



DATE: 10 May 2016
MY REF: MIS/CCouncil
PLEASE ASK FOR: Mr. M. I. Seedat
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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, 18 MAY 2016 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. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 March 2016. (Pages 3 - 16)
5. To receive declarations by members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
6. To answer questions asked under Standing Order 7(1)(2) and (5).
7. To receive position statements under Standing Order 8.



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

8. Report of the Cabinet:-
 - (a) Dates of Council Meetings 2016/17. (Pages 17 - 18)
9. 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).

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016**

PRESENT

Mr. E. D. Snartt CC (in the Chair)

Mr. I. E. G. Bentley CC, Mr. D. C. Bill MBE CC, Mr. R. Blunt CC, Mr. G. A. Boulter 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, 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. L. 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. A. E. Pearson CC, Mr. T. J. Pendleton CC, Mrs. P. Posnett CC, Mrs. C. M. Radford CC, Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC, Mr. T. J. Richardson 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. L. Spence CC, Mr. D. A. Sprason CC, Mr. G. Welsh CC, Mr. E. F. White CC, Mr. M. B. Wyatt CC and Mr. L. E. Yates CC

49. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Mr G Welsh

The Chairman and members expressed their pleasure at seeing Mr Welsh back in the Chamber after his recent illness.

Chairman's Concert

The Chairman reported that on Tuesday, 8th March a concert had taken place at De Montfort Hall in support of the Chairman's two chosen charities, LOROS and the Children's Holiday Centre in Mablethorpe.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the Leicester-Shire School Music Service for putting on the concert and showcasing the gifted and talented young musicians of Leicester and Leicestershire. It had been a delightful evening and the programme had included a varied repertoire featuring Percussion Ensembles, Wind Orchestra, Steel Pan Ensemble, Show Choir, Dhol Drummers and a Massed Secondary School Choir.

Affiliates Day at Sea

The Chairman reported that on Thursday, 3rd March he had been joined by Mrs Posnett and others on HMS Quorn at Portsmouth Naval Base as part of the 'Affiliates Scheme'.

The Affiliates Scheme is a long tradition in the Royal Navy, linking ships of the Royal Navy with towns, organisations and individuals throughout the

County. The Affiliates Day allows the Royal Navy to demonstrate its good work, which might otherwise go unnoticed, to the community.

The Chairman reported it had been a wonderful experience and he had been pleased to hear that the Royal Navy values such a relationship as it enabled the sailors to feel a connection to the people they serve especially when deployed for long periods of time overseas.

Visitors

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

50. MINUTES.

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

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 February 2016, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

51. 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.

Mr Orson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the Notice of Motion relating to the Membership of the European Union, as he was a working farmer.

52. QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)(2) AND (5).

(A) Mr Hunt asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-

“Given the extremely challenging financial situation he and his cabinet members have outlined and the significant increases in Council Tax programmed for the next four years, could the Leader advise the Council:

1. How can he justify spending, more than £42,000 a year on a political advisor for the Conservative Group and almost £40,000 for a political advisor of the Liberal Democrat Group?
2. How many extra hours of home care could be provided annually for £82,667; that being the current estimate of spending on political assistants to the Tory and Liberal Democrat Groups.
3. How much time the Tory political assistant spent working on the recent Boundary Review, and does he think the Council should pay for party political advice on proposing electoral boundaries to their party advantage.

4. Whether political assistants will be permitted to spend the Council's time and money on devising political boundaries in future reviews?"

Mr Rushton replied as follows:-

- "1. The decision to appoint political assistants was an all-party agreement and until fairly recently the Labour Group had a political assistant to support them.
2. The Council pays an average minimum hourly rate of £14.67 for domiciliary care. This means that £82,667 would equate to 5,635 hours.
3. Political assistants are there to provide support to the Group and members of the Group on a broad range of issues which relate to the work of the Council. A key part of this role involves analysing and disseminating information on matters which the Group has identified and the work on the boundary review was one such task. It would be time-consuming, if not impossible, to try and collect the necessary information to provide an answer to the question posed about time spent working on the boundary review.
4. The next boundary review will be sometime after 2027 and I am not in a position to comment on what will happen then."

53. POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.

The Leader presented a position statement on the following matters:

- Combined Authority/Devolution Deal;
- Midlands Engine;
- Charnwood Campus;
- Street Parties to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

The Lead Member for Children and Families presented a position statement on the following matters:

- The Post-16 Education Sector;
- Academies;
- Consultation on the National Schools Funding Formula;
- Launch of CEASE, the local Campaign to Eradicate Abuse and Sexual Exploitation;
- Education of Children in Care event.

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

54. REPORT OF THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.

(a) Pay Policy Statement 2016/17.

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

“That the County Council’s Pay Policy Statement 2016/17, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Employment Committee, be approved.”

55. NOTICE OF MOTION:

(a) Membership of the European Union.

Mr Orson CC having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this matter left the Chamber and therefore took no part in the discussion.

It was moved by Mr Sharp, and seconded by Mr Sheahan:-

“(1) That this Council notes:

- a) The importance of the forthcoming Referendum on UK membership of the European Union to every resident, business and organisation in Leicestershire;
- b) That EU Membership has given vital rights to British workers and the EU’s rules provide important protection to consumers, workers and the environment;
- c) That there are direct benefits to Leicestershire’s communities of EU membership including EU funding which supports economic growth and regeneration across the county; for example the £89m indicative allocation of EU funds to support economic and social programmes across the Leicester and Leicestershire economic area 2014/20.

(2) That this Council believes it is in the best interests of residents, business and the whole county of Leicestershire for the UK to remain a member of the European Union.”

An amendment was moved by Mr Sprason, and seconded by Mr Yates:-

“That motion be amended to read as follows

‘1. That this Council:-

- a) Notes the importance of the forthcoming referendum on UK membership of the European Union to every resident, business and organisation in Leicestershire;
- b) welcomes the Prime Minister’s achievement in delivering an in/out referendum on our nation’s membership of the European Union (EU) so that we can all have a vote on this vital issue;
- c) notes that in his negotiating position the PM identified some clear objectives covering matters such as immigration, welfare and sovereignty which could form part of a revised relationship if the UK were to remain in the EU;

- d) notes that due to continental intransigence the current “deal” offers very little towards the objectives set out by the Prime Minister in terms of delivering a sustainable and fair welfare and immigration policy for the UK or the ability to repatriate powers back to this country;
 - e) Notes that in his negotiation the Prime Minister also failed to reduce unnecessary interference and bureaucracy from the EU, which will hinder our ability to successfully grow the Leicestershire economy.
2. This Council therefore believes that the Prime Minister’s deal does not offer a good opportunity for Leicestershire Residents and businesses and that the United Kingdom would be better placed to grow and develop by leaving the EU.’ ”

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

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

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

‘1. That this Council:-

- (a) notes the importance of the forthcoming Referendum on UK membership of the European Union to every resident, business and organisation in Leicestershire;
- (b) welcomes the fact that every eligible voter across the UK will get the opportunity to decide on Britain’s membership of the EU;
- (c) notes that all parties are putting forward their respective views but ultimately this will be a matter for the good judgement of the British public and not politicians.’ ”

The amendment was put and carried, 38 members voting for the amendment, and 10 against.

The substantive motion was put and carried, 38 members voting for the substantive motion, none against with 10 abstentions.

