Meeting: **Cabinet**

Date/Time: **Friday, 16 September 2016 at 11.00 am**

Location: **Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield**

Contact: **Mr. M. Hand (Tel. 0116 305 6038)**

Email: **matthew.hand@leics.gov.uk**

Membership

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC (Chairman)

Mr. R. Blunt CC	Mr. B. L. Pain CC
Mr. Dave Houseman MBE, CC	Mrs. P. Posnett CC
Mr. J. T. Orson JP CC	Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC
Mr. P. C. Osborne CC	Mr. E. F. White CC
Mr. I. D. Ould CC	

Please note: this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's web site at http://www.leics.gov.uk/webcast – Notices will be on display at the meeting explaining the arrangements.

Further note: The appendices for items 6, 11, 12 and 14 have been circulated separately to members and can be viewed on the County Council's website, at http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4775&Ver=4 A copy can also be obtained by contacting the committee officer.

AGENDA

Item		Report by	
1.	Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2016.		(Pages 3 - 12)
2.	To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.		
3.	Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.		
4.	Medium Term Financial Strategy Update.	Director of Corporate Resources	(Pages 13 - 20)

5.	Responses to Consultation on Self-Sufficient Local Government: 100% Business Rates Retention and Business Rates Reform Fair Funding Review: Call for Evidence on Needs and Redistribution.	Director of Corporate Resources	(Pages 21 - 38)
6.	Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Reports 2016/17.	Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Boards	(Pages 39 - 46)
7.	Better Care Fund Plan/Disabled Facilities Grant.	Chief Executive	(Pages 47 - 58)
8.	Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.	Chief Executive	(Pages 59 - 82)
9.	Dry Recycling Credits Medium Term Financial Strategy Savings.	Director of Environment and Transport	(Pages 83 - 140)
10.	Future Strategy for the Delivery of Library Services - Outcome of Consultation on Kirby Muxloe Library and Update concerning Desford Library.	Director of Adults and Communities	(Pages 141 - 178)
11.	Market Harborough Transport Study.	Director of Environment and Transport	(Pages 179 - 202)
12.	LTP3 Hinckley Area Project Zone 4- Proposed Transport Improvements.	Director of Environment and Transport	(Pages 203 - 210)
13.	A50 Bradgate Hill, Markfield Road, Groby Road and Leicester Road in the Parishes of Groby and Glenfield – Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders.	Director of Environment and Transport	(Pages 211 - 236)
14.	Infrastructure Plan.	Chief Executive	(Pages 237 - 244)
15.	Items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.		
16.	Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.		

Leicestershire County Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Glenfield on Monday, 18 July 2016.

PRESENT

Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC (in the Chair)

Mr. R. Blunt CC
Mr. Dave Houseman MBE, CC
Mr. J. T. Orson JP CC
Mr. P. C. Osborne CC
Mr. I. D. Ould CC
Mr. B. L. Pain CC
Mr. E. F. White CC

Apologies

Mrs. P. Posnett CC and Mr. N. J. Rushton CC

In attendance

Mr. G. A. Hart CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mr. R. Shepherd CC

453. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

454. Urgent items.

The Chairman advised that there were two urgent items for consideration. The first was a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health entitled "Children's Heart Surgery at Glenfield Hospital", regarding the announcement by NHS England that it intended to cease the commissioning of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital. The second was a report of the Director of Children and Family Services entitled "Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children", further to the publication of the "Interim National Transfer Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children 2016-17".

The reports were urgent because the issues had arisen after the agenda for the Cabinet meeting had been published and the implications needed to be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

With the agreement of the Cabinet these reports were taken under item 13 on the agenda (minutes 465 and 466 refer).

455. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting. No declarations were made.

456. Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities concerning the responses to the consultation exercise on the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 and seeking approval of the revised Strategy. A copy of the report, marked '4', is filed with these minutes.

The Cabinet noted comments from Mr. M. Charlesworth CC, for the Liberal Democrat Group, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Blunt CC said that the services were much valued and he hoped that by adopting a more strategic approach to their delivery and involving local communities they could be continued whilst meeting the savings requirements agreed by the Council.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the results of the consultation on the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 be noted;

(b) That the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 attached as Appendix A to the report be approved;

(c) That it be noted that the Director of Adults and Communities will develop an Implementation Plan for the Strategy;

(d) That the Director of Adults and Communities be authorised to take action as necessary in accordance with the Implementation Plan referred to at (c) above to realise the Strategy subject to further reports being made to the Cabinet and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The revised Communities and Wellbeing Strategy will enable a new model for the delivery of services to be implemented over the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) period 2016/17 to 2019/20. The Strategy has been developed to fulfil statutory duties, meet budgetary requirements and efficiency targets detailed in the MTFS and to provide a basis for the planning, commissioning and delivery of services.

The views of customers and stakeholders have informed the revised Strategy and will be used to develop a detailed plan for its implementation.

457. Community Life Choices Framework 2017-20 and Consultation on Future Delivery.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities concerning the strategic review of Community Life Choices (CLC) services and requesting permission to consult on two proposals for future delivery, and explaining how the new CLC model and related proposals could ensure that savings were achieved. A copy of the report, marked '5', is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Houseman MBE, CC stressed that each individual's circumstances would be considered carefully and it was accepted that there might need to be some exceptions to any agreed delivery model.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Community Life Choices Framework 2017-20 (the new model for Community Life Choices services) be noted;

(b) That the Director of Adults and Communities be authorised to commence the consultation on the two delivery proposals outlined in paragraphs 34-49 of the report;

(c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in October 2016 on the outcome of the consultation, together with final recommendations for the delivery of the new model.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

The new delivery model will support an outcomes-based approach to commissioning, deliver a progressive model of support in line with the principles set out in the Adult Social Care Strategy 2016-20, and deliver savings set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

During a recent review it was noted that a number of service users who were living in residential care (receiving support on a 24/7 basis), were also accessing CLC provision during the daytime. Although it is accepted that this may be appropriate in specific circumstances there is no clear policy or guidance regarding this, and current practice does not represent a cost-effective approach to commissioning individual support.

The review also highlighted the potential to reduce the number of weeks of CLC-commissioned services in order to deliver efficiency savings and that in many circumstances this would have a minimal impact on service users, although exceptions would need to be considered for those who would require replacement care.

458. Integrating Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Points of Access.

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Adults and Communities regarding the Business Case which had been developed for Integrating Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Points of Access across health and social care partners. The Business Case proposed a new way of working to allow better access to health and social care for professionals and service users. A copy of the report, marked '6', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the overall vision and direction of travel as set out in the Business Case for the development of Integrating Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Points of Access (attached as the Appendix to the report) be approved;

(b) That the County Council progress with the developments to operational readiness and standardisation of process as outlined in paragraph 28 of the report;

(c) That a maximum contribution of £211,000 as the County Council's share of the cost of phase 1 of the Business Case be approved;

(d) That the Director of Adults and Communities in consultation with the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to agree the scope of phase 1 of the Business Case and the County Council's actual share of the cost of phase 1 up to a maximum contribution of £211,000;

(e) That the Director of Adults and Communities in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to enter into a Gateway Review process at the end of phase 1 and to determine whether the Council should continue with phase 2 of the Business Case.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities and NHS bodies to develop integrated services tailored to the needs and preferences of those needing care and support, carers and families. Integration at the point where services are first accessed provides a platform from which further integrated service delivery can be developed.

459. Integrated Commissioning of Mental Health Recovery and Resilience Services.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities seeking permission to consult on the proposed integrated commissioning of mental health recovery and resilience services to develop locality-based hubs across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. A copy of the report, marked '7', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the draft proposals for integrated health and social care commissioning of countywide mental health recovery and resilience support services be approved for consultation;

(b) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in November 2016 regarding the outcome of the consultation exercise and the proposed service model.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The views of customers and stakeholders are necessary to inform the new model and to determine how this can be best achieved.

A strategic review of the Mental Health Social Drop-in and Inreach services by the Adults and Communities Department concluded that the current service model only partly matched future commissioning aspirations, would be unlikely to achieve the desired future outcomes, and could be delivered more efficiently.

The new model of integrated preventative mental health services will support outcome-based commissioning and delivery in line with the principles set out in the Adult Social Care Strategy.

460. Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016/17.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources regarding the draft Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016/17 which set out the strategic direction for the use, management and development of the County Council's corporate property resources over the next financial year. A copy of the report, marked '8', is filed with these minutes.

Comments of the Scrutiny Commission were circulated separately and a copy is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Pain CC emphasised the importance of the Plan, which dealt with the property assets of all the Council's Departments. He said that delivery against the ambitious and challenging targets for 2015/16 had been impressive.

The Chairman reminded members that Elisabeth Carter, Strategic Property Manager, would be leaving the Authority shortly and on behalf of the Cabinet he thanked her for all her work for the County Council.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;

(b) That the Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016/17 and the delivery of the implementation plan contained therein be approved.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To enable the implementation of the Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016/17.

461. 'Signs of Safety' Policy and Practice Framework for Work with Children and Families.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services regarding the development of a practice framework to support direct work with children and families, based on the 'Signs of Safety' model. A copy of the report, marked '9', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the approach for working with children, young people and their families as set out in the policy and practice framework attached as Appendix A to the report be approved;

(b) That the progress made to date by the Children and Family Services Department to implement the Signs of Safety model be noted;

(c) That the next steps for embedding and extending the model through the policy and practice framework to other areas of direct work with children, young people and families across the Children and Family Services Department be supported.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The adoption of a clear policy and practice framework with an evidence-based methodology for work with families across the continuum of need will help ensure continued high quality practice and good outcomes for children and young people. The framework will underpin all direct work with children, young people and their families. It will help to ensure the care provided to families is coherent and consistent as their needs change and they move between different departmental services.

462. Remodelling of Stop Smoking Service Provision.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Public Health concerning the outcome of a consultation exercise on the remodelling of the Stop Smoking service and seeking approval for the redesign of the Service. A copy of the report, marked ‘10’, is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the results of the consultation be noted;

(b) That a new Stop Smoking Service as set out in paragraph 21 of the report be approved;

(c) That the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources, be authorised to commission smoking cessation services for the remodelled Stop Smoking Service as set out in the report.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The responses to the consultation indicated support for the proposed changes to the Service.

The way smokers want to access stop smoking support is changing and users have expressed interest in more technological (phone, text, online, etc.) support. Services also need to address the use of electronic cigarettes which have significantly increased in popularity.

The re-commissioned Service will enable the Public Health Department to make the necessary savings of £1.1 million.

463. Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/16.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources regarding the action taken and the performance achieved in respect of the treasury management activities of the Council in 2015/16. A copy of the report, marked ‘11’, is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Authority's full adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for treasury management requires an annual performance report for 2015/16 to be considered by both the Cabinet and the Corporate Governance Committee before the end of September 2016.

464. Items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.

There were no items referred from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

465. Urgent item - Children's Heart Surgery at Glenfield Hospital.

The Cabinet considered an urgent joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health concerning NHS England's intention to cease the commissioning of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital. The report was urgent because the announcement was made by NHS England after the agenda for the meeting had been published and a response needed to be made at the earliest opportunity. A copy of the report, marked '13', is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that since the report was circulated the NHS had published a rationale for its decision and further communication from the NHS was expected.

Mr. White CC said that NHS England's decision was simply wrong. Glenfield had excellent services and, he believed, would be able to demonstrate some of the best clinical outcomes in the country. He paid tribute to local MPs and Cllr. Palmer (Deputy Mayor of Leicester City Council) who had also voiced concerns. Mr. White said the County Council clearly wished the highest quality services to be provided and evidence showed that Glenfield Hospital was doing this. He reminded members that the County Council could refer such issues to the Secretary of State and noted that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would consider the matter at its next meeting.

Mr. Ould CC, as the Cabinet lead member for children and young people, added his full support for the recommendations as amended.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the intention of NHS England to cease the commissioning of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital, which will have serious local and regional implications and to do so ahead of NHS England's previously published timetable to address standards by 2021 is deplored;

(b) That the failings of the communications used by NHS England to inform families, staff and stakeholders of its intention that children's heart surgery will no longer take place at Glenfield are to be regretted;

(c) That the Cabinet does not believe there is evidence to substantiate NHS England's claim that to cease commissioning is "in the best interests of patients with congenital heart disease and their families";

(d) That the rebuttal letter sent by the Chief Executive of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust to NHS England is supported totally;

(e) That full support is offered to the NHS Trust in fighting NHS England on this matter, if necessary through the courts, and in establishing robust local opposition to NHS England's proposal which, if implemented, would see the end of a world class service;

(e) That the resolution of the Cabinet be conveyed to local MPs and that their already stated concern at the proposal from NHS England be welcomed;

(g) That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider a report on the implications of the announcement on both the Glenfield Hospital and the wider NHS at its meeting on 14th September 2016.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To note the announcement made by NHS England, which will have implications on the wider health and care economy of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, as well as the East Midlands as a whole.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for scrutinising the exercise by health bodies of functions which affect the County and is also able to make reports and recommendations to relevant NHS bodies.

The Director of Public Health has a responsibility to advise the County Council on matters relating to health and he is in agreement with the position taken by UHL.

466. <u>Urgent item - Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.</u>

The Cabinet considered an urgent report of the Director of Children and Family Services concerning the Council's new duties with regard to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). The report was urgent because the Interim National Transfer Protocol for UASC had recently been published and members needed to be advised of the implications for the Council. A copy of the report, marked '13', is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Ould CC referred to the County Council's financial difficulties which had been cited on several occasions during the meeting. He said that the Council took its responsibilities as corporate parent very seriously and he was concerned about its ability to care for the children as the Government grant was quite inadequate. Councils already struggled to provide enough care placements and if they needed to use independent providers or out-of-area provision the costs would rise further. He regretted that the Council had been placed in this position and had spoken to the relevant Minister about this.

Other members of the Cabinet spoke in support of the points made by Mr. Ould, emphasising the Council's commitment to helping the children.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the County Council's statutory obligations for Looked After Children are taken seriously and all will be done to ensure the County Council cares for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children who will have endured terrible experiences in their homeland;

(b) That the Cabinet, regretfully, does not believe that the consequences of the Interim National Transfer Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children have been thought through by the Government in terms of accommodation, the provision of services, and cost;

(c) That the Cabinet believes it is correct to place on record that the County Council will have increasing difficulties in fulfilling its statutory obligations in this area, for example in regard to finding and funding appropriate placements for children in and out of Leicestershire;

(d) That the dialogue with the Government be continued to ensure that the full costs of accommodation and service provision in respect of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children are met by the Government, encouraging the Local Government Association and the County Councils Network also to impress on Government that full cost recovery is necessary;

(e) That this resolution be drawn to the attention of local MPs.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To note that under the Transfer Scheme, it is the Home Office's intention to initiate transfer of UASC from other authorities, Syria, and camps from 1 July 2016. The quota for each local authority is 0.07% of its existing child population; based on this Leicestershire will be requested to care for a further 74 UASC. These children and young people are not in the care of a family member. As such, they will transfer as Looked After Children (Section 20 Children Act), to the County Council, which has a statutory and corporate parenting responsibility.

To place on record the considerable financial and logistical difficulties faced by the County Council in looking after UASC and the inadequacies of the Interim National Transfer Protocol.

2.00 - 3.20 pm CHAIRMAN
18 July 2016

This page is intentionally left blank

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to explain the overall financial position faced by the County Council and the approach to updating the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and to seek agreement for a letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to accept a four-year settlement.

Recommendation

2. The Cabinet is recommended to:

   a) Note the significant financial challenge faced by the County Council;

   b) Note the approach outlined in the report to updating the MTFS;

   c) Agree the letter to be sent to the Secretary of State to accept the four year local government finance settlement.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. To enable the County Council to continue to develop plans to address the worsening financial position.

4. Accepting a four-year settlement would provide the Council with a degree of certainty as to the minimum funding allocation from the Government which will assist in its financial planning.

Timetable for Decision (including Scrutiny)

5. The Cabinet will be asked to approve the draft MTFS for consultation in December 2016. All Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Commission will consider the MTFS in January 2017, during the consultation period, and the Cabinet will then make a final recommendation to the County Council in February 2017.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

6. The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2016/17 to 2019/20 was approved by the County Council in February 2016. Over the autumn and winter of 2016 it will be reviewed and updated before a revised version for 2017/18 to 2020/2021 is considered by the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and County Council.

Resource Implications

7. The financial position faced by the County Council is both serious and extremely challenging. This is particularly so for a low-funded authority such as Leicestershire as room for further savings is limited. The updated MTFS will set out the County Council's response to the financial position.

8. The Director of Law and Governance has been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officers to Contact

Brian Roberts
Director of Corporate Resources
Corporate Resources Department
Telephone: 0116 305 7830
Brian.Roberts@leics.gov.uk

Chris Tambini
Director of Finance
Corporate Resources Department
Telephone: 0116 305 6199
Chris.Tambini@leics.gov.uk

PART B

National Position in the Medium Term

9. There is little if any prospect of austerity budgets coming to an end within the medium term.

10. Shortly before the EU referendum the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) released a report that set out the possible impacts of Brexit. Through the review of various studies that had been undertaken on the consequences of Brexit the IFS concluded that a reduction in GDP of between 2% and 3.5% by 2019 was a good estimate. After including the benefit of reduced budget contributions these GDP declines would lead to the public finances being £20 to £40 billion less healthy than currently predicted.

11. To return public finance to a surplus, by the end of the parliament, the Government would need to implement further spending cuts and/or tax rises. This was considered an unlikely scenario due to the difficulty in achieving this in the time available. For example, cuts to spending on public services and benefits would need to increase by 40% alongside a £5 billion tax increase.

12. The Chancellor has since confirmed that the deficit will be reduced over a longer period and therefore austerity will be extended into the 2020s. Alongside this, it is worth remembering that Local Government is one of the ‘unprotected’ parts of the public sector, making it highly likely that further spending cuts will be required.

Implications for Leicestershire

13. The current MTFS includes savings of £59m and a gap of £19m over the next four years. An additional year of austerity equates to a saving requirement of circa £20m. The requirement has been as high as £30m in the past, as a consequence of the levels of growth, grant reductions and council tax restrictions.

14. Attention also needs to be given to the services funded by specific grants. These services are also exposed to grant cuts and demand increases, with shortfalls typically needing to be addressed through the County Council’s budget. Examples of areas that are presenting a financial risk include special education need placements and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

15. Further financial risk is expected from the significant transfer of responsibilities to local government required to allow 100% business rate retention. Previous transfers have included significant savings requirements.

16. The position is clearly extremely serious. The Leicestershire position is compounded by being the lowest funded county council in the country.

17. On the positive side the new Government could take a less aggressive approach to reducing the deficit and there is a possibility, if remote, that the Council may benefit from the fair funding review. However, it is not suggested that this more optimistic forecast should be relied upon.

2017 MTFS

18. The MTFS will be refreshed over the autumn. However, the expectation is that the outcome will be the need to identify new savings of between £30m to £40m to be achieved by 2020/21. Proposals for achieving this will be included in the report to the Cabinet on 13 December 2016.

19. As this will be the seventh austerity budget and savings of £135m have already been achieved the identification of new savings will be very challenging. New savings are likely to require much more radical service transformation.

Planning Framework

20. The next two key Government announcements will be:

- The Spending Review in November/December. This will give an indication of the scale of the challenge faced by local government.

- The Local Government Finance Settlement. Although no date for this has been given it is expected to be announced in late December. However, a four-year settlement was announced earlier this year and there is no suggestion this will change.

The MTFS review will be informed by these announcements.

21. The broad MTFS timetable is:

- September to November 2016 – Refresh growth and savings including consideration by Lead Members.
- December 2016 – receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement.
- December 2016 - the Cabinet requested to approve the draft MTFS for consultation.
- January 2017 – consultation on the draft MTFS, including Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Commission.
- February – the Cabinet requested to approve the final draft MTFS for submission to the County Council.
- February 2017 – County Council requested to approve the MTFS for 2017/18 to 2020/21.

Four-year Settlement

22. In December 2015 the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government announced the four-year settlement. Local authorities could have a degree of certainty over government funding over the next four years by formally accepting the offer. The Government has since clarified that it is a '…commitment to provide minimum allocations..' To accept the four year settlement the Council is required to submit a four year efficiency plan. The Medium Term Financial Strategy fulfils this role.

23. The County Council has long argued that it is under-funded. On the basis that the Government's commitment is to provide *minimum* allocations it is recommended that the offer is accepted. A proposed letter to the Secretary of State is appended to this report. It is noted that failure to accept the offer will leave the Council open to the vagaries of annual settlements against the backdrop of a period within which public sector finances are likely to come under further pressure.

24. It is worth noting the Government's offer is in itself caveated and could change as a result of unforeseen events.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

25. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Appendix

Letter to the Secretary of State

Background Papers

Report to County Council on 17 February 2016 – "Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2018/19"
http://ow.ly/xFgO303Bs0r

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix

Dear Minister,

Leicestershire County Council has long argued it is low funded. If the Leicestershire area received the same ‘core spending power’ per head as the London Borough of Islington it would be £385m better off. The Council has long argued that current methodology for distributing local government resources is unfair. It also notes that the Government are consulting on fair funding and sees this as an extremely positive development.

We would urge the Government to review and implement changes to the needs and redistribution methodology within the four year period to ease the considerable pressure low funded authorities are under as soon as possible. The stakes are high and failure to address these concerns will no doubt result in service and financial failure for some authorities. Some authorities are already teetering on the edge. Alternatively, if like Leicestershire you manage within a much lower level of resources residents will simply receive a much reduced level of local government service than elsewhere in the country. In effect a Government-imposed postcode lottery. This is not fair.

