection has now been secured through the growth in budget for Children and Family Services. That team has now been further strengthened by the involvement of health partners. The Assistant Chief Constable and our Director of Children and Family Services have established an Executive Group to oversee the work of this team.

The operational liaison which the County Council has with the Chief Constable and his officers is first class. I noted from his statement made on Monday, that the Police and Crime Commissioner wants “to facilitate greater partnership activity” and is inviting funding bids. The Commissioner has never sought to meet with me as the Lead Member with responsibilities in this area and I would be interested to know what he is proposing. If additional funding is available from his budget to deal with child sexual exploitation, it would be sensible for bids to be made on a multi-agency basis and to recognise the contributions partners are already making.

The Commissioner has sought to provide reassurances about the past. However, we need to acknowledge that there are examples of child sexual exploitation, commonly referred to as CSE, in the county and these are being swiftly responded to; perpetrators are being investigated and children and young people are being effectively supported.

A clear multi-agency Action Plan to tackle and respond to CSE is in place through the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and the County Council’s own CSE Action Plan sits alongside it. I continue to receive bi-weekly reports about children in care who go missing – children who are vulnerable to CSE, and I monitor the progress of the CSE Action Plan through my weekly Lead Member meetings with the Director.

In the autumn, new arrangements were put in place for Member oversight of children’s social care services. As part of these new arrangements an all-Member Child Protection Panel was set up to provide assurance, at elected Member level, that the County Council is discharging its duties in relation to child protection. I would strongly advise the Council that the Panel is the place to discuss these issues in more detail.

An awareness raising campaign is in place for the general public, schools, licences and taxi firms, children, young people and their families. A few weeks ago, along with Leon Spence and Peter Lewis, I attended a high profile conference for all agencies working in our local area and listened to the experiences of families from other parts of the country that have anguished over their children's experiences of CSE.

Learning from these families first hand is an important way to understand how best to develop our own plans to prevent CSE, respond swiftly to it when we learn about it, and support the victims of it towards their recovery.

Preventing harm to children and young people from those seeking to exploit them sexually must continue to be a priority for the Council, and one which I will continue to challenge and seek re-assurance about from the department regarding its work.

The recent surge in cases prompted, I believe we all recognise, by national reporting of CSE, has placed unprecedented demands on the Children and Family Services department, but I am very pleased to be able to tell you that, nevertheless, there continues to be much to recognise and celebrate:

- As a result of the support that we provide to engaging young people in positive activities there are three things that I would like to mention:
  - firstly, on Monday, our Children in Care Choir took centre stage at Sheffield City Hall, in the Voice in a Million concert, raising awareness about the plight of millions of children worldwide, who are orphaned, abandoned or separated from their birth parents, and in need of a loving family for life. An extraordinary thing for our own children in care to promote.
  - secondly, in February, members of our Children in Care Council participated in the All Party Parliamentary Group discussion in Westminster on involving children in care planning, making sure that the voices of Leicestershire children are heard by those creating national policy;
  - and thirdly, on a similar theme, in January this year, Rina Roy, a Leicestershire member of the UK Youth Parliament, was one of only 60 young people in England invited to join with MPs to celebrate 750 years of Parliament.

These significant experiences for our young people are only possible as a result of our committed workforce and I would like to mention Sam Harris, a youth worker supporting vulnerable young people across Hinckley and Bosworth, who was recognised in the national Youth Worker Awards early in the New Year.

- Our schools have also had successes. Of note is Redmoor Academy, in Hinckley, that has become a national finalist in the 2015 Pupil Premium Award in recognition of its effective use of the pupil premium in raising the attainment

of disadvantaged pupils and improving their outcomes. I continue to work on behalf of our schools through the F40 group to achieve fairer funding. In January I met with DfE funding officials and on 4<sup>th</sup> March I met with Nick Gibb, prior to a Back Bench debate in the House on 10<sup>th</sup> March about the issues around school funding and the need for confirmation that the recently provided additional £390m will appear in future years' allocations.

- And finally, our Supporting Leicestershire Families work continues to receive high national profile. On 10<sup>th</sup> March, Eric Pickles announced our successful latest figures in the House of Commons and also mentioned the letter of support for our programme that had been sent by a Leicestershire head teacher.

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**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 25 MARCH 2014****POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEAD MEMBER FOR HEALTH****Better Care Together**

As Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board I am a member of the Better Care Together (BCT) Programme Board. BCT is a transformational health and social care programme running until 2019. The partnership is made up of all the NHS and local authority bodies in the area, including the three Healthwatch organisations and members of the voluntary and community sector.