2.30 pm – 4.56 pm
16 March 2016

CHAIRMAN

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16TH MARCH 2016

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Combined Authority/ Devolution Deal

I can report that we remain very much on track to establish the Leicester/ Leicestershire Combined Authority by the Autumn. The positive collaboration between the County Council, City Council, district councils and the LLEP means that we are in an increasingly strong position to take advantage of the Government's devolution agenda, in stark contrast to some other places where combined authority and devolution plans have been unravelling on a weekly basis. We are fortunate in that Leicester and Leicestershire's boundaries broadly match those of the functional economic area which means that our partnership working and proposed activities are rooted in a meaningful economic geography. And our strength is reflected in the fact that other authorities are discussing the possibility of joining us, in particular Rutland, where I had positive engagement with the late leader Roger Begy and am having equally positive conversations with his successor, Terry King.

We are now building on our Combined Authority platform to develop a Devolution Deal with Government. Whilst still at an early stage, the nine Councils are committed to exploring radical and innovative ideas across a range of issues for inclusion in our deal. These will be discussed at the next meeting of the Economic Growth Board (now acting as the Shadow Combined Authority) on 22nd March. We hope to engage with Government on a Devolution Deal proposition before the summer recess.

Midlands Engine

I am continuing to engage fully with the emergence and development of the Midlands Engine which is our local version of the Northern Powerhouse and provides the opportunity to raise the profile of the Midlands both nationally and internationally and secure increased government funding to boost economic growth. I am particularly

keen to ensure that Leicestershire, and indeed the wider East Midlands, is fully and effectively represented in the Midlands Engine governance arrangements.

To this end I am keen that the Midlands Engine office should be based in Leicestershire and along with Loughborough University, Leicester City Council, the other City and County Council's in the East Midlands, the LLEP and other partners I am supporting a proposal for the office to be hosted at Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park.

I am also pleased to report that two schemes in the county have been submitted, via the Midlands Engine, for Government funding. These are further expansion of Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park, and further phases of the Leicester North West transport scheme. I am also a member of the Midlands Connect Board, which is effectively the transport arm of Midlands Engine. The main focus for Midlands Connect is to develop a comprehensive long-term strategy for road and rail by March 2017. The Government has provided £5m to fund the development of this strategy.

Charnwood Campus

The closure of the Astra Zeneca life sciences facility in Loughborough was a shock to the town's and the county's economy. I am delighted to report that the site, now known as Charnwood Campus, is fast becoming a major economic development focus yet again. Earlier this month Nicky Morgan MP and the Life Sciences Minister, George Freeman, attended a roundtable at Charnwood Campus. At this event a substantial new occupier of part of the campus, the pharmaceutical company Almac, was welcomed. Almac's announcement of a £16 million investment in the site expected to create 180 new jobs over the next 5 years is a welcome vote of confidence in Loughborough as a centre for life sciences activity.

George Freeman also launched a new toolkit for the revitalisation of major life sciences sites, and invited Charnwood Campus and local partners to put forward the site as a pilot Life Sciences Opportunity Zone. The County Council will be represented on a task force chaired by Nicky Morgan MP which will put a bid together. I look forward to working with Nicky, Charnwood Campus, Almac, the LLEP, the borough council and other key partners such as Loughborough University in ensuring the potential of this site is maximised alongside complementary expansion of the University's Science and Enterprise Parks and other key sites in the area.

Street Parties to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday

Finally, I am delighted to advise the Council first that the County Council will be offering free road closure applications for street parties held to mark The Queen's 90th Birthday and secondly that the City and County Councils will be arranging a joint celebration for The Queen's Birthday in Jubilee Square on Sunday, 12th June.

In regard to local street parties I would ask members to help and support communities and urge them to get in touch as soon as possible so the arrangements can be put in place. I understand the process takes about 6 weeks in total so it is important to get applications in early.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16th MARCH 2016**POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEAD MEMBER****CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

In previous statements I have referred to the significant changes underway in the education and schools agenda, and the impact of those changes on our own services and arrangements. My statement today provides further information as a result of recent announcements and the potential impact for us in Leicestershire. It also highlights some of the good work we are doing supporting children and families.

Firstly in the post-16 education sector, where a programme of national sub-regional reviews has been established, as a result of a report by the National Audit Office which identified the lack of financial sustainability in current arrangements.