In accepting the offer the Council notes that this will be the ‘minimum’ funding allocation. This leaves room to implement the results of the review early and we would urge Government to do so.

Attached below is a link to the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy.

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=4427

Yours sincerely

Nick Rushton

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 5

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET - 16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION ON SELF-SUFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT: 100% BUSINESS RATES RETENTION AND BUSINESS RATES REFORM FAIR FUNDING REVIEW: CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON NEEDS AND REDISTRIBUTION

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out and seek approval of the proposed responses to the consultation on ‘Self-sufficient local government: 100% Business Rates Retention’ and to the ‘Business Rates Reform Fair Funding Review: Call for evidence on Needs and Redistribution’.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the draft responses to the consultation on 100% Business Rates Retention and the Call for evidence on Needs and Redistribution, as set out in Appendices A and B respectively, be approved.

Reason for Recommendation

3. To respond to two key consultations on proposals that are expected to change the Local Government funding system significantly.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The responses to the consultation on 100% Business Rates Retention and the Call for Evidence on Needs and Redistribution are due by 26th September 2016.

Resource Implications

5. The consultation on 100% Business Rates Retention seeks views on a range of issues which will need to be considered in designing a system whereby Local Government would retain 100% of business rates income. This includes consideration of potential transfers of services, some of which are currently

provided by local authorities and funded by specific grants and also other potentially new responsibilities, such as Attendance Allowances. The consultation does not include any exemplifications and it is not possible to draw any conclusions at this stage as to the overall impact of 100% Business Rates Retention on the resources of the County Council.

6. The Call for evidence on Needs and Redistribution seeks views on a number of issues regarding the assessment of the relative needs of local authorities. This is a fundamental part of the reforms to business rates and will determine the baseline funding levels for all local authorities when 100% business rates retention is introduced. Again, the document does not include any exemplifications and it is not possible to draw any conclusions as to the impact on the resources of the County Council.

7. The Government is aiming to consult on the principles for the needs assessment in the autumn of 2016 and expects to have a final consultation in the summer of 2018. This will allow a new mechanism to be in place in time for the introduction of 100% business rates retention by the end of the current Parliament.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officers to Contact

Brian Roberts, Director of Corporate Resources, Corporate Resources Department
Tel: 0116 305 7830 E-mail: Brian.Roberts@leics.gov.uk

Chris Tambini, Director of Finance, Corporate Resources Department
Tel: 0116 305 6199 E-mail: Chris.Tambini@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Background

8. The Government introduced the current Business Rates Retention system in April 2013. Local authorities generally retain 50% of business rates income whilst the Government receives 50%.

9. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued a four year Local Government Finance Settlement on 8th February 2016, covering the financial years 2016/17 to 2019/20. Settlement funding, including business rates income and revenue support grant, for the County Council is due to reduce from £112m in 2015/16 to £60m by 2019/20.

10. The Government intends to introduce a new system of 100% business rates retention by local government by the end of the current Parliament. This will require adaptations to the current business rates retention system and also the review of the calculation of relative needs to derive baseline amounts for each local authority.

11. On 5th July 2016 the Government published a consultation on Self-sufficient Local Government: 100% Business Rates Retention, and also the Business Rates Reform Fair Funding Review: Call for Evidence on Needs and Redistribution. The consultation period for both runs until 26th September 2016.

Response to the Consultation on Self-sufficient local government: 100% Business Rates Retention

12. The County Council has serious concerns about the potential impact of this consultation on local services. It follows a series of reductions in resources for Leicestershire that have had a negative effect on the County Council.

13. The consultation invites comments to be made on the mechanics of a scheme before the contents of the scheme itself have been determined. The County Council has therefore suggested that it would be more appropriate for the DCLG to first get the responsibilities set, and then to start to look at the mechanics in more detail.

14. The proposed response to the consultation is set out in Appendix A to this report.

Response to the Business Rates Reform Fair Funding Review: Call for evidence on Needs and Redistribution

15. The County Council has long argued that the formulae used to assess needs and to distribute Settlement Funding has been unfair. Leicestershire County Council has been the lowest funded county council for many years. Whilst it is accepted that there will be variations in relative needs, the current scale of variations is much too wide. The opportunity to contribute to the call for evidence is therefore welcomed and the proposed response supports the establishment of a new, simpler and fairer approach to assessing need.

16. The proposed response to the call for evidence is set out in Appendix B to this report.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

17. There are no direct implications from the response to the consultations.

Risk Assessments

18. The risks around the funding implications of the proposals within the consultation and call for evidence will be addressed in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Background Papers

Self-sufficient local government: 100% Business Rates Retention
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/535022/Business_Rates_Retention_Consultation_5_July_2016.pdf

Business Rates Reform Fair Funding Review: Call for evidence on Needs and Redistribution
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/534956/Discussion_document_-_Needs_and_Redistribution.pdf

Appendices

Appendix A – Response to the Consultation on Self-sufficient local government: 100% Business Rates Retention

Appendix B – Response to the Business Rates Reform Fair Funding Review: Call for evidence on Needs and Redistribution.

APPENDIX A

Self-sufficient local government: 100% Business Rates Retention

The County Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

In a number of areas it is not possible to give a considered answer to the consultation questions, mainly because until devolution decisions are taken and there is a firmer indication of what the new fair funding formula will look like it is not possible to assess the risk in the system nor say how other elements of the business rates retention model should be constructed.

The request is to make comments on the mechanics of a scheme before the contents of the scheme itself have been determined. It is suggested that DCLG get the responsibilities set and then start to look at the mechanics in more detail afterwards.

1. Which of these identified grants / responsibilities do you think are the best candidates to be funded from retained business rates?

The County Council feels that for the transfer of responsibilities to be successful it is essential that a true freedom to manage the expenditure is allowed. Whilst this could entail transition arrangements this should not be of the form of complete protection for existing recipients. Nor should it be simply an administration of a nationally set scheme, which more often than not entails trying to manage/control expenditure at a local level that could not be managed nationally.

A key criterion to assess which responsibilities are suitable for transfer will be matching the expenditure with the funding raised by business rates, at a total scheme level. The expenditure to funding match needs to be considered for future years, for example to assess if demographic or other pressures will outstrip business rate growth. This is equally applicable for a structural economic change that could cause a decline in the ability to generate business rates. The approach to monitoring and resolving the expenditure to funding match and the solution needs to be set at the scheme launch to create faith in the system, rather than create a system that is simply allowed to break. The solution could be additional funding generated at a national level or freedom to raise a tax at a local level.

The successful transfer of responsibilities will required the full administrative costs to be transferred alongside the grants. For changes of this magnitude this should be the full cost and not just the direct costs.

For the identified grants the County Council’s response is as follows:

Revenue Support Grant – Suitable for transfer, due to the inherent problems with the current distribution this will only be successful if on a new basis.
Rural Services Delivery Grant – Expected to be suitable for transfer as part of a new needs formula.
Greater London Authority Transport Grant – an equivalent grant would be required for all other areas otherwise the inherent bias in the current system is simply being reinforced.
Public Health Grant – Local government already hold responsibility for the function, hence removing the ring-fence is positive. Providing that no more cuts are applied to the grant and it is recognised that the current distribution does not reflect the scheme that was originally consulted upon.
Improved Better Care Fund – Including money in the BCF to be redistributed to the local authority is an administrative exercise and creates no benefit. Additional social care funding should be directly received by the local authority.
Independent Living Fund – recipient can be judged against the local authorities eligibility criteria, hence this grant is suitable for transfer providing that not more reductions are applied.

Early Years – This is a national scheme with minimal flexibility at a local level, hence is it not suitable for inclusion
Youth Justice – funds local youth offending teams and can be transferred
Local Council Tax Support Administration Subsidy and Housing Benefit Pensioner Administration Subsidy – The County Council is not a recipient of this grant so does not have a comment.
Attendance Allowance – due to the size and nature of this responsibility government needs to develop proposals significantly before a reasoned comment can be made on what is a very risky transfer. The County Council is open-minded to this potential transfer, but only if the new responsibilities are matched by the transfer of equivalent spending power.

2. **Are there other grants / responsibilities that you consider should be devolved instead of or alongside those identified above?**

The County Council would prefer to gain responsibility and control of services in areas such as skills, economic growth and infrastructure. Currently only London's infrastructure grant is listed. The four grants listed in paragraph 3.15 of the consultation document meet this criteria, providing appropriate freedom is given in utilising the grant.

In addition to the grants listed in the consultation the County Council believes that the troubled families and community voices grants would be suitable for inclusion. Further benefits, such as the carers allowance could be considered for inclusion if sufficient freedom is given and demographic pressures are accounted for.

3. **Do you have any views on the range of associated budgets that could be pooled at the Combined Authority level?**

This will be a matter for the Combined Authority once established in the Autumn. However, in time it could make sense to pool resources currently allocated to economic growth, transport and strategic planning.

There are a number of "points of principle" that the County Council would like to make, the main one being that services devolved through devolution deals should not impact on the quantum available to the rest of local government. In other words; the appetite of combined authorities or those areas with an elected mayor should not result directly in less services being devolved in other areas. The opportunity to improve the services offered to your residents should not be determined by an authority's governance arrangements.

4. **Do you have views on whether some or all of the commitments in existing and future deals could be funded through retained business rates?**

The County Council would like to see the maximum number of new services devolved to areas that want to take them on and if that totals more than the £12.5bn figure then the difference should be funded through grant. The quantum must not be the constraining figure.

5. **Do you agree that we should continue with the new burdens doctrine post- 2020?**

Yes; the new burdens doctrine ensures that, at least in principle, newly transferred responsibilities are fully funded as well as offering increased transparency between central and local government.

Depending on the decision made about the length of time between resets, the Council would like to see the new burdens doctrine not only assessing the costs in the year of transfer but also projecting costs until the next reset. Many services provided by local authorities are likely to follow a demand pattern which is different to the pattern of economic growth. As such, when a new transfer takes place, funding must be in place in future years to ensure continued service viability.

New burdens should also take into account material changes in government policy that could not be accommodated by ordinary growth in Council Tax or Business Rates, for example the National Living Wage.

6. Do you agree that we should fix reset periods for the system?

Yes. A ten year reset would mean that there is a real incentive to grow the local economy. However, the local government finance system should include resources based on projected future need, i.e. there should be a forward indicator of demand within the formula used to assess needs and there should be a safety net for those authorities that can demonstrate unforeseen increases in needs.

7. What is the right balance in the system between rewarding growth and redistributing to meet changing need?

See answer to question 6.

8. Having regard to the balance between rewarding growth and protecting authorities with declining resources, how would you like to see a partial reset work?

If the resources were distributed fairly in the first place there would be less need for a partial reset. The County Council would argue for a national safety net for those authorities impacted by unforeseen demographic pressures.

9. Is the current system of tariffs and top-ups the right one for redistribution between local authorities?

The system of tariffs and top-ups works well in general but the impact of 80:20 split between districts and counties in two tier areas ought to be reviewed and probably amended, although it is too early to consider the exact mechanics until there is more clarity over the new responsibilities and the funding formulae. The 80:20 split has provided a measure of protection for social care providing County Councils' but it has come at the expense of a very limited incentive for County Councils to pursue economic growth.

10. Should we continue to adjust retained incomes for individual local authorities to cancel out the effect of future revaluations?

Since the introduction of the current rates retention scheme, local government has still not had a revaluation, nor has there been a detailed explanation of what will happen at a revaluation. It is not yet clear how growth attributable to the actions of a local authority will be protected at a revaluation. The explanation in the consultation paper implies that it is possible to adjust the system at a given date in time to cancel out the effect of future revaluations.

In principle it makes sense to adjust tariffs and top-ups following a revaluation but until there is further clarity, the Council cannot provide a comprehensive answer to this question.

11. Should Mayoral Combined Authority areas have the opportunity to be given additional powers and incentives, as set out above?

The County Council believes that these powers and incentives should be available in <u>all</u> areas, with or without a directly elected mayor.

12. What has your experience been of the tier splits under the current 50% rates retention scheme? What changes would you want to see under 100% rates retention system?

The County Council agrees that the issue of tier splits will need to be considered once the services to be devolved are decided upon, and also agrees that there should be consideration of the balance between risk and reward.

Regarding the current 80:20 split between district councils and county councils, the County Council continues to argue that a reversal to a 20:80 split would be a more appropriate representation of the relative scope of both classes to drive economic growth and development.

13. Do you consider that fire funding should be removed from the business rates retention scheme and what might be the advantages and disadvantages of this approach?

The County Council considers that fire funding should be removed from the business rates retention scheme. However, the necessary grant funding should be fairly distributed and sufficient to reflect the needs of the service.

14. What are your views on how we could further incentivise growth under a 100% retention scheme? Are there additional incentives for growth that we should consider?

Please see responses to earlier questions. The County Council needs greater clarity on the *default* 100% business rates retention model before commenting on whether additional incentives are needed.

Shire areas tend to have a much greater share of their gross rates lost through mandatory reliefs. The SCT would like to sharpen the link between the income and the needs of the residents and allow local authorities more control over the eligibility criteria for mandatory reliefs.

15. Would it be helpful to move some of the 'riskier' hereditaments off local lists? If so, what type of hereditaments should be moved?

The County Council is not able to provide a comprehensive answer to this question until it has more information about the operation and protection of the safety net as well as greater clarity about the criteria for a hereditament to appear on the central list.

16. Would you support the idea of introducing area level lists in Combined Authority areas? If so, what type of properties could sit on these lists, and how should income be used? Could this approach work for other authorities?

The County Council considers that this proposal will be too complicated.

17. At what level should risk associated with successful business rates appeals be managed? Do you have a preference for local, area (including Combined Authority), or national level (across all local authorities) management as set out in the options above?

Under the current 50% rates retention scheme local authorities make their own provision locally for appeals. It is very likely that the combined national set aside for appeals is greater than would have been made if provision was made centrally. This means less money is available for local services than there might otherwise have been and all the risks of appeals sits with local authorities.

It is likely that there will be a regional pattern in appeals; hence somewhere between local authority level provisions and national provisions will strike the right balance.

18. What would help your local authority better manage risks associated with successful business rates appeals?

The County Council is not directly involved and is reliant on the district councils to make appropriate provision for successful appeals. Greater information and intelligence sharing between the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and local government would help local authorities to assess the likelihood of successful appeals. An agreed mechanism of data sharing between VOA and local government would help to standardise the appeals provisions.

19. Would pooling risk, including a pool-area safety net, be attractive to local authorities?

This could be a useful potential option for authorities to consider, depending on the circumstances and risks facing the pool area.

20. What level of income protection should a system aim to provide? Should this be nationally set, or defined at area levels?

A judgement can only be made on an appropriate level of income protection when there is more clarity on the services local authorities will be delivering, the funding they will be receiving and how 100% retention will look in overall terms. As with the current retention system, it will be necessary to have a form of safety net.

21. What are your views on which authority should be able to reduce the multiplier and how the costs should be met?

In two tier areas where the decision will affect more than the billing authority this decision must be made jointly. (This is in contrast to Council Tax Support Schemes, where the County Council is the main beneficiary, but districts make the decision.)

22. What are your views on the interaction between the power to reduce the multiplier and the local discount powers?

The Localism Act already allows local authorities to offer discretionary discounts at targeted ratepayers. It is likely that offering a discount for all ratepayers will be too costly for the potential benefits.

The County Council would prefer to have the freedom to change the eligibility for other reliefs and discounts.

23. What are your views on increasing the multiplier after a reduction?

Local authorities should be free to control it themselves without capping constraints.

24. Do you have views on the above issues or on any other aspects of the power to reduce the multiplier?

As with all other freedoms and responsibilities these should be granted to all local authorities, regardless of whether they are in a combined authority or have an elected mayor.

25. What are your views on what flexibility levying authorities should have to set a rateable value threshold for the levy?

This should be decided locally.

26. What are your views on how the infrastructure levy should interact with existing BRS powers?

This is too complicated and should be simplified.

27. What are your views on the process for obtaining approval for a levy from the LEP?

The County Council suggests that the LEP are consultees to the authority's budgets rather than approvers.

28. What are your views on arrangements for the duration and review of levies?

The County Council agrees with the Department's suggestion that the duration of the levy should be indicated in the initial prospectus.

29. What are your views on how infrastructure should be defined for the purposes of the levy?

The County Council agrees with the suggestion outlined in the consultation paper.

30. What are your views on charging multiple levies, or using a single levy to fund multiple infrastructure projects?

The County Council agrees with the suggestion outlined in the consultation paper, that multiple levies could be levied as long as they do not exceed the 2p limit.

31. Do you have views on the above issues or on any other aspects of the power to introduce an infrastructure levy?

No, although the County Council is mindful that there is only so far you can push businesses, asking them to fund services locally which historically would have been funded by local authorities and/or central government.

32. Do you have any views on how to increase certainty and strengthen local accountability for councils in setting their budgets?

The consultation is hinting at removing the legislation which requires government to make annual settlements to local authorities. The County Council is interested in obtaining increased certainty through the use of multi-year settlements but would prefer if this was discussed fully with central government as to how this would work and how many years a settlement would cover.

As mentioned earlier, the County Council still envisages some kind of specific or section 31 grants remaining part of the funding even after 100% business rates retention is achieved. The success of multi-year settlements will be determined not just by what local government do with the additional certainty but also how well central government are at leaving the funding system untouched in the relevant years.

33. Do you have views on where the balance between national and local accountability should fall, and how best to minimise any overlaps in accountability?

The County Council believes that this discussion should take place in greater detail once the devolved services are decided upon. Funding from other departments frequently comes with its own rules and reporting requirements. If Government are really keen for local spending decisions to be scrutinised locally then local authorities need to be free to spend their funding in a way that suits their residents.

34. Do you have views on whether the requirement to prepare a Collection Fund Account should remain in the new system?

The County Council feels that the requirement to prepare a collection fund account should remain, as should the current budgetary treatment of estimated surplus and deficit amounts. The existing process provides certainty around current year income budgets.

35. Do you have views on how the calculation of a balanced budget may be altered to be better aligned with the way local authorities run their business?

The County Council supports improvements to financial reporting which increase transparency and produces reports which are better aligned to how local authorities are financed. The summary outlined in the consultation seems appropriate but the County Council would be interested to see any alternative budget summaries that may be proposed.

36. Do you have views on how the Business Rates data collection activities may be altered to collect and record information in a more timely and transparent manner?

The County Council would prefer to consider this question once the design of the business rates retention model is closer to completion.

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX B

Business Rates Reform
Fair Funding Review: Call for evidence on Needs and Redistribution

The County Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this call for evidence. As the lowest funded County Council, Leicestershire is keenly interested in the development of a funding system which achieves a much fairer distribution of local government funding than the current system has achieved.

The current system is broken, with little link between the spending power of local authorities and local needs. The County Council has long acknowledged that logically someone has to be 'bottom of the league table' but the gaps between those at the bottom, those at the top and also from the overall average level of funding, have been far too wide for far too long.

The County Council was quick to act to plan sensibly for the impact of austerity and made savings of around £103m in the previous Parliament and is set to make savings of at least that level during the current Parliament. Those earlier savings were weighted towards efficiency savings but the scope for further efficiencies is diminishing and the balance of savings will need to move towards service reductions, which will impact on the service users and residents of the County.

It is imperative that the Government fixes the funding system by creating one that incentivises all councils to be efficient and recognising local differences in need, hence addressing the fundamental problems and unfairness of the current funding situation.

Q1: What is your view on the balance between simple and complex funding formulae?

The County Council has long argued against the complexity and opaqueness of the current Four-Block Model which is extremely difficult to explain to elected members and taxpayers. Since the four block model's introduction it has been widely discredited – both independently and from within local government.

The County Council does not believe that complexity, as such, is necessarily a problem; local authorities deliver a wide range of services to a broad spectrum of people, so a level of complexity is part of local authority day to day existence. However, when a funding model results in unexplainable results, unfair allocations of resources and heavy-handed levers of ministerial control, then that particular approach is unacceptable.

Different local services will face demand driven by different demographics or geographical landscapes. The current system's reliance on regression encourages statisticians to look for increasingly complex formulae in an attempt to replicate the historic pattern of spending or activity. By basing future allocations on past expenditure patterns the line between past and future funding is cemented and old funding inequalities are "locked in" to the system.

The County Council therefore believes that a sensible approach would be to place simplicity first with additional layers of complexity argued and evidenced for on a case by case basis. For example, start by funding services on an appropriate per capita basis (per elderly person, per km of road by heavy goods vehicles, for example) before hearing evidence about other indicators of demand and incorporating those measures into the formulae.

Having a final sanity check is an essential component of any complex calculation to ensure that an accumulation of factors does not result in unintended results, as is undoubtedly the case with the current system.

Q2: Are there particular services for which a more detailed formula approach is needed, and – if so – what are these services?

Excluding Education, the largest service area for upper tier Councils in terms of expenditure is Adult Social Care. It is therefore of paramount importance that the increasing demands of this service are not just captured now but for the period until the next Business Rates Retention System (BRRS) reset. The BRRS consultation running alongside this call for evidence suggests that the partial resets may also incorporate some measure of need reset for services which are “demand led”, such as adult and children’s social care. Given the potential impacts of failures in these services the County Council would be supportive of demands and funding in these areas being reviewed more frequently.

As commented earlier, future allocations cannot be based upon past spend and/or activity. A currently well-funded authority will be able to do more and spend more than an authority which is relatively underfunded. The County Council strongly urge the Department to speak to directors of adult social care to understand the demand pressures and ensure that these are funded adequately rather than relying on regression analysis to lock in past funding patterns.