The Better Care Together vision is for a local health and social care system that supports people through every stage of life. Seamless health and care pathways are being developed which will:-

- Support children and parents for the very best start in life;
- Help people stay well in mind and body throughout their life;
- Know patients' history and can plan their health needs;
- Care for the most vulnerable and the most frail;
- Have services available when it matters and especially in a crisis;
- Help support patients and their loved ones when life comes to an end;
- Provide faster access, shorter waits and more services out of hospital.

We are still at the beginning of our journey to transform health and social care services and the BCT team has recently undertaken an awareness raising campaign across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to test the proposals before we move to formal consultation later in the year.

All local organisations agree that major changes are needed to ensure that services are of the right quality and capable of meeting the future needs of local communities. The aim is to improve services and people's experience of them by focussing on community-based prevention and care, while at the same time addressing major financial challenges.

**Mental Health Services**

Members will be aware of the national focus on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Through reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board, we have been made aware that Leicestershire is experiencing similar problems and pressures to other parts of the country with access to CAMHS services, both in terms of waiting times for outpatient assessment and treatment services along with difficulties in accessing specialist beds locally, regionally and nationally.

As part of the Better Care Together five year plan to transform services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, a working group has recently been established specifically to focus on improvements to CAMHS services, led by our Director of Children and Family Services. Progress with this work will be regularly reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board; we received our first progress report on 12 March.

On 14 March the Government announced additional funding for mental health services which has been confirmed in the Chancellor's budget. The range of funding will total £1.2bn nationally. Officers of the County Council will meet with their counterparts in the NHS to gain a better understanding of the resources being made available to Leicestershire and of any guidance and regulations attached to those resources with a view to reporting back to the Health and Wellbeing Board. I believe the Council will wish to join me in welcoming this additional resource now being made available.

### **Update on the New Congenital Heart Disease Review**

Members will recall that consultation on the national standards for the new congenital heart disease service took place at the end of last year. I'd like to thank the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for engaging with the consultation. In total, NHS England received 459 responses which have now been independently analysed. A lengthy report on the consultation responses has been produced. In summary, views on the standards are broadly positive, with concerns focused on how they will be implemented and whether all the issues have been covered. In light of this, significant changes to the standards are not expected.

The next stage is for NHS England to finalise the standards which involves a complex assurance process. The final decision on the standards is expected in the summer. NHS England will then move into the next stages of the review; commissioning and implementation. It remains the case that, if a service meets the standards, it will be commissioned.

I have been a regular attender of the East Midlands Congenital Heart Centre Stakeholder Engagement Group and through this I have been kept up-to-date with the work that UHL is doing to make sure it meets the standards. This includes discussions around the development of a clinical network with Birmingham to create a viable, two-centre, service for the Midlands. UHL is also developing an outline plan for its Children's Hospital on the LRI site, which should be ready by 2018/19. A charitable appeal will be launched and I am sure that all members will join me in supporting it so that we can demonstrate our commitment and desire to retain a children's heart service in Leicester.

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

### A. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2015/16 and 2016/17

#### Introduction

1. This report concerns the proposed dates for Council meetings in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

#### Background

2. Standing Order 1 (2) requires that, in addition to the Annual Meeting of the Council and any meetings convened by the Chairman or members of the Council, meetings of the Council for the transaction of general business shall be held on such days as may be determined by the Council at its Annual Meeting on the recommendation of the Cabinet. A date so determined may be varied by the Cabinet. Standing Order 1 (4) also makes it necessary for the Council to fix a date in February for the Council's Budget Meeting.
3. Dates for the 2016/17 municipal year have been included in order to provide members with advanced notice of future meetings. All meetings County Council meetings commence at 2.30 p.m.
4. The recommendation of the Cabinet on this matter is set out in the motion which appears below:-

#### (Motion to be moved:

**That Council meetings in 2015/16 and 2016/17 be held on the following dates:-**

**Wednesday 8 July 2015**  
**Wednesday 23 September 2015**  
**Wednesday 2 December 2015**  
**Wednesday 17 February 2016 (Budget Meeting)**  
**Wednesday 16 March 2016**  
**Wednesday 18 May 2016 (Annual Meeting)**

**Wednesday 13 July 2016**  
**Wednesday 21 September 2016**  
**Wednesday 7 December 2016**  
**Wednesday 22 February 2017 (Budget Meeting)**  
**Wednesday 22 March 2017**  
**Wednesday 17 May 2017 (Annual Meeting).**

16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

N. J. Rushton  
Leader of the Council

#### Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet, 16th March 2015 – Dates of Council meetings 2015/16 and 2016/17.

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