Leicestershire has 5 FE colleges and 18 sixth forms, 16 of which are academies, and they will be impacted by this review. We are working closely with these providers, and in collaboration with the city council, to ensure that Leicestershire gets the very best deal possible from any changes that may be required as a result of the review, which will be led by a nationally appointed commissioner.

With regard to our primary and secondary school provision, you will remember the statement made by George Osborne when announcing the content of the Comprehensive Spending Review, that “local authorities running schools is a thing of the past”. This has been further reinforced by Nicky Morgan when addressing the Primary Heads meeting, and again at the Secondary Heads meeting last Friday. Schools are being directed to form Multi-Academy Trusts, or MATs. Schools wishing to convert to Academy status will no longer be able to do so on their own, and will need to work through MATS to gain approval. Where maintained schools are working below national standards, they will become sponsored Academies.

Last week the first stages of a consultation on a national schools funding formula was announced with the intention to implement change over a period of years starting in 2017/18.

It is anticipated that there will be 4 ‘blocks’ of funding.

The first will be for schools and it is intended that schools will receive their funding directly, so there will be no requirement for a Schools Forum and the LA will have no role.

The second funding block will be for high needs pupils such as those with special educational needs and disabilities. It is intended that the LA will continue to be responsible for ensuring that the needs of these children are met. In Leicestershire, as with many other LAs, there is already considerable pressure on this budget as a result of growth in the number of children with additional needs and Children and Family Services is already reviewing these pressures as part of its new Transformation Programme of work.

The third block of funding will be for early years and there is much less known about how this funding will be allocated or governed. There will be separate consultation about this later in the year.

Finally, there will be a new central schools block created for LA services such as admissions. However, the current central Education Services Grant will be removed and the consultation recognises that LAs will need to look for alternative funding sources to meet some of its statutory duties.

The consultation period is short and ends on 17th April. We have already convened an emergency meeting of the Schools Forum to consider the consultation and to plan for the transition from current arrangements to new arrangements. There will be significant financial pressures on many of our secondary academies, where there is currently surplus capacity whilst waiting for the population bulge to work through the system. We are working with these academies to facilitate discussions between the Education Funding Agency and the Regional Schools Commissioner to find short term solutions and a meeting has been arranged on 5th April.

I will ensure that Members are kept informed about the progress of these changes and the impact for Leicestershire and actions that will be required.

In the meantime there continues to be much to recognise with regard to the work of Children and Family Services including a range of high profile activities and events over the past month including:

- The launch of CEASE; our local Campaign to Eradicate Abuse and Sexual Exploitation. There was significant media coverage of this event and I would encourage all elected Members to sign the CEASE Pledge.
- We have followed this up through our new blog called [keepingchildrensafe](#). This highlights the excellent safeguarding work that is taking place across Leicestershire and enables us to support the new national campaign to encourage people to report child abuse. The next part of this campaign will be profiled in Leicestershire Matters.
- Additionally, we have, in the past couple of weeks, had media teams working alongside our staff in First Response – our first point of contact for

referrals about suspected safeguarding matters. There has been wide ranging media coverage in the press and on local radio plus East Midlands Today. All of this activity helps to ensure that Leicestershire residents understand our work and are confident in the services that we provide to protect children and young people.

Finally, last week, in this Council Chamber, we hosted an event about the education of our children in care, led by the HMI Ofsted lead. She was extremely complimentary about our local work, as well as the regional and national leadership that we are providing in this important area of our business. All of this work, combined with our continued national high performance for Supporting Leicestershire Families means that Leicestershire County Council continues to have a high profile for the excellent work that we do with children, young people and their families.

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REPORT OF THE CABINET**A. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2016/17****Introduction**

1. This report concerns the proposed dates for Council meetings in 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. 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 2016/17 be held on the following dates:-

Wednesday 29 June 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).

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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