There are many other services being provided by local authorities which are coming under increasing pressure. For example school transport costs are increasing as the number of maintained schools converting to academies grows (who are responsible for the qualifying criteria). Historical pressure on concessionary fares budgets has meant that, in some areas, the difficult decision to offer reduced bus services is masking the true unfairness of the current funding. The County Council believes that an approach to funding local services based more on actual service demand levers will address many of these current issues.

The County Council also urges the Department not to be constrained by the current allocations. If a new formula is rigorously constructed and consulted upon but offers a different pattern of funding then, reasonable transitional arrangements aside, it should be implemented.

Q3: Should expenditure based regression continue to be used to assess councils’ funding needs?

The County Council believes that a system whereby future funding allocations are calculated on the basis of past spending decisions is not one that supports future funding need. Instead it simply imbeds past funding decisions whether these were by the local authority itself or the Government in determining the funding need and damping levels of local authorities.

It is of paramount importance that service needs are not just captured for services now but for the lifetime of which the formula is expected to apply. This is vital for a needs assessment that is expected to be “frozen” for a numbers of years under the BRRS, during which population increases are expected to causes significant service pressures for demand led services such as Adult Social Care.

The County Council strongly urges the Department to consider starting afresh, with a “blank sheet of paper”. Key cost drivers should be agreed for each service area, factors such as density, sparsity and area cost adjustment should be considered afresh and a new “fair funding” system should be established. The County Council has undertaken modelling along these lines and the provisional results demonstrate a narrower spread of funding levels on a per capita basis, which redresses the fundamental problem of the current funding situation of unexplainable results.

Q4: What other measures besides councils’ spending on services should we consider as a measure of their need to spend?

See the response to Q3. The County Council considers that councils’ spending on services is a very poor measure of need as it will be dependent on whether they were adequately funded or not

in the past. Key indicators, such as relevant population numbers, should be the basis building blocks in the new formulae.
The cost drivers set out below are considered to be the key drivers of costs for individual authorities:

Children's Services:
Population aged 0-25
Income deprivation – Children
Disabled children 0-19

Adult Social Care:
Older Adults:
Population aged 80+
Income deprivation - Older people
Younger Adults:
Disabled adults 20+

Highways Maintenance:
Number of road km by Heavy Goods Vehicles

Fire & Other Services:
Total population

Q5: What other statistical techniques besides those mentioned above should be considered for arriving at the formulae for distributing funding?

See the response to Q3. The County Council does not have an issue with the regression technique, per se, or with the other techniques outlined in the consultation. However, until there is a reliable measure of need (the dependent variable) that is not based on historic spending or activity the Council cannot support the use of regression.

Q6: What other considerations should we keep in mind when measuring the relative need of authorities?

See the response to Q3. The new funding formula must be capable of reflecting future demands for services.

Q7: What is your view on how we should take into account the growth in local taxes since 13-14?

The County Council agrees that local capacity to raise income (including council tax) will need to be considered as part of this review.

The proportion of an authority's budget which is funded by council tax varies hugely across the country. There can, of course be many reasons for these differences; however, past local government settlements have frequently included an element of resource equalisation – the impact of which falls heaviest in areas with large tax bases.

When council tax was introduced it was based on property values as a suitable proxy for wealth. Since then the housing market has changed drastically and the resulting comparison between wages and council tax makes for interesting reading.

Residents in shire areas are paid, on average, 11% less than the national average. However, they tend to pay nearly 6% more in council tax.

When compared to London boroughs, shire residents earn 20% less but it is the residents in London that pay 4% less than shire residents.

Residents in shire areas earn, on average, 11% more than residents of metropolitan areas but pay almost 30% more for their services.

It is clear that the assertion that using 1991 house prices as a proxy for wealth is no longer valid. In the interests of fairness and transparency the Council firmly believes this issue needs to be discussed openly and addressed as part of the fair funding review. Leaving the current status quo in place risks undermining any work to create a fair funding formula and is unacceptable.

The Council's own modelling includes consideration of applying a national average council tax level, rather than "actual" council tax levels as reflected in Core Spending Power. This work shows a need to redress the balance of particularly low council tax levels in inner London authorities compared with other classes of authorities, particularly County Councils.

The County Council would also like to see a review of the current council tax support scheme – particularly the protected demographics in shire areas. In a similar way that the Council is calling for freedoms in relation to funding through business rates, the Council would also support having the freedom to vary the eligibility criteria for current discounts and support.

Q8: Should we allow step-changes in local authorities' funding following the new needs assessment?

The County Council believes that there is a balance between moving to the new distribution as quickly as possible and a safe transition period that takes account of the scale of funding reductions local authorities can cope with. The scale of transition will only become clear when the new distribution has been modelled. There should be step-changes, but those steps need to be set carefully and appropriately.

Q9: If not, what are your views on how we should transition to the new distribution of funding?

See response to Q8.

Q10: What are your views on a local government finance system that assessed need and distributed funding at a larger geographical area than the current system – for example, at the Combined Authority level?

The move to 100% business rate retention and the Fair Funding Review is expected to lead to significant changes for local government funding. The County Council believes that changes to the current local authority geography system would add unnecessary further complexity to the system. Instead the Council considers that local authorities are best placed to decide upon what is appropriate in their local area: combined authorities, pooling of budgets, collaboration or none of these.

Q11: How should we decide the composition of these areas if we were to introduce such a system?

See response to Q10. This is something that should be decided on an authority-by-authority or region-by-region basis. A truly fair funding formula where the assessment of need and distribution of funding are seen to be fair will help to facilitate this.

Q12: What other considerations would we need to keep in mind if we were to introduce such a system?

See response to Q10.

Q13: What behaviours should the reformed local government finance system incentivise?
Q14: How can we build these incentives in to the assessment of councils' funding needs?

The approach for reaching a fair funding formula that the County Council has outlined above would produce a weighted per capita approach for each local authority area (or region). The County Council believes that fair funding would put local authorities on a fair footing, should reduce the "postcode lottery" of services and mean that directors of services can get on with running the best services they can knowing that their funding allocation does not put them at a disadvantage. The County Council does not believe that any further incentives are needed in the formula.

The County Council looks forward to continuing to engage in the development of the needs assessment and the implementation of 100% business rates retention and awaits the Government's response to this consultation and the 100% Retention of Business Rates' consultation.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 6

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD AND SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD ANNUAL REPORTS 2015/2016

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD AND SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the key findings of the Annual Reports of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) and the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board (LRSAB) for 2015/16. It provides the Cabinet with the opportunity for consultation and comment.

2. The Annual Reports will be presented for approval to a joint meeting of the Boards on 28th October 2016. Any comments or proposed additions and amendments made by the Cabinet will be addressed in the final reports before they are presented to the Board and subsequently published.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes and comments on the LRLSCB and LRSAB Annual Reports for 2015/16.

Reasons for Recommendation

4. The LRLSCB and LRSAB are statutory bodies and local authorities have a duty to ensure that the Boards are enabled to operate effectively.

5. It is a requirement of (the statutory guidance) Working Together 2015 that the LRLSCB Annual Report be reported to the Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive of the local authority, the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Police and Crime Commissioner. It is a requirement of the Care Act 2014 statutory guidance that the LRSAB Annual Report is also reported to these individuals as well as the Chief Constable and Healthwatch.

6. It has been considered good practice in Leicestershire to submit both the Annual Report and Business Plans to the Cabinet and the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the LRSAB and the LRLSCB.

7. The purpose of presenting the Annual Reports and the Business Plans (this year's business plan actions are shown as appendix 1 and 2 within the annual reports) is to enable the Cabinet to comment on their content and propose any changes or amendments it wishes to be considered and to reflect on whether the reports identify matters that it, as the Executive for the County Council, wishes to address in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding within the work of the Authority.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

8. The Annual Reports have been considered by the Children and Families and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees at their meetings on 5 and 6 September 2016 respectively, and the comments of the committees will be reported to the Cabinet. (The Business Plans of the LRLSCB and LRSAB will be reported to the same bodies between January and March of each year).

9. Any proposed additions or amendments to the Plans made by the Cabinet will be considered and incorporated into the reports, prior to submission to the Boards at their meeting on 28 October 2016.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

10. As stated above the LRLSCB and LRSAB are statutory bodies; the former established under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and the latter becoming a statutory body from 2014 under the Care Act. Local authorities have a duty to ensure that the Boards are enabled to operate effectively.

11. The previous Annual Reports (2014/15) of the LRLSCB and LRSAB were submitted to the Cabinet on 11 September 2015.

Resources Implications

12. There are no additional resource implications arising from this report. Both the LRLSCB and LRSAB operate with a budget to which partner agencies contribute under an agreed formula that reflects their size, operating budgets, and legal safeguarding responsibilities.

13. The total budget within which the Boards are operating in 2016/17 is £465,112. The LRLSCB has a budget of £328,650 and the LRSAB a budget of £95,962. In addition the Boards receive £40,500 from the community safety partnerships to support the undertaking of Domestic Homicide Reviews. Leicestershire County Council contributes £123,390 to the LRLSCB and £52,830 to the LRSAB per annum, and in addition hosts the Safeguarding Business Office and supports the Board and Executive meetings.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

14. None.

Officer to Contact

Paul Burnett, Independent Chair, LRLSCB and LRSAB
Safeguarding Business Office, Leicestershire County Council
Tel: 0116 305 7130   Email: paul.burnett@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Background

Annual Reports 2015/16

15. The LRLSCB and LRSAB aligned their work four years ago to ensure effective and efficient safeguarding services operating in an integrated manner. This has supported a focus on vulnerable children, adults and families. Since 2014/15 the Boards have agreed to produce two separate annual reports.

16. The LRLSCB Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance that will be a key consideration when Ofsted carries out its ‘Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers’ alongside which a review of the effectiveness of the LSCB will be undertaken. Working Together 2015 requires the Annual Report to be produced and identifies a range of issues that must be covered.

17. The LRSAB Annual Report provides a full assessment of performance on the local approach to safeguarding adults in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.

18. The key purpose of the two Annual Reports is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2015/16 on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children, young people, and for adults in Leicestershire and Rutland. Specifically they evaluate performance against the priorities set in the Business Plans for 2015/16 and against other statutory functions that the LRLSCB in particular must undertake. Full copies of both Annual Reports are attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

19. These are, necessarily, detailed reports, but an Executive Summary for each report is included (Appendices 3 and 4) to assist readers in gauging the key achievements and development needs arising from the assessment of the performance of the Boards across 2015/16.

20. Both the LRLSCB and LRSAB Annual Reports 2015/16 include:

    (i) A foreword from the Independent Chair;

    (ii) A brief overview of the local area safeguarding context with some key context data;

    (iii) An overview of the Boards’ governance and accountability arrangements;

    (iv) Analysis of performance against the key priorities in the 2015/16 Business Plan which were to be assured that:-
    - “Safeguarding is Everyone’s Responsibility”;
    - Adults in need of safeguarding are safe, including assurance of the quality of care for any adult supported by registered providers (SAB);
    - Children and young people are safe, including assurance of the quality of care for any child not living with a parent or someone with parental responsibility (LSCB);
    - Services for children, services for adults and services for families are effectively coordinated to ensure children and adults are safe;

- Our Learning and Improvement Framework is raising service quality and outcomes for adults;
- The workforce is fit for purpose.

(v) An overview of the work of the Serious Case Review Sub-Group and Domestic Homicide Review group;

(vi) The challenges ahead including our Business Development Plan 2016/17.

<u>Key Messages</u>

21. Both Annual Reports identify that further evidence is required from Leicestershire County Council on the embedding of adults and children's safeguarding competence frameworks within the workforce.

22. The key messages from the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet are:
    a. The Care Act has made a notable positive impact on practice and culture across most areas of adult social care including Making Safeguarding Personal;
    b. There has been a better balance of adult safeguarding referrals between individuals in care and in the community, however further work on community awareness is required;
    c. Demand for Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) assessments continued to be greater than the resources available to carry them out. The impact of investment by the local authorities in increased resource for Best Interests Assessors (BIA) to address this will be monitored.

23. The key messages from the Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report for Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet are:
    a. Early Help work in Leicestershire appears to be having a positive impact on the safety of children;
    b. Timeliness of Children's Social Care referrals of children for Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) remains a concern. The impact of work by the Local Authority to address this will continue to be monitored;
    c. The high proportion of repeat child protection plans in Leicestershire is a concern for the Board that is being investigated further in 2016/17.

<u>Consultations</u>

24. All members of the LRLSCB and LRSAB and their Executives have had opportunities to contribute to and comment on earlier drafts of the Annual Reports.

25. As stated above, the Annual Reports have also been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and issues raised at these meetings will be considered for inclusion in the version which will be presented to the joint meeting of the Boards on 28th October 2016.

Background Papers

Report to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2016 - Leicestershire and Rutland /Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s122029/Leicestershire%20and%20Rutland%20Safeguarding%20Adult%20Board%20Annual%20Report%202015-16.pdf

Report to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 September 2016 - Leicestershire and Rutland /Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s122004/Annual%20Report%20of%20the%20Leicestershire%20and%20Rutland%20Safeguarding%20Children%20Baord%20201516%20-%20Covering%20Repor.pdf

Report to the Cabinet on 11 September 2015 - Leicestershire and Rutland /Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s111560/9%20local%20safeguarding%20boards%20annual%20reports%202014-2015.pdf

Appendices

Appendix 1 – LRLSCB annual report – 2015/16
Appendix 2 – LRSAB annual report – 2015/16
Appendix 3 – LRLSCB executive summary 2015/16
Appendix 4 – LRSAB executive summary 2015/16

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

26. Safeguarding children, young people and adults concerns individuals who are likely to be disadvantaged in a number of ways. Information on differing needs of, and impacts on different groups of individuals with regards to safeguarding is considered as part of the process to develop the Board's Business Plan. Specific impacts on or views of different groups is also considered in the work of the LRLSCB and LRSAB Safeguarding Effectiveness Group (SEG) in assessing performance and effectiveness with regard to safeguarding.

Crime and Disorder Implications

27. There is a close connection between the work of the LRSAB and that of community safety partnerships in Leicestershire. For example the SAB works closely with community safety partnerships to scrutinise and challenge performance in community safety issues that affect the safeguarding and well-being of individuals and groups e.g. domestic abuse and Prevent. The LSCB also supports community safety partnerships in carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews and acting on their recommendations.

28. The LRSAB Annual Report includes analysis of performance in a range of areas relevant to the community safety agenda and the evaluation of performance will be shared with these partnership forums to ensure that both strengths and development needs are recognised and acted on.

Environmental Implications

29. The published LRSAB and LRLSCB Annual Reports will primarily be made available on-line in electronic form, rather than paper. There are no other environmental implications.

Partnership Working and associated issues

30. Safeguarding is dependent on the effective work of the partnership as set out in national regulation, Working Together 2015, published by the Department for Education and the Care Act 2014.

This page is intentionally left blank

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

BETTER CARE FUND PLAN / DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet with respect to the progress made since the June 2016 Cabinet meeting in addressing the objections raised by Charnwood Borough Council to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) allocations as part of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan and pooled budget for 2016/17 and the development of the Lightbulb Integrated Housing Services Business Case, which is due to be completed by 28th September 2016.

Recommendation

2. The Cabinet is recommended to:

   (a) Note the actions recommended by the Integration Executive at its meeting on 2nd August 2016 set out in paragraph 28 of this report;

   (b) Note that, to date, the matter remains unresolved and lies with Charnwood Borough Council;

   (c) Note the exchange of correspondence between the Chief Executive of Charnwood Borough Council and the Chair of the Integration Executive and Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council, following the meeting of the Integration Executive on 2nd August;

   (d) Place on record its ongoing disappointment that a local resolution of this matter has not yet been achieved, within the spirit of Government guidance to take a joined-up approach to improving outcomes for people across health, social care and housing;

   (e) Note that the Health and Wellbeing Board will be updated on the current position at its meeting on 15th September;

   (f) Note the mitigating actions that have been undertaken, and the positive impact these have had, in preparing the Lightbulb Business Case with partners since June 2016, set out in paragraphs 31 to 34 of this report.

Reason for Recommendation

3. To report the ongoing risks and implications for Leicestershire County Council and partners given that this matter has not yet been concluded.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The Cabinet was advised at its meeting on 9th May 2016 that the BCF Plan had been approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board and submitted to Government by the 3rd May deadline**.**

5. The Cabinet received a detailed report on DFG allocations at the meeting held on 17th June, setting out the position of Charnwood Borough Council (as reported at their Cabinet meeting on 9th June) and the actions being taken across the partnership to seek a resolution to the matter.

   The Cabinet will receive a report detailing the Lightbulb Business Case at its meeting on 23 November 2016. A report on the matter will also be considered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 November 2016.

6. District Councils will receive the Lightbulb Business case at their respective governance meetings between October 2016 and January 2017.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

7. The Cabinet in February 2014 authorised the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve the BCF Plan 2014/15-2015/16 and implementation plans arising from its use and noted that the Board would in the future have authority to agree BCF Plans and approve plans arising from the use of the BCF.

Resources Implications

8. The decision taken by Charnwood Borough Council to request the passporting of its full DFG allocation could have financial implications for the BCF, Leicestershire County Council, and the wider health economy in the county, as the increase in DFG allocation is currently committed to other schemes in the BCF Plan.

9. The provision of the full DFG allocation to Charnwood might result in similar requests from other District Councils. This would mean that in-year cuts of £0.4m to £1.3m would need to be made to the previously approved BCF programme that relates to local authority services, i.e. funding for assistive technology, local area co-ordinators and housing support. As well as clear practical difficulties of making in-year savings, it would also have negative implications for the targeted reductions in hospital admissions and associated extra costs for the whole health economy. Given these issues the County Council and other partners could be required to provide some one-off extra resources to meet the funding shortfall.

10. The medium term implications could be even more significant. The BCF for 2017/18 and future years will need to be reviewed to assess the implications of increased allocations for DFGs. Reductions in other programmes are likely to be required to ensure the BCF is within budget. The position could be exacerbated by an expectation that the DFG allocation could increase in 2017/18. At the moment the funding position for such an increase is unclear.

11. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on this report.

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

12. None.

Officers to contact

John Sinnott, Chief Executive
Chief Executive's Department
Tel: 0116 305 6000 E-mail: john.sinnott@leics.gov.uk

Cheryl Davenport, Director of Health and Care Integration
Chief Executive's Department
Tel: 0116 305 4212 E-mail: cheryl.davenport@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Background

Strategic Context

13. In Leicestershire the Health and Wellbeing Board leads and advises on work to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of the local population. Representatives on the Board include the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the County Council, District Councils, Leicestershire Police, and NHS England. Its Terms of Reference include approving the BCF Plan and the pooled budget for transforming local services to provide more integrated care and support for people.

14. Delivery of the BCF Plan is overseen by the Integration Executive, a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board responsible for ensuring the vision for integrated health and care in Leicestershire is delivered, in line with national policy and local priorities. Membership of the Integration Executive is drawn from the same partner organisations as the Health and Wellbeing Board.

15. DFGs (funded through the Better Care Fund and administered by District Councils in Leicestershire) are means tested grants which support the installation of major adaptations in the home, such as level access showers and stair lifts.

16. The benefits of these adaptations are associated with maintaining independence in a person’s own home. They can prevent/delay the need for other forms of care and support to be provided in the home, and reduce the risk of injury/admission to hospital, for example from a fall. They can also prevent or delay the need for admission to care home settings, by supporting the person in their own home for as long as possible.

17. DFGs are an important component of housing support; however a much broader and better integrated housing offer is being designed in Leicestershire via the Lightbulb project, which was formally established, via the introduction of the (multi-agency) Lightbulb Programme Board, in March 2015. The Department of Communities and Local Government has provided a £1 million transformation grant to support the project.

18. Not only will this project realise benefits within existing DFG processes, but it will also integrate a range of other support including hospital discharge housing support, affordable warmth, minor adaptations and home maintenance.

19. The proposed Lightbulb Housing Service is subject to approval of a business case in the autumn of 2016, with a view to implementation in 2017.

20. The ongoing success and development of the Lightbulb Project is predicated on joint investment by partners in a wider housing offer to incorporate delivery of DFG requirements. The proposed Lightbulb budget would also include the

County Council's budget for minor adaptations. If District partners are not willing to include revenue funding associated with the delivery of DFGs in this overall budget, there is a major risk that the ambition to offer improved housing support benefits to people across Leicestershire cannot be delivered.

Position of Charnwood Borough Council

21. The approved BCF plan provides for £425,000 DFG to be passported to Charnwood. It is noted that the report to Charnwood's Cabinet of 9th June sought passporting of a DFG allocation of £770,000 to the Borough Council so as £340,000 "could be returned to reserves to be reallocated to other Council priorities".

22. Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet resolved:

a) That the Council ensures that its 2016/17 Disabled Facilities Grant Allocation is processed in accordance with the requirements of the Minister of State for Housing and Local Government as set out in the grant determination letter of 18th April 2016 (published as a background paper to the report of the Chief Executive, filed with these minutes);

b) That the Chief Executive continues dialogue with Leicestershire County Council and other partners as may be required to develop proposals through which the Council can support the Better Care Fund in Leicestershire;

c) That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree any support for the Better Care Fund that is to be provided by the Council;

d) That the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

23. In respect of part b) of the above, Charnwood Borough Council was asked to table a proposal(s) for consideration at the Integration Executive on 28th June and to consult beforehand with the West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (WLCCG). There was some uncertainty as to whether Charnwood had consulted with local NHS partners before its Cabinet report.

24. Charnwood Borough Council did consult with the WLCCG but did not provide a report/proposal for the Integration Executive on 28th June. They were invited again to do so for the next meeting of the Integration Executive on the 2 August.

25. In the meantime additional briefings were held with Charnwood Officers and Members about the BCF Plan and pooled budget so that the wider context of the Plan and how funding had already been prioritised by partners for 2016/17 could be reiterated.

26. Although no formal report or proposal was submitted to the Integration Executive on 2 August, the Chief Executive of Charnwood Borough Council attended the meeting and referred to a tabled e-mail exchange with West Leicestershire CCG as a way forward.

27. The Integration Executive understood that Charnwood Borough Council wanted to receive an additional DFG allocation and it would then transfer an equivalent sum to the BCF pooled budget. However, the CBC Cabinet report had indicated that the additional DFG resources could be transferred to their reserves. The Integration Executive's recommendation sought to clarify a way forward from what had been said and that was communicated to the Chief Executive of Charnwood Borough Council on the 3 August.

28. The recommendation was as follows:-

(a) That, in order to resolve the objection raised by Charnwood Borough Council to the decision of the Health and Wellbeing Board, with respect to 2016/17 DFG allocations, the Board be recommended to approve the transfer of the additional DFG allocation requested by Charnwood Borough Council from the approved BCF pooled budget to Charnwood Borough Council;

(b) That (a) above is recommended on the basis that the Cabinet of Charnwood Borough Council approves the transfer of a corresponding amount from the Borough Council into the BCF pooled budget for 2016/17 by 13 September 2016;

(c) The amount referred to in (b) above, to be transferred into the BCF pooled budget, is to be spent in accordance with:-
- the BCF plan for Leicestershire for 2016/17 approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 5 May 2016;
- the BCF section 75 pooled budget for 2016/17 as approved by the CCGs and Leicestershire County Council; and
- the Government guidance which permits and encourages local areas to think strategically about the use of home adaptations, use of technologies to support people in their own homes, and to take a joined-up approach to improving outcomes across health, social care and housing;

(d) That, subject to a decision of Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet, the Health and Wellbeing Board be recommended at its meeting on 15 September to conclude this matter as set out above but also to record a concern at the potential harm which has been done to the future of the Lightbulb project.

29. The Integration Executive anticipated this would result in an immediate report to Charnwood's Cabinet on the 11 August to enact the recommendation. However no such report was made.

30. Subsequently the Chief Executive of Charnwood Borough Council wrote to the Chair of the Integration Executive which is included as Appendix A. The Chair and the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council (as Secretary to the Health and Wellbeing Board) replied on 24 August, attached as Appendix B.

Preparations for the Lightbulb Business Case

31. During the period June – September 2016 intensive work has been undertaken to prepare the Lightbulb Integrated Housing Service Business Case.

32. This has included briefing meetings held with officers and members in each District, preparatory work with Adult Social Care in relation to the County Council's Equipment and Adaptations strategy and occupational therapy services, work with the Lightbulb Steering Group and Lightbulb Programme Board on operational and strategic matters, engagement with the Housing and Health Members Advisory Group, discussions with policy advisors at Foundations, a national body representing home improvement agencies, and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

33. The engagement with District Councils and Adult Social Care on the future model for the Lightbulb service has been very positive and evidence from the pilot period of working has proved very compelling, including evidence on improvements to DFG procedures, hospital discharge support and supporting vulnerable people in the community where a new housing "MOT" with integrated housing support has been implemented working with GP practices.

34. The business case also contains financial modelling for the proposed service which is the subject of considerable pre work and engagement with section 151 officer groups across the county.

35. It should be noted that the financial model will include how revenue resources associated with the delivery of DFGs across the county will be used to support delivery of the new Lightbulb Service from 2017/18.

Appendices

Appendix A – Letter from the Chief Executive of Charnwood Borough Council to the Chair of the Integration Executive – 12 August 2016.

Appendix B – Letter from the Chair and the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council (as Secretary to the Health and Wellbeing Board) to the Chief Executive of Charnwood Borough Council - 24 August 2016

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 4th February 2014 - 'Better Care Fund'
http://ow.ly/DoIu301hajH

Report to the Cabinet on 9th May 2016 - 'Better Care Fund Update'
http://ow.ly/5VUK301hamw

Report to the Cabinet on 17 June 2016 – Better Care Fund Plan/ Disabled Facilities Grant
http://ow.ly/9UmN303KC7E

Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 5th May 2016 - 'Better Care Fund Refresh 2016/17'
http://ow.ly/R3cF301haqb

Report to Charnwood Borough Council Cabinet on 9 June - Disabled Facilities Grants Funding Arrangements
http://ow.ly/h39a303KTUA

Equality and Human Rights Implications

36. There are no equality and human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

APPENDIX A

Charnwood

BY EMAIL

Dr Andy Ker
Chairman of the Leicestershire
Better Care Fund Integration Executive
East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG
Leicestershire County Council
Room G30, Penn Lloyd Building
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8TB

Southfield Road, Loughborough,
Leicestershire. LE11 2TT

Ask for: Fleur Hann, PA to the Chief Executive

Direct Line: 01509 634660

Email: chief.executive@charnwood.gov.uk

My ref: GP/FLH/Let16:DFGs
2016-17BetterCareFund

12 August 2016

Dear Dr Ker

Treatment of Disabled Facilities Grants in the 2016/17 Better Care Fund

Thank you for letting me have sight of the minutes of the Integration Executive meeting from 2 August. I have now had the opportunity to discuss the decision of the Integration Executive with members here and obtain a steer from them.

First of all members are very happy to see that there is now a route to bring this matter to a conclusion. As you know, members here have continued to express their support for the Better Care Fund in Leicestershire and are keen for Charnwood Borough Council to play a supportive role.

However, there are some issues in the resolution of the Integration Executive upon which they would appreciate further clarification.

Firstly, in the proposal that I submitted to the Integration Executive I made reference to the need for a business case to support a decision by Charnwood's Cabinet to provide funds to support the Better Care Fund this year. You will no doubt recall reference to this in my email to Toby Sanders that was included in the papers considered at the Integration Executive.

The decision of the Integration Executive makes no mention of this point and I would therefore appreciate confirmation that the Integration Executive accepts that part of Charnwood's proposal.

We also note that part (a) of the decision of the Integration Executive refers to an objection raised by Charnwood Borough Council to the decision of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Could you please provide the reference for that objection since we can find no reference to any such objection in our records.

We are also puzzled by the reference in part (d) of the resolution to the Lightbulb project. Again Charnwood Borough Council has made no reference to the Lightbulb project in any of its decisions and it does not feature at all in the papers I submitted to the Integration Executive. Indeed we were informed only last week by Cheryl Davenport and Jane Toman that the Better Care Fund for 2016/17 now contains a sum of just £114,000 that might be regarded as relating to the Lightbulb project and so clarification of this point would be most helpful.

I am assuming that to take these matters forward you would be happy for Charnwood Borough Council to liaise with Cheryl Davenport who I understand is the lead officer on the Integration Executive and of course we would be happy to do that.

I am therefore copying this letter to Cheryl and also to Jane Toman as the District Council Chief Executive representative on the Integration Executive

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that this matter can now be concluded as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

G. Parker

Geoff Parker
Chief Executive

cc Jane Toman
Cheryl Davenport

Appendix B

Leicestershire County Council

Mr Geoff Parker
Chief Executive
Charnwood Borough Council
Southfield Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 2TT

Date: 24th August 2016
My ref: JS/JC/16-163
Your ref: GP/FLH/Let16:DFGs
Contact: John Sinnott
Phone: 0116 305 6000
Email: john.sinnott@leics.gov.uk

Dear Geoff

Thank you for your letter of 12th August. This response is co-signed as the County Council provides the secretariat to the Health and Wellbeing Board and John Sinnott and I both agree that this correspondence should be referred to the Board at its meeting on 15th September.

We also share a concern that your letter may still reflect a lack of understanding of the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the nature of the Better Care Fund plan and the fresh approach to housing support services advocated by the Government and exemplified by the Lightbulb Project. Nevertheless, what follows answers the points in your letter.

The Integration Executive does consider that Charnwood Borough Council has formally objected to the decision of the Health and Wellbeing Board about the treatment of the DFG allocation within the 2016/17 BCF plan. There is really no other conclusion which can be drawn from the consistent position articulated by Charnwood Borough Council at various meetings about DFG allocations held over the past few months, in previous correspondence between partners about this matter, and in formal reports, such as the Charnwood Borough Council Cabinet report in July.

Not least because the BCF plan, which has been approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board, has been regionally assured and now approved without conditions by NHS England and the Government, was built up from a business case, the Integration Executive does not accept that a business case should be supplied in support of the proposal for Charnwood Borough Council to transfer funding into the BCF plan for 2016/17.

The BCF narrative plan itself (78 pages), has been available at the weblinks given below since the publication of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting papers of May 5th 2016. These documents, along with the examples of supporting business cases already supplied by the programme director, provide sufficient assurance on how the plan has been constructed and the funding priorities approved by partners for this financial year.

Contd/...

Better Care Fund Plan Final Submission and Assurance. PDF 209 KB

- Appendix 1 - Narrative for BCF Refresh Leicestershire , item 282. PDF 2 MB
- Appendix 2 - BCF Spending Plan , item 282. PDF 154 KB

The reference to the Lightbulb project in the decision from the Integration Executive reflects the impact the ongoing disagreement about the treatment of the DFG allocations has had on the Lightbulb project. As DFG allocations feature as one of the income streams in the new Lightbulb service from April 2017, this situation has clearly affected partner confidence when discussing medium term pooling arrangements and has led to significant extra work for the project team in mitigating the reputational impact of this risk, during this critical period when the Lightbulb business case is being developed with partners. As a result, the Charnwood DFG dispute currently features as one of the top 4 key risks in our integration programme risk register.

It was unfortunate that there was no written proposal from Charnwood Borough Council to the Integration Executive, with you referring only to an e-mail exchange with the West Leicestershire CCG. In terms of actions following the Integration Executive, and following the communication of the decision to you, we had anticipated that there would be an immediate report to Charnwood Cabinet on August 11th to seek approval from the Cabinet about the transfer of funds, (per section (b) of the Integration Executive decision) so that this matter could be concluded ahead of the September 15th meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It would be helpful to know if a report will be made to your September Cabinet meeting, so we can include this information in our update to the HWB Board on that date, and, if not, exactly what is Charnwood's proposal to resolve this increasingly concerning matter. We do not consider that there is much if any point in further discussion until Charnwood's position is clarified.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andy Ker
Chairman of the Leicestershire
Better Care Fund Integration Executive
Clinical Vice Chair
East Leicestershire & Rutland CCG

John Sinnott
Chief Executive
Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

SYRIAN VULNERABLE PERSONS RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) and to highlight implications for the County Council.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that:

a) The arrangements put in place by the County Council and partners to support the arrival of Syrian refugees be noted;

b) The issues highlighted in paragraphs 24 to 32 of the report regarding the allocation of Government funding to support Syrian refugee arrivals and governance arrangements for the scheme be noted;

c) The Chief Executive write to Charnwood Borough Council to express the Council's concern as set out in paragraphs 24 to 32 of the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. To ensure that the Cabinet is aware of the latest position regarding the SVPRS, and to seek to ensure the Scheme is appropriately governed and deploys Government funding in line with Government guidance and the support needs of refugee households.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. There is no specific deadline but early resolution of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding will facilitate appropriate deployment of available funding and assist the provision of appropriate services to refugee families.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. A report advising the Cabinet about the Government's SVPRS and the previous Prime Minister's Statement concerning Syrian refugees was considered as an urgent item at the meeting of the Cabinet on 11th September 2015.

6. At that meeting the Cabinet:

   a) Noted the then Prime Minister's statement that the Government wished to work intensively with local authorities to put in place arrangements to house and support up to 20,000 Syrian Refugees over the life of the Parliament and that the SVPR scheme was to be significantly expanded.

   b) Noted the support provided at the time of the report by the County Council, to refugees and asylum seekers (particularly unaccompanied minors).

   c) Noted that an interdepartmental officer group had been established to assess the implications for the County Council of the then Prime Minister's statement and consequent Government announcement, and to engage with partners in regard to the local and regional response.

   d) Agreed that the County Council would respond to any requirements and demands placed upon it to assist refugees as helpfully and positively as it can whilst recognising that its capacity to assist would inevitably be governed by available resources.

   e) Agreed that the County Council would support the Local Government Association in its discussions with the Government to ensure that funding for the expanded SVPR Scheme is sufficient and sustainable in order to minimise the financial and other resource pressures on local authorities.

Resource Implications

7. Refugee households arriving in the county will require support from a range of services, including those provided by the County Council. As set out in Part B of this report below the Government is making funding available to local areas which will help cover these costs. It will be important that the funding is deployed in a manner which most effectively meets the needs of refugee households, and is consistent with Government guidance. There are concerns, also detailed below, as to how Charnwood Borough Council (which is acting as lead authority for the scheme) may be proposing to deal with social care costs incurred by the County Council in support of resettled Syrian refugee households.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

8. None.

Officers to Contact

Tom Purnell
Assistant Chief Executive
Strategy and Business Intelligence
Chief Executive's Department
Tel: 0116 305 7019
Email: tom.purnell@leics.gov.uk

Jackie Mould
Head of Policy, Economy and Communities
Policy, Economy and Communities
Chief Executive’s Department
Tel: 0116 305 8015
Email: jackie.mould@leics.gov.uk

Part B

Background

9. The Government has resolved to resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK by the end of this Parliament, under its Syrian Vulnerable Persons Refugee Scheme (SVPRS).

10. The primary purpose is to resettle 20,000 vulnerable Syrian persons from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in a way that ensures national security and public protection, has the wellbeing of the vulnerable persons and welcoming communities at the centre of decision making, and delivers value for money for the UK taxpayer.

11. The Programme is run in partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and is intended to demonstrate the UK's support for the UNHCR's global effort to relieve the humanitarian crisis through the provision of resettlement opportunities for some of the most vulnerable Syrian people into communities over the life of the current Parliament.

12. The beneficiaries of the scheme must have registered with the UNHCR in Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and other countries across the MENA region as a result of the current crisis and the UNHCR must consider them to meet one of their seven vulnerability criteria to be eligible for the Scheme.

13. The seven vulnerability criteria are:
    - Women and girls at risk
    - Survivors of violence and torture
    - Refugees with legal and/or physical protection needs
    - Refugees with medical needs or disabilities
    - Children and adolescents at risk
    - Persons at risk due to their sexual orientation or gender identity
    - Refugees with family links in resettlement countries.

14. A report advising the Cabinet about the SVPRS and the then Prime Minister's Statement concerning Syrian refugees was considered by the Cabinet on 11th September 2015.

15. The SVPRS is a separate scheme to the new duty concerning transferring in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) which was reported to the Cabinet at its meeting on 18th June 2016.

National SVRPS Funding

16. As referred to above, national funding support is being provided by Government for 12 months with guidance also provided setting out payment rates for each individual arriving.

17. The guidance is set out in a 'funding instruction' for the SVPRS issued by the Home Office, Department for Communities and Local Government and Department for International Development in March 2016. It is attached as the Appendix to this report. This document sets out the terms under which the Home Office will make funding available to participating local authorities in respect of expenditure incurred supporting eligible resettled persons brought to the UK under the SVPRS for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

18. The following table summarises payment rates which are separated into local authority costs and education costs.

UNIT COSTS FOR SYRIAN VPR SCHEME* - LOCAL AUTHORITIES					
	Adult Benefit Claimant	**Other Adults**	**Children 5-18**	**Children 3-4**	**Children U-3**
Local authority costs	£8520	£8520	£8520	£8520	£8520
Education	£0	£0	£4500	£2250	£0
TOTALS	**£8520**	**£8520**	**£13020**	**£10770**	**£8520**

19. The 'funding instruction' states that the funding is provided 'to support eligible Syrians for the first 12-months after their arrival in the UK through the provision of initial reception arrangements, and access to accommodation, casework support, education (incl. language skills), health care, and social care'.

20. Payments for Education will be transferred to the County Council for forwarding to education providers as appropriate, and it is stated that 'additional payments may also be made in order to cover necessary costs of social care, where compelling circumstances exist'. These will be assessed and made on a case by case basis.

The position in Leicestershire

21. Leicestershire district councils, Rutland Council and Leicestershire County Council are working with other agencies including the Police and the Department of Work and Pensions, preparing to help, house and support approximately 250 Syrian refugees over the next five years under the Scheme.

22. Two families arrived in late August and have been housed by Charnwood Borough Council. Further families are due to arrive in November and then March and will be housed by the other Leicestershire district councils (with the exception of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council) and Rutland Council. At this stage, the local offer is to take families in the lowest category of need; however these

households may still have significant support requirements, including from County Council services.

23. Charnwood Borough Council is leading the scheme in Leicestershire and Rutland and has employed a SVPR Scheme Co-ordinator. Charnwood Borough Council has co-ordinated the securing of properties and the procuring of support services for resettled families on behalf of all the district councils and Rutland Council. The County Council is actively liaising with the Scheme Co-ordinator on the provision of relevant services, including providing advice on accessing school places, and social care support.

24. A sub-regional steering group (covering Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland) is in place to help co-ordinate resettlement. For resettlement in Leicestershire and Rutland it is understood that the Chief Housing Officers' Group (made up of Heads of Housing of the local housing authorities) is being used as the governance group for the scheme. This was decided without any discussion with the County Council which is not represented on this group or been invited to any of its meetings which have considered the SVPRS.

25. In July 2016 the County Council was asked by Charnwood Borough Council to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the scheme which would also be signed by the other participating district councils and Rutland Council. The drafted MoU raised a number of concerns, particularly the approach taken to the funding of social care costs which appeared to be inconsistent with Government guidance.

26. On 12th August 2016 the County Council requested via Charnwood Borough Council that the draft MoU be amended accordingly. At the time of writing no response has been received addressing the concerns that have been raised by the County Council with regards to social care costs and it now appears that a decision has been taken, without the County Council's input or agreement, that the MoU will be agreed without the County Council being a signatory. A separate MoU will, it is understood, be prepared by District Housing Officers for the County Council to sign, but a copy of this has not yet been shared with the Council. Clearly, the County Council needs to have input to any such document from the start.

Implications for Leicestershire County Council

Social Care

27. Whilst only refugee households in the lowest category need are being received by Leicestershire district councils at the current time, these households may still have significant social care support needs. Some of these needs may not immediately be apparent. The Government guidance in the Funding Instruction (appended) makes it clear that social care costs are a legitimate use for the national funding being made available to support resettlement.

28. In relation to social care support costs the MoU (which the County Council was invited to sign) stated that the County Council (and Rutland Council) would fund these costs. In commenting on the draft MoU the Council asked that this section

be amended to bring it in line with Government guidance thereby ensuring that the national funding would be used to cover these costs. The SVPRS Co-ordinator, hosted at Charnwood Borough Council, on taking advice from the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, confirmed that social care costs can be met from the Government funding allocated per resettled person.

29. The County Council has yet to see a draft agreement prepared by Charnwood/the district councils on meeting social care costs – and there are obvious concerns about this action. In any event it is the case that considerable uncertainty remains about the preparedness of Charnwood Borough Council/the district councils to make available any of the national funding to cover social care costs incurred by the County Council.

<u>Governance of the SVPRS</u>

30. A further concern regarding the original MoU relates to the governance of the SVRPS. The MoU states that the Chief Housing Officers' Group will act as the governance group. This does not include a representative of the County Council and is not considered the ideal body to oversee a scheme which involves the provision of support extending beyond housing. At the time of writing, no response has been received from Charnwood Borough Council to address this concern and the County Council has not been invited to attend any meetings of the Group at which the SVPRS has been discussed. The County Council also wishes for the roles of elected members to be recognised in the governance of the SVPRS.

<u>Education</u>

31. The schools in the local area, including the catchment school for the residences of the initial two families, are academies. The County Council is seeking to influence local schools to make provision for resettled children. At this juncture, the head teachers of the potential schools wish to meet with the SVPRS Co-ordinator in order to gain a better understanding of the needs and language requirements of the children.

<u>Other</u>

32. Charnwood Borough Council has been requested to ensure that costs incurred in relation to resettled households are closely tracked and monitored to ensure that appropriate reimbursement can be made. A response to this is also awaited.

<u>Background Papers</u>

Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme - Guidance for local authorities and partners
<u>http://ow.ly/2G1u303Ydns</u>

<u>Report to the Cabinet on 11th September 2015 "Refugees - The Prime Minister's Statement of 7th September 2015 and the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme" and minutes of that meeting</u>

http://ow.ly/3C4S303YdrA
http://ow.ly/eDPH303YdAH

Appendix

Funding to local authorities Year 1 Financial Year 2016/2017 Syrian Resettlement Programme (SRP)

Equality and Human Rights Implications

33. The County Council is committed to promoting equality and human rights. Responding positively to the humanitarian crisis in Syria is consistent with this commitment.

34. Beneficiaries of the scheme will access County Council services using the same processes as other residents accessing the same services. To mitigate the possible negative impact of language and cultural barriers, the beneficiaries will have the support of a keyworker in making referrals for any appropriate support. The beneficiaries will have English language tuition (ESOL or equivalent) to be able to carry out basic transactions within the communities within which they have been placed, should they require it, and interpretation services will be available throughout the period of resettlement.

35. These mitigations are to be coordinated by Charnwood Borough Council and this level of case work support is a requirement of the scheme. Contact has been made with Charnwood Borough Council to establish whether they have completed an Equality Impact Assessment, as the lead on the scheme. The SVPR Scheme Co-ordinator has agreed to contact the Home Office to establish whether an impact assessment has been completed on the whole scheme. The County Council services that are likely to be accessed will have been subject to an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment previously to ensure that there is not a disproportionately adverse impact on any persons with protected characteristics.

Home Office

Department for Communities and Local Government

Department for International Development

FUNDING TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

YEAR 1

FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17

SYRIAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME (SRP)

A joint unit between Home Office, DfID, and Department for Communities and Local Government

Date of Issue: 23 March 2016

Version: 0.9

1. SCOPE

1.1. The Syrian Resettlement Programme (the 'Programme') was announced by the Prime Minister on 7 September 2015.

1.2. Its primary purpose is to resettle 20,000 vulnerable Syrian persons from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in a way that:

1.2.1. Secures nationality security and public protection, and

1.2.2. Has the wellbeing of the vulnerable persons and the welcoming communities at the centre of decision making, and

1.2.3. Delivers value for money for the UK tax payer.

1.3. The Programme is run in partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (the 'UNHCR'). It demonstrates the UK's support for the UNHCR's global effort to relieve the humanitarian crisis through the provision of resettlement opportunities for some of the most vulnerable Syrian people into communities within the UK, over the life of the Parliament, who:

1.3.1. have registered with the UNHCR in Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and other countries across the MENA region as a result of the current crisis; and

1.3.2. the UNHCR consider meet one of their seven vulnerability criteria which are set out at Annex C.

1.4. The participating local or regional authority (the 'Recipient') has made commitments to support the Programme, and the Home Office (the 'Authority') has agreed to provide funding as further described in this document (the "Instruction") to the Recipient to support eligible Syrians ('Beneficiaries') for the first 12-months after their arrival in the UK, through the provision of initial reception arrangements, and access to accommodation, casework support, education (incl. language skills), health care, and social care (collectively the 'Programme').

1.5. This Instruction sets out the terms under which the Authority will make funding available to the Recipient, in respect of expenditure incurred supporting eligible Beneficiaries brought to the UK under the Programme for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. The document should be read in conjunction with the:

1.5.1. relevant claim form (at Annex A), and

1.5.2. the outcomes to be achieved as described in the Statement of Outcomes (shown at Annex B).

1.6. Unless specifically stated otherwise, any funding will be in respect of a Recipient's costs in fulfilment of its statutory duties and anything otherwise agreed with the Authority.

1.7. The Authority will provide funding to cover reasonable legitimate costs incurred in supporting all eligible Beneficiaries of the scheme for the first twelve months following their arrival in the UK.

1.8. In keeping with established HM Treasury funding policies, the Authority will issue a fresh Instruction for each financial year for which funding is approved. This will occur whether or not any changes are made.

2. DEFINITION

2.1. A 'Beneficiary of the Scheme' (also referred to as a 'Beneficiary') is defined as any person who has been classified as such by the Authority following a referral by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and has arrived in the UK having been admitted to the Programme.

2.2. The Authority is responsible for identifying eligible Beneficiaries for relocation to the UK in liaison with the UNHCR.

3. CONFIDENTIALITY

3.1. The Recipient undertakes to keep confidential and not to disclose and to procure that their employees, sub-contractors and agents keep confidential and do not disclose any information which they have obtained by reason of this Instruction.

3.2. Nothing in this clause 3 applies to information which is already in the public domain or the possession of the Recipient other than by reason of breach of this clause. Further, this clause 3 shall not apply to information which is required to be disclosed pursuant to any law or pursuant to an order of any court or statutory or regulatory body.

3.3. The Recipient shall ensure that any personal information concerning any Beneficiary disclosed to them in the course of delivering this Programme is treated as confidential and should only be disclosed to a third party in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. In the event of any doubt arising, the matter shall be referred to the Authority whose decision on the matter shall be final. In particular, the Recipient shall:

3.3.1. have in place appropriate policies and procedures to recognise and maintain the Beneficiary's need for confidentiality; and

3.3.2. ensure that without the consent of a Beneficiary, details of that individual Beneficiary are not released to any organisation not party to this Instruction.

3.4. The Recipient shall not use any information which they have obtained as a result of delivering the Programme (including, without limitation, any information relating to any Beneficiary) in any way which is inaccurate or misleading.

3.5. The provisions of this clause 3 shall survive the termination of this Instruction, however that occurs.

3.6. In the event of any unauthorised disclosure, the Authority must be informed without delay. The Authority will decide on what, if any, remedial action should take place and the Recipient shall be bound by and will abide by the decision of the Authority.

3.7. Where a Recipient is responsible for an unauthorised disclosure in breach of this Instruction, that Recipient will be liable for any consequences of such unauthorised disclosure, including (but not confined to) any civil or criminal liability.

3.8. All approaches made by any person or organisation not party to this Instruction in respect of funding provided to deliver the Programme must be referred to the Authority's press office for their advice and/ or action.

4. REIMBURSEMENT

4.1. Payment for each eligible Beneficiary supported by the Recipient will be at this standard per capita rate set by the Authority.

UNIT COSTS FOR SYRIA VPR SCHEME* - LOCAL AUTHORITIES					
	Adult Benefit Claimant	**Other Adults**	**Children 5-18**	**Children 3-4**	**Children U-3**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Local Authority Costs	8,520	8,520	8,520	8,520	8,520
Education	0	0	4,500	2,250	0
TOTALS	**8,520**	**8,520**	**13,020**	**10,770**	**8,520**

* These payments may, from time to time, be adjusted by the Authority following consultation with the Recipients.

4.2. The Recipient shall be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate level of funding is paid to places of education who accept Beneficiaries from the relevant age groups. Payments will be made to schools, academies, free schools and Further Education colleges, as appropriate.

4.3. The Recipient may request additional funding for educational purposes in respect of supported Beneficiaries who have not attained the age of 18 years and who are in full-time education, where compelling circumstances exist. Such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with the final decision on payment, duration and rate (which may be adjusted from time to time) to be set by the Authority.

4.4. Further additional payments may also be made in order to cover necessary costs of social care, where compelling circumstances exist. These will be assessed and made on a case-by-case basis.

4.5. Payments will be made throughout the 12 month period based solely on the age and status of the Beneficiary at the point of arrival in the UK.

4.6. Nothing in this Instruction shall be construed as providing or permitting the total relevant benefits to exceed the statutory limit (the ‘benefit cap’) prevailing at the time of payment.

4.7. On the day of arrival in the UK of a Beneficiary, the Recipient will be eligible to claim 40% of the total projected annual per capita amount for that person. The Recipient must make a claim on the standard claim form (attached as Annex A) in order to receive payment.

4.8. Following this, the remainder will be paid in two equal instalments at the end of the, fourth, and, eighth, months following the Beneficiary’s arrival in the UK. In each case, the Recipient must make a claim on the standard claim form.

4.9. The Authority must be notified at the earliest opportunity if a Recipient expects its funding requirement to be lower than expected, in order to avoid overpayments.

4.10. In the event that an overpayment is made, the Authority must be notified as soon as reasonably practicable. In such instances, the Authority may require immediate reimbursement of the overpayment or may adjust subsequent payment(s) accordingly.

4.11. Any payments made under this Instruction will also cover VAT or other duties paid by the Recipient.

5. CESSATION OF PAYMENT

5.1. The Authority's responsibility for providing financial support under this Instruction will cease on the 12 month anniversary of a Beneficiary's arrival into the UK under the Programme.

5.2. Payments may also cease where the Beneficiary:

5.2.1. dies;

5.2.2. leaves the relevant local authority area to live in another local authority area

5.2.3. indicates that they no longer wish to receive support under the Programme;

5.2.4. indicates that they are leaving the UK permanently;

5.2.5. applies for or becomes subject to some other immigration status within the UK; or

5.2.6. otherwise leaves or becomes ineligible for the Programme.

5.3. In the event of any such occurrence under paragraph 5.2, the Recipient must notify the Authority without delay.

5.4. For the purposes of clause 5.1, the 12 month period will commence on the date of the Beneficiary's arrival in the UK (whether under the Programme or otherwise) and will continue unbroken until the end of the 12 month period.

5.5. The Authority reserves the right to cease making payments if it has reasonable grounds to believe that the Beneficiary has sought to deceive the Authority, the relevant Recipient or a partner agency in relation to their circumstances, including their inclusion on the Programme or their activities whilst so involved.

6. DATA RECONCILIATION AND PAYMENTS

6.1. The Recipient shall complete applications for payment in the form set out in Annex A, which includes details of each Beneficiary and the financial support applied for.

6.2. Specific instructions for the completion of Annex A are included in the SRP LA funding Excel workbook, which will be supplied by the Authority. The Annex A should only be submitted to the SRP LA File via the Authority's secure data transfer portal, "MoveIT DMZ", to ensure compliance with 1998 Data Protection Legislation.

6.3. The Annex A submitted for payment must be received by the Authority no later than three months after the close of the period to which the application relates; late returns may result in payment being delayed. The Recipient will have the opportunity to make representations if they believe that the level of funding received is less than that to which they are entitled under the terms of this Instruction. Any discrepancies regarding the amounts paid must be notified by the relevant Recipient to the SRP LA Funding team within a month of the Annex A response being sent, following reconciliation against the Authority's records. Retrospective payments for individuals not promptly included on Annex A may be agreed only where exceptional circumstances are shown.

6.4. Payments will be made by BACS using account details that the Recipient must supply to the Authority on headed notepaper. This is to include the bank address, account number and sort code, and be signed by the Finance Director (or equivalent). It is then to be forwarded to the Authority as a PDF file. In the event of a change in bank details, the relevant Recipient should immediately notify the Authority of the new information.

6.5. Payments will be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of a correctly-completed claim.

6.6. Payments will be referenced 'SRP (LA) 15/16 POA Mth' followed by the month numbers in the financial year; for example, the payment made for the period 1 January – 29 February will be referenced as 'SRP (LA) 15/16 POA Mths 10-11'. The relevant Recipient should advise the cashiers' department accordingly.

6.7. At the end of the period for which support is paid, final checks will be carried out to ensure that the payments already made accurately reflect the amounts to which the Recipient is entitled. Payments made as a result of applications are to be regarded as payments on account, which will be finalised when the final claim is confirmed by the Authority. The Recipient should note that the format of the claim spreadsheets **must not** be altered.

6.8. The Recipient must record expenditure in their accounting records under generally-accepted accounting standards in a way that the relevant costs can be simply extracted if required. Throughout the year, the SRP LA Funding team will work with the Recipient to ensure the accuracy of claims, thereby reducing the need for audits at year-end.

7. MONITORING & EVALUATION

7.1. Visits may be made from time to time by the Authority or its appointed representatives, including the National Audit Office. Whilst there is no requirement for submission of detailed costings, the Recipient must be able to provide the costs for individual cases and will, if required, be expected to justify, explain and evidence costs.

7.2. In all cases, to assist with monitoring and evaluation of the Programme, the Recipient shall supply the Authority with all such financial information as is reasonably requested from time-to-time, on an open book basis.

7.3. The Authority may require the Recipient to provide information and documentation regarding Beneficiaries for monitoring and evaluation purposes. This may include, amongst other things, requiring the Recipient to link Beneficiaries to unique identifier(s) in order to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

7.4. The Authority may also require the Recipient to clarify information or documentation that it has provided for these purposes.

8. BREACH OF FUNDING CONDITIONS

8.1. Where a Recipient fails to comply with any of the conditions set out in this Instruction, or if any of the events mentioned in clause 8.2 occur, then the Authority may reduce, suspend, or withhold payments, or require all or any part of the relevant payments to be repaid by the relevant Recipient. In such circumstances, the relevant Recipient must repay any amount required to be repaid under this clause 8.1 within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the demand for repayment.

8.2. The events referred to in clause 8.1 are as follows:

- The Recipient purports to transfer or assign any rights, interests or obligations arising under this Agreement without the agreement in advance of the Authority; or
- Any information provided in the application for funding (or in a claim for payment) or in any subsequent supporting correspondence is found to be incorrect or incomplete to an extent which the Authority considers to be material; or
- The Recipient takes inadequate measures to investigate and resolve any reported irregularity.

9. CONTACT DETAILS

9.1. For queries relating to this Instruction or the submission of payment applications, please email your SRP LA Funding team contact.

10. ACTIVITIES – GENERAL

10.1. The Recipient must ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that they and anyone acting on their behalf shall possess all the necessary qualifications, licences, permits, skills and experiences to discharge their responsibilities effectively, safely and in conformance with all relevant law for the time being in force (so far as binding on the Recipient).

10.2. When procuring works, goods or services the Recipient must ensure that it complies with its statutory obligations, for example the regulations as transposed into national Law from the EU Directives on Public Procurement (2014) i.e. in England & Wales the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 [PCR2015]. In any event, the Recipient shall demonstrate value for money and shall act in a fair, open and non-discriminatory manner in all purchases of goods and services to support the delivery of the Programme.

10.3. Where the Recipient enters into a contract (or other form of agreement) with any third party for the provision of any part of the Programme, the Recipient shall ensure that a term is included in the contract or agreement requiring the Recipient to pay all sums due within a specified period: this shall be as defined by the terms of that contract or agreement, but shall not exceed 30 (thirty) days from the date of receipt of a validated invoice.

10.4. Monies provided must not be used for any purpose other than delivery of Programme outcomes detailed in the Statement of Outcomes, nor is it permissible to vire any such funds elsewhere without the express consent of the Authority.

10.5. No aspect of the activity funded by the Authority may be party-political in intention, use or presentation.

10.6. The funding may not be used to support or promote religious activity. This will not include inter-faith activity.

10.7. No aspect of the activity funded by the Authority may be intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, Government or political parties, attempt to influence the awarding of contracts and grants or to attempt to influence legislation or regulatory action.

11. INDEMNITY

11.1. The Authority accepts no liability to the Recipient or to any third party for any costs, claims, damage or losses, however they are incurred, except to the extent that they are caused by the Authority's negligence or misconduct.

12. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

12.1. In the event of any dispute between the Parties, it will be resolved by the Parties.

ANNEX A – EXPENDITURE CLAIM PRO-FORMA

Excel spreadsheet to be provided separately.

Annex B – Statement of Outcomes

1. Section 1 – Delivery Outcomes

1.1 The SRP is made up of two elements:

1.1.1 **Pre arrival** – Provision of medical and travel services enabling the migration of accepted Beneficiaries to the UK; and

1.1.2 **Post arrival** – Housing provision, initial reception arrangements, casework and orientation support including English language provision.

1.2 This Statement of Outcomes describes the **post arrival outcomes** to be achieved.

2. Post Arrival Outcomes

Provision of accommodation:

2.1 The Recipient will arrange accommodation for the arriving Beneficiaries which meets local authority standards and which will be available on their arrival and is affordable and sustainable.

2.2 The Recipient will ensure that the accommodation is furnished appropriately. The furniture package should not include luxury items. This means that funding received through this Instruction should be used for food storage, cooking and washing facilities but should not include the provision of other white goods or brown goods, i.e. TV's, DVD players or any other electrical entertainment appliances. This shall not preclude the Recipient from providing Beneficiaries with additional luxury, white or brown goods through other sources of funding.

2.2.1 The Recipient will ensure that the Beneficiaries are registered with utility companies and ensure that arrangements for payments are put in place (no pre pay/card accounts).

2.2.2 The Recipient will provide briefings on the accommodation and health and safety issues for all new arrivals including the provision of an emergency contact point.

Initial Reception Arrangements:

2.3 The Recipient will meet and greet arriving Beneficiaries from the relevant airport and escort them to their properties, briefing them on how to use the amenities.

2.4 The Recipient will ensure that Beneficiaries are provided with a welcome pack of groceries on their arrival – the content of this pack should take into account the culture and nationality of the Beneficiary(ies).

2.5 The Recipient will provide an initial cash allowance for each Beneficiary of £200 – this is to ensure they have sufficient funds to live on while their claim for benefits is being processed.

Casework Support:

2.6 The Recipient should ensure that Beneficiaries are provided with a dedicated source of advice and support to assist with registering for mainstream benefits and services, and signposting to other advice and information giving agencies – this support includes:

2.6.1 Assisting with registration for and collection of Biometric Residence Permits following arrival

2.6.2 Registering with local schools, English language and literacy classes

2.6.3 Attending local Job Centre Plus appointments for benefit assessments

2.6.4 Registering with a local GP

2.6.5 Advice around and referral to appropriate mental health services and to specialist services for victims of torture as appropriate

2.6.6 Providing assistance with access to employment.

2.7 The Recipient shall develop an overarching (or framework) support plan and bespoke support plans for each family or individual for the first 12 month period of their support to facilitate their orientation into their new home/area.

2.8 The Recipient shall undertake an assessment with each Beneficiary of their English language capability to determine appropriate support arrangements through provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or equivalent. The purpose of the language tuition is to ensure that each Beneficiary is able to carry out basic transactions within the communities in which they have been placed. Beneficiaries should be able to access such classes within one month of their arrival and they should be made available until such time as suitable mainstream provision becomes available or until 12 months after arrival (whichever is sooner).

2.9 Any language support provision should be delivered by an accredited provider.

2.10 Throughout the period of resettlement support the Recipient will ensure interpreting services are available.

2.11 The above outcomes will be provided through a combination of office based appointments, drop in sessions, outreach surgeries and home visits.

2.12 The Recipient shall collate such casework information as is agreed to enable the Authority to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Programme's delivery.

Requirements for Beneficiaries with special needs/assessed community care needs:

2.13 Where Beneficiaries are identified as potentially having special needs/community care needs the Authority will ensure, as far as possible that these needs are clearly identified and communicated to the Recipient six (6) weeks prior to the arrival of the Beneficiaries.

2.14 Where special needs/community care needs are identified only after arrival in the UK, the Recipient will use its best endeavours to ensure that care is provided by the appropriate mainstream services as quickly as possible.

2.15 Where sensitive issues (including safeguarding issues or incidents of domestic abuse, violence or criminality) are identified pre-arrival by the Authority, the Authority will notify the Recipient immediately, and not longer than 24 hours, after its receipt of the information.

2.16 Where sensitive issues such as the above are identified post-arrival by the Recipient, the Recipient shall notify the Authority within 24 hours, setting out what procedures are to be put in place to mitigate the situation.

3 General Requirements

Hours of operation:

3.1 The Recipient shall note that the Authority's offices perform normal business during the hours of 09.00 to 17.00 on Working Days.

3.2 The Programme as defined in this Statement of Outcomes shall be provided at a minimum on each Working Day. The Authority recognises that in the interests of efficiency the exact availability and timings of the various service elements will vary. It is envisaged that some Out of Hours provision will be required from the Recipient.

3.3 All premises used to deliver the Programme elements should meet all regulatory requirements and be suitable for the purpose.

3.4 The Recipient and/or its Delivery Partners shall develop, maintain and implement the following procedures:

3.4.1 A procedure for Beneficiaries to complain about the support and assistance provided by the Recipient.

3.4.2 A procedure for managing and reporting critical incidents. The Authority must be advised of such incidents as soon as reasonably possible, but in any event by the end of the next Working Day

3.5 A critical incident is defined as any incident where the outcome or consequence of that incident is likely to result in:

3.5.1 Serious harm to any individual;

3.5.2 Significant community impact; or

3.5.3 Significant impact on public confidence in the Authority, including the provision of the Programme.

Personnel standards:

3.6 The Recipient shall ensure that the recruitment, selection and training of its Staff, including persons employed by or as agents or sub-contractors to the Recipient, are consistent with the standards required for the performance of the outcomes. The Recipient will fully equip and train staff to ensure they are able to fulfil their roles and ensure that appropriate and sufficient security provisions are made for all staff undertaking face-to-face activities. Also, the Recipient shall ensure that staffing levels are appropriate at all times for the purposes of the delivering the Programme and ensure the security and well-being of all Beneficiaries, dependant children and its staff.

3.7 The Recipient shall ensure that all applicants for employment in connection with the Requirement are obligated to declare on their application forms any previous criminal convictions subject always to the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

3.8 In addition, the Recipient shall ensure that all Staff (including volunteers and sub-contractors):

3.8.1 employed or engaged have the right to work in the United Kingdom under applicable immigration law, and

3.8.2 are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service checks. The results of such checks must be known before any employee undertakes duties requiring contact. Where such checks reveal prior criminal convictions that might reasonably be regarded as relevant to the appropriateness of the individual to have unsupervised access, particularly to children under the age of 18, or where such checks are not possible because of identification issues, the Recipient shall follow its internal policy and carry out an appropriate risk assessment before an offer of employment is made, and

3.8.3 who are likely to have unsupervised access to children under the age of 18 has been instructed in accordance with the relevant national child protection guidelines (e.g. for people working in England, DfE's Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015) and Local Safeguarding Children Boards' guidance and procedures, and

3.8.4 providing immigration advice should be known to the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) in accordance with the regulatory scheme specified under Part 5 of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999. The Recipient shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that Staff do not provide immigration advice or immigration services unless they are "qualified" or "exempt" as determined and certified by OISC, and shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that it and anyone acting on its behalf shall not bring the Authority or the programme into disrepute, for instance by reason of prejudicing the Purpose and/or being contrary to the interests of the Authority.

3.9 The Recipient shall, on request, provide the Authority with details of all staff (and volunteers and sub-contractor agents) delivering the Programme.

3.10 The Recipient shall, on request, provide the Authority with CVs and/or job descriptions for all members of staff selected to work on the project.

3.11 The Recipient shall use all reasonable endeavours to comply with the requirements of the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

3.12 The Recipient shall implement the Programme in compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Information sharing:

3.13 The Authority expects the Recipient to share relevant information on the delivery of the Programme and on Beneficiaries by signing a Sharing of Information Protocol with relevant deliverers of the Programme.

3.14 Beneficiaries will be expected to sign a consent form to confirm their willingness to share personal data with executive bodies and relevant deliverers of the programme. The Recipient will retain these forms and will allow inspection by the Authority as requested.

Programme Monitoring and Evaluation

3.15 The Recipient should manage and administer the quality and level of delivery and its own performance and that of its Delivery Partners relating to delivery of all the outcomes identified in this Annex B.

3.16 The Recipient shall provide information as set out in a template reporting form which will be provided by the Authority.

Annex C – UNHCR vulnerability criteria

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has seven vulnerability criteria, which are:

- women and girls at risk;
- survivors of violence and/or torture;
- refugees with legal and/or physical protection needs;
- refugees with medical needs or disabilities;
- children and adolescents at risk;
- persons at risk due to their sexual orientation or gender identity; and
- refugees with family links in resettlement countries

This page is intentionally left blank

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

DRY RECYCLING CREDITS MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY SAVINGS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the options appraisal to achieve the savings on dry recycling credits identified in the 2016 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and to recommend the preferred option.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that:

   a) The outcome of the options appraisal for achieving the necessary savings and the views of the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) are noted;

   b) Option 4 as set out in paragraph 32 of the report be agreed;

   c) The Director of Environment and Transport be authorised –

      i) to commence a procurement exercise to secure processing capacity for dry recycling by 1st April 2018,

      ii) following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to serve reasonable notice objecting to WCAs retaining dry materials for recycling with effect from 1st April 2018 or such other date as the Director of Environment and Transport shall determine for each WCA,

      iii) to issue directions to WCAs to deliver dry materials for recycling to the most appropriate facility made available under a new contract following the completion of a procurement exercise,

      iv) following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member and the Director of Law and Governance, to enter into new local arrangements for incentive payments to financially compensate the

WCAs for reductions in residual household waste with such of the seven WCAs as he considers appropriate.

Reason for Recommendations

3. The preferred way forward, Option 4, offers the greatest potential savings for the County Council within a feasible timescale.

4. Authorising the Director to take the necessary actions to give effect to the decision will facilitate the implementation of Option 4 within the planned timescales.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. A report was considered by the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny on 12th September 2016 and its comments will be reported to the Cabinet.

6. It is proposed that the new arrangements would come into effect from 1st April 2018.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

7. The MTFS 2015/16-2018/19 approved by the County Council on the 18th February 2015 identified a saving of £1m from a reduction in recycling credits for dry materials.

8. The MTFS 2016/17-2019/20 was approved by the County Council on 17th February 2016 and identified a saving from a reduction in funding for recycling credits for dry materials of £1,030,000.

9. Incentivising waste reduction and recycling is identified as a service transformation priority within the County Council's Transformation Programme objective to 'work the Leicestershire pound' – reducing cost and maximising funding available to the council and other bodies.

Resource Implications

10. The MTFS assumes net savings of £1,030,000 from recycling credits in 2018/19.

11. Modelling of a number of potential future options has been undertaken. The uncertain nature of the recycling market and other assumptions that need to be made in modelling over the long term mean that savings projections can only be given as a range. On that understanding, it is predicted that the proposals would result in savings of between £18.1m to £43.4m (under the preferred option of procuring capacity) over the period from 2018 to 2030.

12. The variations in the level of income that can be generated from different types of recycled materials mean that the actual net costs of recycling facilities (either procured capacity or self-operating) could vary significantly from one year to the next. This variation would need to be managed, perhaps through the use of a specific reserve, or within the wider Waste Management budget where possible.

13. Further detail, including the current value of recycling credit payments, is given in Part B of this report below.

14. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

15. This report is being circulated to all Members of the Council via the Members' News in Brief Service.

Officers to Contact

Phil Crossland, Director of Environment and Transport
Environment and Transport Dept.
Tel: 0116 305 7000 E-mail: phil.crossland@leics.gov.uk

Joanna Guyll, Assistant Director Environment and Waste
Environment and Transport Dept.
Tel: 0116 305 8101 E-mail: Joanna.guyll@leics.gov.uk

Vicky Cormie, Head of Service Policy and Strategy (Environment and Waste)
Environment and Transport Dept.
Tel: 0116 305 7291 Email: vicky.cormie@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Background

16. The recycling credit scheme was introduced by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (the EPA) to incentivise the recycling of household waste by Local Authorities and by third parties. The EPA places a duty on the County Council, as a Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), to pay waste disposal credits to the District Councils as Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) when they divert and retain waste from the household waste stream for recycling. The credit payment represents a portion of the net saving of expenditure for the County Council where such waste has not been disposed of through the household waste stream (e.g. to landfill).

17. The EPA (section 48(4)) allows the WDA to object to a WCA retaining waste for recycling where the WDA has made arrangements for that waste to be recycled. Under sections 48(1) and (1A) of the EPA, the WCA must deliver waste to such places as the WDA directs.

18. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 introduced increased flexibility for local authorities to develop joint working arrangements. The amended EPA (section 52(1B)) allows the WDA and the WCAs to agree that payments of waste disposal credits do not need to be made.

19. The current value of the recycling credit is £52.91 per tonne and the County Council's 2016/17 recycling credits budget is £3,179,400. The recycling credit value (per tonne) increases by a fixed rate of 3% each year.

20. The 2016 MTFS identifies savings of £1,030,000 from the recycling credits budget for dry materials in 2018/19.

21. Dry materials include, for example: paper, card, plastics, steel and aluminium cans, glass, textiles and drinks cartons.

Recycling Credits paid to WCAs - Current Position

22. The WCAs operate kerbside dry recycling collections as well as providing 'bring bank' recycling facilities. In some cases, the WCAs also provide commercial recycling collections (i.e. for businesses).

23. Each of the seven District Councils in Leicestershire have their own collection arrangements for recycling. Some collect weekly, others fortnightly, and the types of materials accepted and the way in which they are collected by each WCA differ.

24. The WCAs currently receive recycling credits for dry recycling as outlined in the table below:

Waste Collection Authority	Tonnes of Kerbside Collected Dry Recycling in 2015/16	Tonnes of Bring Site Collected Dry Recycling 2015/16	Recycling Credits Paid in 2015/16
Blaby DC	8588	474	£465,503
Charnwood BC	15515	384	£816,730
Harborough DC	8416	46	£434,699
Hinckley and Bosworth BC	8601	347	£459,671
Melton BC	5337	1	£274,222
North West Leics DC	6899	286	£369,105
Oadby and Wigston BC	3365	0	£172,844

Note: Tonnage figures are net of contamination

25. Depending on individual contractual arrangements, the WCAs may receive income for the sale of recyclable materials in addition to recycling credits received from the County Council.

Summary of Options Considered

26. A range of options for achieving the savings as set out in the MTFS were considered and consultants Frith Resource Management (Frith RM) were appointed to carry out an independent appraisal of these options.

27. The WCAs were involved in the options appraisal process through a formal consultation process as outlined in paragraph 37 below.

28. The following long-list of 8 options was considered:

1) Baseline – i.e. to continue with current arrangements.
2) Reach local agreements (individually with each WCA) to reduce the value of the recycling credit.
3) Develop and agree a new payment model to incentivise a reduction in residual waste / increase in recycling.
4) The County Council to procure capacity for all WCA dry recycling and direct the WCAs to use it.
5) The County Council to procure capacity for all WCA dry recycling and agree a mechanism for cost / income sharing.
6) The County Council to build a materials recovery facility (MRF), individually or with another authority, and direct the WCAs to use it.
7) The County Council to develop a MRF with the WCAs and agree a mechanism for cost / income sharing.

8) The County Council and the WCAs to develop a long term strategic private / public partnership with a private sector company for MRF provision.

29. Four of the options were shortlisted for more detailed analysis and these are outlined in paragraphs 30 to 33 below.

30. **Option 2: Reach local agreements to reduce the value of the recycling credits.**
This option would involve a set percentage reduction in the value of the recycling credit to meet the saving of £1.03m in 2018/19. As this would be a departure from the recycling credits mechanism as outlined in the EPA, this could only be implemented with agreement from each individual WCA.

31. **Option 3: Develop and agree a new payment mechanism to incentivise reduction in residual waste/increase in recycling.**
This option would involve the development and agreement of a new payment model to incentivise a reduction in residual waste / increase in recycling. This would need to be implemented in conjunction with another option. During the consultation process the County Council and the WCAs agreed that this option would be appraised separately by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (see paragraphs 48-53 below).

32. **Option 4: The County Council to procure capacity for all WCA dry recycling and direct the WCAs to use it.**
This option would involve the County Council procuring an outlet for all of the WCA dry recycling. As the WCAs would no longer be retaining waste for recycling no recycling credits would be payable.

33. **Option 6: The County Council to build a MRF (on its own or with another authority) and direct the WCAs to use it.**
This option is similar to Option 4 but would involve the County Council building a MRF rather than procuring MRF capacity from the market. The option was considered as 2 ‘sub-options’: 6a. the County Council would build a MRF alone and 6b. the County Council would build a MRF with another local authority or authorities.

34. Options 4 and 6 would require the WDA (the County Council) to issue an objection to each WCA retaining dry materials for recycling and then direct them to utilise the County Council's contracts. This would remove the requirement to pay recycling credits for this material. However, the County Council would be responsible for paying the recycling facility gate fees (the charge levied on waste received at a waste processing facility) for any dry recycling that the WCAs collected.

35. The implementation of option 4 or option 6 would result in an additional loss of income for any of the WCAs who have contractual arrangements where they receive income from the sale of recyclable materials.

36. Depending on the availability of MRF or waste transfer facilities in each WCA area, the County Council is likely to be required under section 52(10)

of the EPA to pay ‘tipping away’ fees to one or more WCAs, i.e. to make a reasonable contribution towards the expenditure reasonably incurred by a WCA in delivering waste to a place which is unreasonably far from that WCA’s area. The Cabinet has previously (July 2001) agreed that a 'reasonable distance' should be defined as 5 miles from the relevant WCA boundary. This distance is currently being used to determine tipping away fees for residual waste and other WDAs use this as a benchmark.

Consultation

37. Formal consultation with the WCAs was undertaken between May 2015 and March 2016. An outline of the consultation process is shown in the table below:

Date	Consultation Activity
27th May 2015	Letter from the Director of Environment & Transport (E&T) to all WCAs formally launching consultation process.
10th July 2015	Meeting with WCA representatives.
30th July 2015	Consultation workshop 1.
18th August 2015	Letter from the Director of E&T to all WCAs confirming the long-list of options to be appraised.
10th September 2015	Consultation workshop 2.
22nd September 2015	Letter from the Director of E&T to all WCAs requesting comments on the initial high-level appraisal of options.
23rd December 2015	Letter from the Director of E&T to all WCAs confirming the shortlisted options.
1st February 2016	Meeting with WCA representatives.
17th February 2016	Letter from the Director of E&T to all WCAs reconfirming the shortlisted options and requesting formal responses on each option including the impact on waste service provision and updated contractual information on contractual arrangements.
30th March 2016	Close of consultation.

38. A summary of WCA responses to the final shortlisted options are included in Appendix A to this report. Full letters of response are included in Appendix B.

39. All WCAs identified Option 2 as their preferred option as it would minimise the reduction in recycling credits paid. Other responses from the WCAs varied although recurrent themes included the potential for efforts to control contamination being reduced and changes to recycling collection services (including downgrading of services).

40. Consultation responses were taken into account by Frith RM in the modelling used in the final options appraisal.

Financial Analysis and Deliverability

41. Financial analysis of each of the shortlisted options was undertaken by Frith RM to assess the savings potential of each option. Key assumptions are summarised in Appendix C.

42. Financial analysis was undertaken over the long term to 2030. The market for recyclable materials fluctuates significantly and sometimes unpredictably over time. The analysis was undertaken over a longer time frame to take account of these fluctuations and understand the long term impacts of implementing each option.

43. The findings of the financial analysis are summarised in the table below. The predicted savings are shown as a range, reflecting sensitivity analysis.

Option	Net Savings (2018/19)	Total Net Savings to 2030
2. Local agreement	Up to £1.7m	range £1.6m - £27.6m
4. Procure capacity, direct WCAs	Up to £2.6m	range £18.1m - £43.4m
6a. Build MRF alone, direct WCAs	Up to £2.3m	range £13.5m-£33.9m
6b. Build MRF with others, direct WCAs	Up to £2.6m	range £13.3m-£37.3m

44. Option 2 (local agreement) was modelled assuming a 20%, 28.9% or 50% reduction in the value of the recycling credit with various sensitivities. To achieve the required MTFS saving, the recycling credit value would need to decrease by approximately 28.9% subsequently rising with RPI (based on an assumption of no change to recycling levels).

45. Option 4 (procure and direct) delivers the highest level of estimated net savings of £18.1 - £43.4m over the period to 2030. It should, however, be noted that due to the unpredictable nature of the recycling market, there is a risk that the level of savings may vary during this period.

46. Each option was also assessed for deliverability. The timescales for delivery of infrastructure (i.e. Options 6a and 6b) are extremely tight and are unlikely to be achievable by April 2018. Option 6b in particular would require a period of negotiation to develop a facility in partnership with another local authority or authorities. This option may be considered further should suitable joint working opportunities arise in the future.

47. The main reason that Option 4 suggests greater savings than Option 6 is that the MRF that would be built under Option 6 to manage Leicestershire’s waste would be a relatively small facility, or one operating

below optimal capacity. It is assumed that procuring capacity would be from a larger MRF or one working at closer to optimal efficiency levels.

Incentive Payments for Reductions in Residual Waste

48. The Leicestershire Waste Partnership (the Partnership) is composed of the County Council and the seven Leicestershire District Councils who work together to deliver a joint waste management strategy.

49. The Partnership has worked with consultants Frith RM to consider an incentive payment from the County Council to compensate the WCAs for absolute reductions in residual household waste – Option 3. This would take into account kerbside residual waste and residual waste collected at the County Council's Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS).

50. As stated previously, incentive payments would be implemented in conjunction with another option; it is not a 'standalone' option.

51. The incentive payments would come from savings made in the waste budget by the County Council, as the WDA and would be intended to offset (partly or wholly) the cost to the WCA of introducing measures to reduce residual household waste.

52. The assessment concluded that there were a number of strengths in this approach as the mechanism would reinforce the waste hierarchy[1] from the top and would encourage innovation to achieve long term waste reduction.

53. It is, therefore, recommended that the Director of Environment and Transport is authorised to enter into local arrangements with individual WCAs to implement incentive payments as appropriate.

Conclusion

54. It is recommended that Option 4 (the County Council to procure capacity for all WCA dry recycling and direct WCAs to use it) is progressed in conjunction with Option 3, as appropriate. Option 4 offers the greatest potential savings levels over the period to 2030.

55. The County Council does not currently have contractual arrangements in place for processing capacity for dry recycling. Therefore, if the recommendations of this report are agreed officers will commence a procurement exercise to secure capacity with effect from 1st April 2018.

56. The County Council is required to be reasonable when issuing any notices of objection or direction to the WCAs. The Director of Environment and Transport wrote to each WCA during the consultation requesting details of their contractual arrangements for dry recycling. The Director also

[1] The "waste hierarchy" ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).

requested that WCAs should ensure that their contracts have sufficient flexibility to accommodate early termination, service changes, and/or reductions in funding/contract value, and that the WCAs consult the County Council as the WDA before taking any commissioning decisions and keep it informed if there are changes to waste contracts.

57. Subject to agreement of Option 4, the Director of Environment and Transport will write to each WCA confirming the agreed approach and requesting updated details of contractual arrangements for dry recycling so that these can be taken into account when notices are issued.

58. It is proposed that any objection/direction is implemented with effect from 1st April 2018, where possible. Due to the WCAs' existing contractual arrangements it may be that implementation of Option 4 needs to be phased in over time. It is, therefore, recommended that power be delegated to the Director of Environment and Transport following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to determine the most appropriate date for each WCA. The 'objection' notices would be issued to WCAs at the earliest opportunity in order to give them sufficient notice to bring their current contractual arrangements to an orderly end.

59. Once the procurement exercise is completed, notices will be issued directing the WCAs to deliver dry materials for recycling to the most appropriate facility under the County Council's contracts.

Risk Assessment

60. The potential risks associated with Option 4 have been given careful consideration. The key risks identified for the proposed approach are:

a) Increased residual waste if WCAs downgrade recycling collections and material is diverted into the residual waste stream
b) MRF gate fees are higher than predicted
c) Increased levels of contamination in kerbside collected dry recycling if WCAs reduce efforts to control contamination
d) Negative impact on partnership working approach due to reduced financial resources.

The impact of these risks (if they materialise) may vary although they are primarily linked to a failure to make MTFS savings or increased costs for the County Council (higher than baseline).

61. The County Council will continue to make every effort to ensure the continuation of good working relationships with the WCAs.

Background Papers

Report to the County Council on 18 February 2015 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 – 2018/19

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s107608/BUDGET%20REPORT%20OF%20THE%20CABINET%202015.pdf

Report to the County Council on 17 February 2016 - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17-2019/20http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s116436/BUDGET%20REPORT%20OF%20THE%20CABINET.pdf

Report to the Cabinet on 31 July 2001 - Claim for Tipping Away Fees – Melton Borough Council and North-West Leicestershire District Council http://ow.ly/i4j4303ooFn

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of consultation responses

Appendix B: Consultation response letters

Appendix C: Key assumptions

Appendix D: Equalities and human rights impact assessment

Equality and Human Rights Implications

62. An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment screening (attached as Appendix D to this report) was completed to assess the potential impacts of the implementation of Option 4. No equality or human rights implications are perceived at this stage. The WCAs will be responsible for considering any equality and human rights implications if any changes to the kerbside recycling collection services are proposed.

Environmental Impact Assessment

63. The Environmental Implications Tool was utilised to assess the possible impacts of the proposed approached to making savings on recycling credits for dry materials collected at the kerbside. Potential impacts were identified relating to increased amounts of waste being sent for disposal if WCAs downgrade kerbside recycling services or stop/reduce efforts to minimise contamination in recycling collections. This would also result in a decrease in the household recycling rate.

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A: Summary of consultation responses

WCA	General comments	Option 2: Local agreements	Option 4: procure MRF capacity, direct	Option 6: build MRF, direct
Blaby		Preferred option - £38.83 then static for at least 3 years. Likely reduce frequency of recycling to fortnightly (currently weekly). Compulsory redundancies amounting to £85.5k - wants LCC to fund. Larger 240L bins needed for fortnightly recycling - wants LCC to fund at £1m.	Least favourable, requires complete change in service. Move to fortnightly residual and recycling. Compulsory redundancies - £213k, want LCC to fund. Larger bins - £2m, want LCC to fund	Not commented, but assume same as option 4
Charnwood	Does not agree with any of proposed options - seriously compromises recycling levels	At least 70% of current level is needed. Seek risk share on MRF gate fees. If gate fees exceed recycling credits, may ask LCC to take over recycling service.	Removes incentive to improve performance. Need tipping point within 10 miles of current depot.	As option 4
Harborough	HBC has just re-let a contract for collection and bulking of recyclates including onwards transport to a MRF. Contract 7 years from April 2016.	Preferred option if changes to recycling credits are to be made. Potentially move to 3 or 4 weekly collection.	Concerns raised over direction to a transfer station / MRF out of area, and also may lead to changes in service with mean higher contamination rates.	As option 4

WCA	General comments	Option 2: Local agreements	Option 4: procure MRF capacity, direct	Option 6: build MRF, direct
Hinckley & Bosworth	Request that credit reduction / incentive scheme does not exceed MTFS target. Current collection contract in place until Nov18, and need to re-procure so will need confirmation of decision by Sept16.	Preferred option. £39.83 requires council to commit to service. Probably move to co-mingled (not dual stream). Wants clarity of credit levels for at least 7 years post 18/19. May remove batteries and textiles as low quantities. May review bring bank provision. Seek risk share on recyclate markets with County	Removes incentive to retain current service. Would move to co-mingled, remove bring banks, remove efforts to control contamination, reduce frequency of dry recycling to 3-4 weekly. WTS needed if MRF too far away.	As option 4.
Melton	Lower saving level with incentive is most sustainable approach.	Cannot comment on changes to service.	Does not encourage reduction or recycling in new collection contract	Need to rearrange disposal services mid-term of new collection contract.
NW Leics	Cannot state what changes likely until decisions are made	Least financial impact of all options. Consider charge for green waste (potential increase in residual), consider move to comingled recyclate from kerbside sort (increase in contamination)	Consider charge for green waste collection, move to co-mingled, consider 3-weekly residual collection	Potential to develop NWLDC's own MRF with LCC. Service changes may be required: consider charge for green waste collection, consider move to co-mingled, consider 3-weekly residual collection
Oadby & Wigston	Deplores proposals to withdraw recycling credits	Requires at least £37.50 and no future reductions	Review and significantly downgrade recycling service	As option 4

Appendix B

Blaby District Council

the heart of Leicestershire

Date: 30th March 2016
My Ref: KP/am
Contact: Kevin Pegg
Tel No: 0116 272 7615
Email: kp1@blaby.gov.uk

Phil Crossland
Director of Environment and Transport
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8RS

Dear Phil

RE: Dry Recycling Credits Consultation with Districts

Thank you for your letter dates 23rd December 2015, and your subsequent clarification dated 17th February 2016 regarding the above. I have now taken advice from the Councils Cabinet Executive on your proposals and they have endorsed this response.

Whilst Members understand that in the current financial climate that savings have to be made, they are very disappointed that any of the proposed changes will have a detrimental effect on Blaby District Councils premier service, which was endorsed by a recent residents survey results which showed 97% satisfaction levels for both the refuse and recycling service.

The ethos behind the introduction of the Recycling Credit Payment was to incentivise WCAs to invest time and resources into diverting recycling away from landfill and although they have increased by 3% each year since their introduction, they have not kept pace with landfill costs therefore the risk fort he WDA is that any reduction in the tonnages that are currently recycled will affect the WDA by a factor of 2:1.

Therefore any comments regarding your proposals will be secondary to the arrangements remaining as they currently are.

Option (2) – The reduction in the value of recycling credits from £51.37 per tonne in 2015/16 to £38.83 per tonne in 2018/19 and remain static is therefore the preferred option for Blaby District Council.

In order to provide certainty of service going forward, Members would like to see this in place for a minimum of three years. This is because the effect of this option would mean a reduction of service for residents in the weekly collection of recyclables down to a fortnightly collection regime. Members would not wish to see collection regimes altered for 3 years after this change.

The budgeting effect of this reduction would therefore mean that we would have to make up to _ compulsory redundancies in the refuse and recycling service, and the estimated costs thereof are £85,500, and our Members have asked that LCC fund the cost of these redundancies.

In addition to the above, by moving from a weekly to a fortnightly collection regime larger 240L recycling bins will be required to be rolled out across the 40,000 properties within the district. Therefore, Members have requested that I ask you to consider a bid at the current cost of £1 million from your invest to save budget the fund the purchase and roll out of larger bins as a result of your proposed budgetary cuts.

Option (3) – Develop and agree a new payment to incentivise a reduction in residual waste. Members are keen to introduce this, but believe it should be developed outside of the discussion on recycling credits.

Option (4) – Leicestershire County Council to procure capacity from an MRF for all districts recycling and direct all districts to use it. This option was seen as the least favourable option to Members, as it would mean a complete, radical change to residents existing arrangements and, as such, has not been fully quantified until the location of the MRF has been identified, or the location of any transfer station is known.

However, should a suitable MRF/transfer facility be located within Blaby District Councils boundary or fairly adjacent then the total loss of the recycling credits would force Blaby District Council to change their collection regimes for both refuse and recycling to at least a fortnightly collection regime.

This would mean that there could be up to _ compulsory redundancies at a calculated cost of £213,750, and a capital cost for 80,000 larger bins at £2 million. Members have again asked that Leicestershire County Council fund these costs should this option be your preferred choice.

I hope the above information is sufficient to enable you to come to a decision regarding any changes to the recycling credit payment mechanism, however should you wish to discuss any of the options in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Kevin Pegg
Neighbourhood Services Group Manager

Charnwood

Phil Crossland
Director of Environment and Transport
Leicestershire County Council,
County Hall,
Glenfield.
Leicestershire LE3 8RJ

Southfield Road,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire,
LE11 2TT
Ask for: Green Spaces Contact Centre
Direct Line: 01509 634695
Email: cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk

Tuesday, 29 March 2016

Dear Phil,

Dry Recycling Credits – Options for Achieving MTFS Savings

Consultation with District Councils (Districts)

Thank you for your letter dated 23rd December 2015 giving Charnwood Borough Council the opportunity to feed into your proposals for Dry Recycling Credits.

The Council understands the need for savings to be made and the difficult financial position that The County Council faces going forward. Whilst understanding your need for savings, Charnwood Borough Council does not agree with any of the proposed changes to the current Recycling Credit Scheme, and believes that all of the options will seriously compromise our ability to meet the desired levels of recycling performance in the future. We also have concerns that by reducing/removing the incentives for Waste Collection Authorities to have high performing recycling services, negative impacts will be realised through increased residual waste which will, inadvertently, add to Leicestershire County Council's disposal costs. Maintaining our current service provision will be very difficult without having the Recycling Credit income to supplement the cost of providing the service. Any views expressed within this correspondence as part of the consultation should be considered as a secondary option against our preferred position of maintaining the status quo.

<u>Option 2 - Reach local agreements to reduce the value of the recycling credits</u>

A reduction in the amount of Recycling Credit is the most attractive of all of the options considered should, at least, 70% of the current credit levels be payable. This would continue to incentivise the Council to provide high quality services, although at a greatly reduced rate. In order to manage the uncertainties in the market, a 50:50 risk share could be discussed in order to manage the possibility of gate fees exceeding credit payments in the short term. If gate fees exceeded the credit payments in the longer term, Charnwood Borough Council would be inclined to ask Leicestershire County Council to take control of the recycling service and forego any credits due.

Option 3 Develop and agree a new payment to incentivise reduction in residual waste/increase in recycling

It is the opinion of Charnwood Borough Council that this should be developed in isolation to the proposals on Recycling Credits.

Option 4 Leicestershire County Council to procure capacity for all District dry recycling and direct Districts to use it and Option 6 Leicestershire County Council to build a Materials Recycling Facility (on its own or with another authority) and direct Districts to use it

These options are not preferred as they would remove any financial incentives for Charnwood Borough Council to improve its recycling performance. The loss of income is likely to result in a review of the current provision, with cost savings and service reductions likely as a consequence. If either of these options were approved, Charnwood Borough Council would like to have a proximity requirement which would ensure that the tipping off point (transfer station or treatment facility) was within 10 miles of the current depot. This is consistent with our current requirement for the treatment of Dry Mixed Recycling. A tipping off point further away is likely to have significant impacts upon the service operations and additional costs, for which Charnwood Borough Council would require financial compensation over and above the current levels of tipping away fees.

Charnwood Borough Council are currently finalising the procurement of a new sorting and treatment contract for Dry Mixed Recycling. The contract will commence on 1st May 2016 and will operate for 2 years, with an extension of 2 further years permissible under the agreement. I hope that this clarifies our position on our Materials Recycling Facility contract.

I hope that you find this letter useful in reaching a recommendation from the review. I would be happy to discuss the contents further at a mutually convenient time. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would also like to reiterate that this letter has been approved and has the full support of Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet as the consequences from these proposals will have a high impact on the Council's operations.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Traill

Chris Traill
Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing

DISTRICT OF HARBOROUGH

Harborough District Council
The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7AG
Tel 01858 82 82 82
www.harborough.gov.uk DX 27317 Market Harborough

Mr P Crossland
Director of Environment & Transport
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8RA.

In reply quote: BJ/ WasteCons
Please ask for: Beverley Jolly
Direct Line: 01858 821198
Email: b.jolly@harborough.gov.uk
Your ref: Date: 14 March 2016

Dear Phil,

I refer to your letter dated 23 December 2015 regarding the Dry Recycling Credits and the options for achieving the County Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy savings.

Enclosed with this letter is a table of the shortlisted options where we have stated the impact on the District Council and the potential impact on waste collection.

As you will see all options have a major negative impact on the finances of the District Council. If the existing arrangements are not able to be continued, the District Council's preferred option is Option 2. This has the least negative financial impact on the District Council and potentially the least negative impact on the material collected.

As requested, we hereby provide an update on the Harborough District Council's (HDC) contractual arrangements for the collection and re-processing of dry recyclate. Please note that prior to the consultation letter being issued, HDC had re-negotiated a 7 year extension to the current waste collection contract, and as such, the information below is based on the revised arrangements which come in to effect on 1 April 2016;

- Waste contractor will continue to collect recyclates fortnightly;
- Waste contractor will continue to "bulk" recyclates at the depot for onward transportation; and
- Waste contractor will transport "bulked" recyclate to a materials recycling facility. We currently anticipate that this will be Casepak in Leicester.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Beverley Jolly
Corporate Director,
Harborough District Council

APPENDIX C

Recycling Credit Alternative Mechanism Table

Option No.	Description	Commentary (LCC)	Response/Impact (HDC)	Costs (£)	
2	Reach local agreements to reduce the value of the recycling credits.	**Shortlisted Option** Districts expressed a preference for this option (linked to a workshop engagement/District feedback letters and feedback at a meeting of 9th October 2015).	• The figure currently being suggested is 67.89% of the current credit, this would equate to £34.88 per tonne. • This would have a direct financial impact. • An option to mitigate the financial impact could be to review the frequency of collections on recycling, for example to 3 or 4 weekly. This could have a direct impact on the amount of recycling collected and could increase the amount of residual waste being placed in bins and/or taken to Recycling and Household Waste Sites owned by LCC.	In this scenario the District Council would be £129,500 worse off than 1 April 2016.	
3	Develop and agree a new payment to incentivise reduction in residual waste/increase in recycling.	**Shortlisted Option** Option broadly supported by Districts at Consultation Workshop 2 (10th September 2015) Andrew Harper (Waste Partnership Manager) will work with partner authorities to develop incentive payment mechanism (to be fed back to LCC within the early part of this consultation).	• This option is partially feasible but, it would be preferable for a joint risk approach to be adopted. This would ensure that decisions by either party do not have a significant burden on the other party, and by sharing risk this should be avoided. • Matters which will require consideration are; o How would the scheme be operated and by whom; o What resources would be required to carry out waste minimisation schemes, such as additional staffing (Previous cost savings have been directly in this area as it was felt it would have less impact than other options); o If bins were to be reduced in size, who would fund the capital required? If this was adopted HDC would probably receive numerous complaints from residents, so would require an incentive to participate, eg 50% payment in savings to HDC on residual waste disposal costs. o How do you factor in housing growth? • It is also felt that the incentive scheme needs to be separate to the recycling credit payment mechanism and fairly applied to all, if introduced. • The baseline date for the tonnages of residual/recycling/overall waste would be key in this scenario as over the last few years we have worked hard to increase recycling and reduce residual waste. If the baseline is set on the tonnage at this point it would be difficult for HDC to have any positive impact on the tonnages and therefore able to benefit from the incentive scheme. The cost of operating the schemes would also outweigh any advantages to the District.	The indicative cost of waste minimisation (including analysis of the impact of the various interventions) at HDC for Staff and Resources is £65,000.	
4	LCC to procure capacity for all District dry recycling and direct Districts to use it.	**Shortlisted Option** Option deliverable within required timescales and within LCC's powers as Waste Disposal Authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.	• If this option was to take place the LCC Transfer Station to which we would, ideally, be directed would need to be either in the District or close to it as possible as otherwise the collection vehicles would not be able to complete all scheduled work and tip off during the day. Consequently, there would be extra costs for additional vehicles and the time taken for the additional mileage in transporting materials to the Transfer Station. • In the event that HDC are directed a significant distance outside the District, this will require additional vehicles or reduce waste collection frequency in excess of that outlined above, which assumes that the facility is within or in close proximity of the District. • If alterations were made to the collection services, this could have any negative impact on our current low levels of contamination. • Regardless of the location of the Transfer Station, as tipping off can be twice daily, the increase in traveling would impact heavily on the services, to the point that in some areas we would not complete the scheduled collections. • An alternative, to reduce the impact on the number of vehicular movements to the Transfer Station would be to continue to use the current bulking facility at the depot in	In the event that this option were pursued, it is anticipated that an additional 2 no. vehicles would be required. The approximate cost per vehicle per annum, including depreciation, is £100,000. **OR** Alternatively, the option of continuing to bulk at the depot and then drive to Whetstone (or other reasonable location) would still incur a cost of approximately £100,000 to £120,000 in transportation fees and bulking.	£200,000 pa + £120,000 pa

			Great Bowden and bulk up from that site to Whetstone. This would reduce the number of vehicles entering, for example, Whetstone and avoid long queues at an already busy site. • If we are bulking the material at the depot and taking this to Whetstone, an alternative would be to direct deliver to Casepak, this would save time and costs for LCC on double handling at Whetstone. There could be an opportunity to share the LCC savings on this transaction with HDC. • On the basis of the above, there may be an opportunity to direct deliver to LCCs chosen materials recycling facility, which could reduce LCCs costs. However, this is dependent upon the location of the facility.		
6	LCC to build an MRF (on its own or with another authority) and direct Districts to use it.	**Shortlisted Option** With LCC's powers as Waste Disposal Authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Building with another partner likely to be more costs effective option due to economies of scale. Negotiation required, but less than other options as lower numbers of partners involved.	As with the above option, tipping away fees may need to be applied if outside the District and there maybe the issue of completing the rounds if we had to send each collection vehicle to the tipping site directly, which is not an efficient use of this type of fleet.	As above, dependant on the location of the site.	

APPENDIX C1

Impact of Gates Fees on the proposed Dry Recycling Credit reduction of 27%, resulting in a net Dry Recycling Credit of £394,317 at the current tonnage of 9,900 tonnes.

	from 1 April 2016	27% loss in Recycling Credit	27% loss in Recycling Credit	27% loss in Recycling Credit	27% loss in Recycling Credit	27% loss in Recycling Credit
	Current Gate Fee	Current Gate Fee	Gate Fee £10	Gate Fee £20	Gate Fee £30	Gate Fee £40
Gate Fee per tonne	-£24.69	-£24.69	-£10.00	-£20.00	-£30.00	-£40.00
Gate Fees	-£244,431	-£244,431	-£99,000	-£198,000	-£297,000	-£396,000
Net Receipt	£279,378	£149,886	£295,317	£196,317	£97,317	-£1,683
Loss of Dry Recycling Credit based on 1 April 2016		£129,492	-£15,939	£83,061	£188,061	£281,061

Steve Atkinson MA(Oxon)• MBA• FIoD• FRSA
Chief Executive

Please ask for: Mrs Caroline Roffey
Direct dial: 01455 255782
Direct fax: 01455 891708
Email: caroline.roffey@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
Our ref:
Date: 21 March 2016

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

Phil Crossland
Director
Environment and Transport Department
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire LE3 8RJ

Dear Phil

Consultation response – Savings on recycling credits for dry recycling

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 2016 providing clarification on aspects of the dry recycling credit consultation you are currently undertaking with the District Councils in Leicestershire. This matter has been discussed by the HBBC Executive and this response has its endorsement.

Our comments are as follows:-

Option 2: Reach local agreement to reduce value of recycling credits
This option creates the least financial impact for HBBC and, of the options presented, is the one which HBBC would support. HBBC has not determined the future arrangements for the dry recycling service after November 2018. Options include in-house collection or collection by a contractor, with a separate disposal agreement, or a joint collection and disposal contract. We will seek the arrangement which delivers the best value for money for our residents.

LCC has advised that the credit of £39.83 would require Districts to commit to their existing collection arrangements. Whilst ideally HBBC would wish to maintain the current collection streams, we may need to vary the collection system. HBBC would be willing to commit to maintaining a fortnightly 240l collection (probably co-mingled), but we are unable to commit to maintaining a dual stream collection.

To enable the authority to support this option, there needs to be clarity on levels of credit post 18-19 for at least seven years.

ctd ...

Similarly, we may need to remove the kerbside collection of batteries and textiles as the low tonnages collected may not warrant the provision of this service going forward.

HBBC is not prepared to commit to maintaining our current bring sites (public recycling banks). The tonnage collected is small and we will need to ensure the usage of the sites justifies their provision. These would be reviewed on an annual basis.

This option requires the Districts to accept all the risks on variable gate fees (which reflect global commodity markets). We would request further consideration of a risk share between the Districts and LCC on variation in gate fees.

Option 3: Development of a payment mechanism to support a reduction in residual waste.

It is clear from the report LCC commissioned in January 2016, "Analysis of Leicestershire's recycling composting and reuse", that there is only a limited number of options which would achieve a significant reduction in residual waste. Some of these require significant capital investment and are, therefore, only likely to be feasible for HBBC if LCC is able to provide capital investment to fund these changes.

We agree that this mechanism should be introduced alongside one of the other options, and would not support the introduction of this mechanism in isolation.

HBBC has the third lowest rate of residual waste (kg/hh) in Leicestershire and, as such, imposes a lower burden per household on LCC's waste disposal budgets. Your proposal that this payment is made for absolute reductions in residual tonnage does not reflect or reward this positive starting position.

We recognise that this option provides the greatest opportunity to reduce long term demands on the whole collection / disposal system.

Options 4 and 6: LCC to procure capacity for all district dry recycling and direct districts to use it, and LCC to build a MRF of its own.

This option would remove the incentive for HBBC to continue with its current recycling performance. As such we would consider the following changes to our services:-

- Changing to a co-mingled collection
- Removing the bring sites (recycling banks)
- Reducing our efforts to control contamination
- Reducing the frequency of collections for dry recycling (change to 3 or 4 weekly).

ctd ...

Proximity to the MRF will also have a significant impact on the costs to deliver this service. HBBC's dry recycling is transferred through Williams Recycling on the A5 near Hinckley, and the contractor operates from our base at the Harrowbrook Industrial Estate in Hinckley. This gives us very low down time on collection rounds and thus improves our collection efficiency. Any increase in down time will have a corresponding increase in cost to HBBC. We therefore request that LCC has regard to waste strategy and the "proximity principle" to dispose of waste as close as possible to where it is produced to limit waste movements and improve waste transport. A MRF or transfer station near Hinckley would, therefore, be more favourably received than one further away.

For these reasons, options 4 and 6 are the least preferred by HBBC.

Additional comments

1. Whilst accepting LCC's financial pressures, all of the options will significantly reduce the funding available to HBBC to collect recycling, to meet recycling targets and to reduce LCC's waste disposal costs.

2. We request that LCC ensure the credit reduction / incentive does not exceed the savings identified in the MTFS to minimise the impact on the Districts.

I would like to reiterate that HBBC's dry recycling contract is for collection and disposal and is in place until November 2018. Any changes need to reflect this and, therefore, due to the protracted procurement timetable, we require confirmation of the LCC proposals by September 2016.

We look forward to further discussions on this matter in the near future but, in the meantime, if clarification is needed on any of the points made, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Steve Atkinson
Chief Executive

Melton Borough Council

Council Offices
Parkside
Station Approach
Burton Street
Melton Mowbray
LE13 1GH

Telephone: 01664 502502
www.melton.gov.uk
@MeltonBC

Rural Capital of Food

EQUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

CONFIDENTIAL
Mr P Crossland
Environment and Transport Department
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire LE3 8RJ

Please ask for: Christine Marshall
Direct Dial: 01664 502532
E-mail: cmarshall@melton.gov.uk
Date: 25th February 2016

Note: Redaction of items under EIR Regulation 12(5)(e) regarding commercial confidentiality

Dear Phil,

Dry Recycling Credits – Options for Achieving MTFS Savings Consultation with District Councils

Following our recent meeting and in light of your request for early feedback we have considered this in some detail and our response is below. We will also be responding more generally with the other districts to the options and Mark Hall Chief Executive of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is aware of this letter and its contents.

Firstly, we would like to reiterate that the proposals to remove or reduce credits for recycling materials will have a very significant impact on our organisation. Their value in 2014/15 was some [redacted] representing over [redacted] of the entire budget towards waste management. I am setting this out to demonstrate the significance of the issue to Melton as a 'smaller' organisation, and the magnitude of the impact that the proposed changes would incur. Also of useful context is the fact that the corporate saving process has effectively dealt with the current years saving of [redacted] from the credits relating to green waste, however members have indicated that the Waste budget due to its significance (representing [redacted] of the Councils overall net budget) will need to accommodate the further savings that have been targeted for 2018/19.

If the currently targeted [redacted] is removed then we probably feel we could accommodate the saving required of [redacted] from smaller contract changes. However it is fair to say that if the full sum is targeted the outlook is somewhat bleaker and only a very radical approach will get close to the quantum of savings required. [redacted]

In this context we have been seeking out opportunities for joint procurement, particularly with neighbouring authorities, but we are now in the position whereby these have become exhausted: Rutland have extended to 2022, HDC have extended with Foxer and Charnwood are most likely to extend with SERCO. All of these end dates are well beyond the interim extension we have agreed with BIFFA to take us to 30th September 2018. We have opened dialogue with non-Leicestershire LA's but have the ever present difficulty regarding the WDA position on both sides. [redacted]

I would also point out that we are also very mindful of the fact that Melton has been very proactive in seeking to reduce waste in previous years, but the ever tightening financial position means that members are less and less able to sustain this.

[redacted] We are also intending to consult with the public later this year and obviously your decision making on this process will feed into the extent of the change that we have to put before members and the public.

We feel very strongly that a lower saving level with an incentive approach that encourages minimisation of waste to landfill is the most sustainable route forward. [redacted] We have also been exploring members' views around smaller bins although again with all of these matters we would need some certainty, so that we can procure the best value contract possible for the tax payers of Leicestershire and Melton.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this letter further.

Yours sincerely

CA Marshall

Christine Marshall CIPFA
Strategic Director

Melton Borough Council

Council Offices
Parkside
Station Approach
Burton Street
Melton Mowbray
LE13 1GH

Telephone: 01664 502502
www.melton.gov.uk
@MeltonBC

Rural Capital of Food

EQUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT   POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE   INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Mr. P Crossland
Environment and Transport Department
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8RJ

Please ask for: Christine Marshall
Direct Dial: 01664 502532
E-mail: cmarshall@melton.gov.uk
Date: 30th March 2016

Dear Mr. Crossland,

DRY RECYCLING CREDITS – OPTIONS FOR ACHIEVING MTFS SAVINGS CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT COUNCILS

Further to my previous letter, we have now have further comments to make on the above consultation following consideration of the matter by our relevant Committee and Officers, which are detailed below.

Option 2. Reach Local agreements

We consider this most likely regardless of the way forward, as each collection authority is in a different position. This was our joint experience with the changes to the Green Waste Credits in 2015. Its success and suitability will be determined entirely by the content of the agreement and in this respect we would refer to the comments relating to option 3 below. Similarly, we cannot comment on changes to provision, recycling rates, disposal rates and contamination until the details are established.

Option 3.Payments to incentivise reductions in waste and increase recycling

We regard this as the most favourable option with potential to make savings for both Collection and Disposal authorities. We can foresee a system whereby the incentive is created through the use of disposal costs, i.e. landfill tax @ approx. £100 per tonne, in that every net £ reduced is shared between the authorities (on an agreed basis). This would incentivise collection authorities and/or disposal authorities to implement a range of initiatives achievable within their arrangements, for example through:

- campaigns for better recycling and less waste;

- use of smaller containers;
- introduction of food (and other) waste collections and
- any other improvements that could be secured within our contract (bearing in mind it is scheduled for re-tendering in the near future).

This approach would make these measures more achievable because it would create self-sustaining 'income' in the form of our share of savings from landfill tax and on the disposal authority side, every tonne removed from landfill would generate a saving at an agreed rate/share. This also resonates strongly with the emerging EU directives on overall levels of recycling and any directives on collection methods. It would mitigate against the attractiveness of perverse actions in order to plug the deficit caused by the removal of credits, for example cessation of one or more aspects of our collection services which would result in greater quantities and proportions of residual household waste (glass, garden waste etc.) or diversion of waste to RHWS.

This approach would offer us both the opportunity and the financial incentive to pursue the kinds of measures described above and have a positive impact on provision, recycling rates, disposal rates and contamination until the details are established. Some sensitivity testing would be required in relation to each of these initiatives and indeed any combination of them, and similarly they would need to be costed against potential savings through reduced landfill tax, but from the work undertaken through the LWP to date it would appear that there is scope to reduce landfill waste. Put in the context of waste collection from Melton going to landfill, if it generates a saving of:

- 15% which when translated into landfill costs could amount to £161k
- 20% which when translated into landfill costs could amount to £210k
- 25% which when translated into landfill costs could amount to £268k.

This could then be used to implement such measures and could have beneficial knock on effects through reduced collection costs arising from reduced quantities.

4. LCC to procure capacity and direct dry recycling

Melton Borough Council

Council Offices
Parkside
Station Approach
Burton Street
Melton Mowbray
LE13 1GH

Telephone: 01664 502502
www.melton.gov.uk
@MeltonBC

Rural Capital of Food

EQUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

This option does not incentivise any behaviour change or contribute to the reduction in waste or improved recycling, and as such will have no beneficial impact on the whole waste stream and issues described at option 3 above.

Melton is currently in the process of replacing its collection contract and will need to incorporate such an approach into its procurement processes, as failure to do so could result in an arrangement within our new contract being undermined at considerable cost, which under the EPA 1990 the disposal authority would be liable. This in turn may counter-balance any savings achieved.

6 LCC to build an MRF and direct its use

This option appears attractive because it would facilitate all of the issues addressed at option 3 above, depending upon its location and recycling capability. However, we would have doubts whether such a facility could be built within the timeframe indicated based on the 'standing start' position at present. This has particular difficulties for Melton due to the issues described at option 4 above, with the prospect of having to re-arrange disposal practices mid-term within our new contract.

In summary, and as previously stated, we feel very strongly that a lower saving level with an incentivisation approach that encourages minimisation of waste to landfill is the most sustainable route forward. This would enable us to explore other ways of reducing costs without having to make what may be very unpopular and unpalatable decisions and also provide the necessary financial support for options that may not be viable if assessed from a WCA aspect only. We have also been exploring members' views around smaller bins although again with all of these matters we need some certainty so that we can procure the best value contract possible for the tax payers of Leicestershire and Melton.

Yours sincerely

CAMarshall

Christine Marshall CIPFA
Strategic Director

Services Directorate

Please ask for: Steve Bambrick
Telephone: 01530 454555
Fax:
Our Ref: SB/LM/003
Your Ref:
Date: 30th March 2016

Phil Crossland
Director of Environment and Transport
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8RJ

Dear Phil,

Dry Recycling Credits – Options for Achieving MTFS Savings, Consultation with District and Borough Councils (Districts)

Thank you for your letter dated 17 February 2016 which was requested for clarity following the meeting at County Hall on 1 February 2016. This letter is sent to you jointly from myself and Councillor Alison Smith MBE, Deputy Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Community Services, following consultation with the Leader. However this position has not yet been considered by the Council's Cabinet.

For clarity, if this letter is to be reported to the County Council Cabinet then I would request that it is dealt with as a confidential item as I believe some of the contents are exempt from disclosure.

The District Council fully understands the financial circumstances placed upon the County Council and the challenges going forward in terms of delivering your Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). We have noted the saving of £1.03 million (net) in 2018/19 from the dry recycling credits budget of £3.4 million and the potential that it may need to be removed in its entirety at some point in the future. This potential future loss is clearly of concern to the District Council and I would encourage you to discuss any further changes with the District Council's at your earliest opportunity. For now, my comments are confined to the current proposals.

The District Council wishes to engage positively with the County Council, work in partnership, support what is possible and maximise savings and income opportunities for and across both tiers whilst ensuring no loss of value to the public purse as a whole.

In responding to the four options in the letter we will outline the position of the District Council.

Clearly, any change in funding is likely to have an impact and we understand your request for as much detail as possible, however, until final decisions are made we cannot state definitively what, if at all, the service changes may be. We state this as there are also other influences on the District Council finances which may either improve or worsen the financial impacts from this particular change and when known may affect the Council's decision making.

However, to try and assist we will outline what the options may be for the District Council and we would be more than happy to keep discussing these as other impacts become known.

You have previously indicated that the only realistic options from your earlier consultations are now options 2, 3, 4 and 6. Therefore for clarity I have adopted your numbering in my response to the options below:.

Option 2 – Reach local agreements to reduce the value of the recycling credits

This would reduce The District Council's credits payment by £370,000 per year if reduced in its entirety based on 2015/16 tonnage but by £99,900 to £270,100 based on a 27% (pro rata) reduction

Whilst still significant, this option would likely have the least financial impact on the District Council. Depending upon the scale of reduction, the Council would have to consider a number of changes to its waste collection in order to mitigate the impact of a loss in income.

At this stage it is likely that the Council will consider the following changes to its service:

- The charging for garden waste collections; this may have an adverse impact on the volume of waste collected through the residual waste bins i.e. contamination of residual waste with garden waste;
- A change to our collection methodology for recyclable materials i.e. move to co-mingling various materials which would inevitably lead to a potential for an increase in contamination of recyclates; and
- Double shifting. This would involve operating two shifts a day to reduce number of vehicles required and therefore also reducing the Council's costs. This would mean working later into the evenings with potential disturbance and inconvenience for residents

Option 3 – Develop and agree a new payment to incentivise reduction in residual waste/increase in recycling

The District Council fully supports this work in partnership and we will continue to play an active part through the Leicestershire Waste Partnership and via the Waste and Street Scene Officer meetings. We will also continue to use our officer time and promotional budgets to promote recycling and reduced waste to landfill. We will also continue to support and actively participate in reuse, and reduce campaigns including Recycling and Compost Weeks, Love Food Hate Waste etc.

Again, depending upon the level of financial reduction that may arise through this option, the District Council may again need to consider the options set out above to mitigate the loss of income.

Option 4 – LCC to procure capacity for all District dry recycling and direct Districts to use it

This option would reduce the Council's annual income by upto £900,000 (£370,000 credits and £530,000 income from sale of materials) based on 2015/16 tonnage and material values. The impact of this would be very significant in terms of the Councils finances and MTFS.

NWLDC consider we have an effective and efficient method of collection and disposal that not only meets the TEEP requirements by source separating at kerbside but also maximises financial benefit to the public purse through bulking and selling the material through our own Material Recycling Facility (MRF). A facility which has been consistently improved, developed and invested in over the last 9 years including in 2015/16 the purchase and installation of Material Separating Technology for plastics, steel and aluminium,.

If this option was chosen and progressed the Council would have to consider its approach to current collection arrangements due to the significant loss of income. Unfortunately, no definitive position can be stated at this point in time due to various other unknown factors which may positively or negatively affect the Councils MTFS..

However, the changes the Council are likely to consider are;

- The charging for garden waste collections; this may have an adverse impact on the volume of waste collected through the residual waste bins i.e. contamination of residual waste with garden waste;

- An assessment of the frequency of collections, including whether it would be possible to switch from alternate week to three weekly collections for residual waste;

- A change to our collection methodology for recyclable materials i.e. move to co-mingling various materials which would inevitably lead to a potential for an increase in contamination of recyclates; and

- Double shifting. This would involve operating two shifts a day to reduce number of vehicles required and therefore also reducing the Council's costs. This would mean working later into the evenings with potential disturbance and inconvenience for residents

Option 6 – LCC to build a MRF (on its own or with another authority) and direct Districts to use it

NWLDC has its own MRF and as always we are open to any discussions on how the site and facility can be developed further in partnership to improve efficiency or effectiveness for mutual benefit.

Capital Funding

The District Council welcomes the opportunity to discuss any identified 'invest to save' projects which may lead to mutual benefit as identified in a robust business case.

Contractual arrangements

The District Council manages its own refuse and recycling services in house and as such has no contractual arrangements for the collection of waste materials. However, we do have short term sales contracts for materials which all have annual break clauses built within.

In summary

The Council recognises the difficult financial circumstances that are driving the current consultation on reduction of recycling credits.

Of the 4 remaining options you have asked the Council to comment on, there are no options which would have no impact on the District Council.

Option 2 presents the likely minimum financial impact but even with that option it is possible that the District Council will need to consider changes to its service in order to try and recover some or all of the reduced income.

NWLDC are also fully supportive of Option 3 and will continue to support the Leicestershire Waste Partnership and we will work in partnership through this group and Waste & Street Scene meetings to collectively increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill for mutual benefit. However at this stage it is not clear what the overall financial impact of Option 3 will be and therefore I cannot be clear whether this would lead to service changes.

Option 4 and 6 will lead to inevitable changes to our waste services which in my view will not be welcomed by residents and businesses. To address the significant loss of income through these options the Council would look at minimising resources into recycling, promotions, campaigns and initiatives.

If you would like any further information on any of these points please do not hesitate to contact me and we would be happy to meet up further and discuss any point.

Regards

Steve Bambrick

Director of Services

Cllr Alison Smith MBE

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services

Vicky Cormie

From: Mark Hall <Mark.Hall@oadby-wigston.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 March 2016 14:45
To: Vicky Cormie
Cc: Joanna Guyll; Phil Crossland
Subject: Dry Recycling Credit Consultation - Oadby & Wigston BC

Dear Vicky

Below is the formal response from Oadby & Wisgton Borough Council in relation to the consultation on dry recycling credits

I will transpose this into a formal letter to the County Council but wanted to ensure that you had a response by the deadline of 5pm today

Thanks
Mark

****

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council:

1. Deplores LCC's proposal to withdraw recycling credit payments as this is purely a financially based decision that does not take into account the negative knock on effect that this will have on district council services to residents or to the environment in the form of recycling rates and the diversion of waste from landfill.
2. That reluctantly the council would consider Option 1 as long as the level of the recycling credit agreed was at least £37.50 and there was an agreement that this was not then reduced in subsequent years as LCC searches for further savings
3. That the Council would not presently consider Option 2. The Council would be prepared to look at it when more detailed work has been done and there is reassurance that O&WBC was not going to be penalised for already having very, very low residual waste arisings, one of the lowest in the country.
4. That if LCC pursues Options 3 or 4 where all of the recycling credits are withdrawn then the Council would have no option other than to review and significantly downgrade the quality of its existing recycling service. This would be highly likely to have a negative effect on recycling rates and therefore increase the amount of residual waste that LLC would have to pay to have land filled.

****

Appendix C: Key Assumptions

General Assumptions	
Waste Growth	0.25% per annum
Inflation rate	2.50% per annum
Borrowing loan interest rate	3.69% per annum
Borrowing period	12 years (to 2030)
Increase in residual waste through introducing chargeable green waste service	2% by weight

Option 1 - Baseline	**Option 2 – Local Agreement A**	**Option 2 - Local Agreement B**
Annual 3% increase on recycling credit value: 2015/16 - £51.36 2016/17 - £52.90 2017/18 - £54.49 2018/19 - £56.12	2018/19 value is a 20% reduction of 2017/18 value, then static: 2017/18 – £54.49 2018/19 - £43.59 2019/20 - £43.59	2018/19 value is 50% reduction of 2017/18 figure, then rising with RPI (2.50% pa): 2017/18 – £54.49 2018/19 - £27.24 2019/20 - £27.93

Option 4 – LCC procure capacity and direct WCAs	
Contract gate fee: co-mingled with glass	£3.00/t rising by RPI per annum
Contract gate fee: separate (bulking)	£0.00/t
Service start date:	2018
Procurement costs	2017/18: £50,000
Tipping away payments	Based on distance from Leicester to Grantham (35 miles each way)

	Option 6a – LCC build a MRF alone and direct WCAs	**Option 6a – LCC build a MRF alone and direct WCAs**
Year of Operation	2018	2018
MRF Capacity	60,000tpa	135,000tpa
Capex (2016 cost) inc civils	£7,500,000 rising by RPI per annum (incurred in 2017)	£13,100,000 rising by RPI per annum (incurred in 2017)
Opex £/t indexed	£25.00 rising by RPI per annum	£25.00 rising by RPI per annum
Third party gate fee £/t	£13.00 rising by RPI per annum	£13.00 rising by RPI per annum
Third party throughput	0% of available third party capacity	0% of available third party capacity
Bulking capacity	35,000tpa	LCC only: 35,000 tpa
Capex (2016 cost) inc civils	£1,300,000 rising by RPI per annum (incurred in 2017)	£1,300,000 rising by RPI per annum (incurred in 2017)
Opex £/t indexed	£5/t	£5/t
Income from recyclate £/t average	£35.36 static	£35.36 static
Reject rate	10%	10%
Reject disposal cost	£103/t rising by RPI	£103/t rising by RPI
Procurement costs	£0.5m in each 2016/17, 2018/19	£0.6m in each 2016/17, 2018/19
Loan amount – drawn down in year before operation	£9,020,000 (2017)	£6,480,000 (2017) – based on Leicestershire providing 38% of throughput to MRF and all throughput to bulking
Tipping away payments	Based on distances to Bardon	Based on distances to Bardon

APPENDIX D

Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)

This Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) will enable you to assess the **new, proposed or significantly changed** policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service** for equality and human rights implications.

Undertaking this assessment will help you to identify whether or not this policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service** may have an adverse impact on a particular community or group of people. It will ultimately ensure that as an Authority we do not discriminate and we are able to promote equality, diversity and human rights.

Before completing this form please refer to the EHRIA guidance, for further information about undertaking and completing the assessment. For further advice and guidance, please contact your Departmental Equalities Group or equality@leics.gov.uk

***Please note: The term 'policy' will be used throughout this assessment as shorthand for policy, practice, procedure, function or service.*

Key Details	
Name of policy being assessed:	Recycling credits for dry materials – Medium Term Financial Strategy savings
Department and section:	Environment and Transport Department, Environment and Waste Branch
Name of lead officer/ job title and others completing this assessment:	Vicky Cormie, Head of Service Policy & Strategy (Environment & Waste) Anna Low, Team Manager – Strategic Partnering
Contact telephone numbers:	0116 305 7291 0116 305 8127
Name of officer/s responsible for implementing this policy:	Joanna Guyll, Assistant Director - Environment & Waste Nigel Shilton, Head of Service Design & Delivery (Environment & Waste)
Date EHRIA assessment started:	11/07/2016
Date EHRIA assessment completed:	11/07/16

APPENDIX D

Section 1: Defining the policy

Section 1: Defining the policy
You should begin this assessment by defining and outlining the scope of this policy. You should consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights, as outlined in Leicestershire County Council's Equality Strategy.

1 What is new or changed in this policy? *What has changed and why?*

The proposed changes to the arrangements for the payment of recycling credits to the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) (the 7 Leicestershire district and borough councils) are as follows:

- Issuing an objection to the WCAs retaining dry materials(e.g. paper, card, plastics, glass, metal cans etc) for recycling
- Directing the WCAs to utilise LCC's contracts for dry recycling

The overall result of the proposed changes will be a reduction in the total amount of recycling credits paid of £18.1m - £43.4m over the period 2018 to 2030.

2 Does this relate to any other policy within your department, the Council or with other partner organisations? *If yes, please reference the relevant policy or EHRIA. If unknown, further investigation may be required.*

The 2016 MTFS identifies savings of £1,030,000 from the recycling credits budget as shown below:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
ET22 Revised payment mechanism for recycling credits for dry materials (net saving -gross saving £3.4m)	0	0	£1,030,000	£1,030,000

Savings were achieved on the payment of recycling credits for green waste in 2015 as a result of a combination of issuing objections / directions to the WCAs and entering into local agreements.

The Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (updated 2011) sets out the Leicestershire Waste Partnership's approach to managing recycling and sets a target of 58% municipal waste recycling by 2018.

3 Who are the people/ groups (target groups) affected and what is the intended change or outcome for them?

APPENDIX D

	The WCAs (i.e. the district and borough councils) will be affected by the proposed changes. The outcome for them will be a reduction in funding of c. £53.5m over the period 2018/19 – 2030/31. Staff who are currently employed to process the dry materials collected for recycling by the district and borough councils may be impacted by the proposed change. This may apply in particular to employees who work at facilities that are operated by the district / borough councils to sort / bulk dry recycling. TUPE ("Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006" as amended by the "Collective Redundancies and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations 2014") implications will need to be considered as part of any procurement exercise.
4	Will this policy meet the Equality Act 2010 requirements to have due regard to the need to meet any of the following aspects? **(Please tick and explain how)**

	Yes	**No**	**How?**
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	✓		TUPE implications will be considered as part of any procurement process.
Advance equality of opportunity between different groups			N/A
Foster good relations between different groups			N/A

Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Screening

Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Screening
The purpose of this section of the assessment is to help you decide if a full EHRIA is required.

If you have already identified that a full EHRIA is needed for this policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service, either via service planning processes or other means, then please go straight to Section 3 on Page 7 of this document.

Section 2
A: Research and Consultation

		Yes	**No***
5.	Have the target groups been consulted about the following? a) their current needs and aspirations and what is important to them;	✓	

APPENDIX D

	b) any potential impact of this change on them (positive and negative, intended and unintended);	✓	
	c) potential barriers they may face	✓	
6.	If the target groups have not been consulted directly, have representatives been consulted or research explored (e.g. Equality Mapping)?	**N/A**	
7.	Have other stakeholder groups/ secondary groups (e.g. carers of service users) been explored in terms of potential unintended impacts?		✓
8.	*If you answered 'no' to the question above, please use the space below to outline what consultation you are planning to undertake, or why you do not consider it to be necessary.		
	It is not necessary to undertake consultation with secondary groups. Any service changes made by the WCAs as a result of the revised payment mechanism for recycling credits would be subject to consultation by the WCA.		

Section 2 **B: Monitoring Impact**			
9.	Are there systems set up to:	**Yes**	**No**
	a) monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups;	✓	
	b) enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities	✓	
Note: If no to Question 8, you will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics.			
Section 2 **C: Potential Impact**			
10.	Use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any of the 'protected characteristics' may potentially be affected by this policy and describe any positive and negative impacts, including any barriers.		

	Yes	**No**	**Comments**
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	

APPENDIX D

	Gender Reassignment		✓	
	Marriage and Civil Partnership		✓	
	Pregnancy and Maternity		✓	
	Race		✓	
	Religion or Belief		✓	
	Sex		✓	
	Sexual Orientation		✓	
	Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities		✓	
	Community Cohesion		✓	

11.

Are the human rights of individuals potentially affected by this proposal? Could there be an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics? **(Please tick)**

Explain why you consider that any particular article in the Human Rights Act may apply to your policy/ practice/ function or procedure and how the human rights of individuals are likely to be affected below: [NB. Include positive and negative impacts as well as barriers in benefiting from the above proposal]

	Yes	No	Comments
Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms			
Article 2: Right to life		✓	

APPENDIX D

	Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way		✓	
	Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour		✓	
	Article 5: Right to liberty and security		✓	
	Article 6: Right to a fair trial		✓	
	Article 7: No punishment without law		✓	
	Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life		✓	
	Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion		✓	
	Article 10: Right to freedom of expression		✓	
	Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association		✓	
	Article 12: Right to marry		✓	
	Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against		✓	
	Part 2: The First Protocol			
	Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment		✓	
	Article 2: Right to education		✓	
	Article 3: Right to free elections		✓	

Section 2
D: Decision

		Yes	**No**	**Unknown**
12.	Is there evidence or any other reason to suggest that: a) this policy could have a different affect or adverse impact on any section of the community;		✓	
	b) any section of the community may face barriers in benefiting from the proposal		✓	
13.	Based on the answers to the questions above, what is the likely impact of this policy			

APPENDIX D

	No Impact ☑	Positive Impact ☐	Neutral Impact ☐	Negative Impact or Impact Unknown ☐
Note: If the decision is 'Negative Impact' or 'Impact Not Known' an EHRIA Report is required.				
14.	Is an EHRIA report required?	Yes ☐	No ☑	

Section 2: Completion of EHRIA Screening

Upon completion of the screening section of this assessment, you should have identified whether an EHRIA Report is requried for further investigation of the impacts of this policy.

Option 1: If you identified that an EHRIA Report is required, continue to Section 3 on Page 7 of this document to complete.

Option 2: If there are no equality, diversity or human rights impacts identified and an EHRIA report is not required, continue to Section 4 on Page 14 of this document to complete.

Section 3: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Report

Section 3: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Report

This part of the assessment will help you to think thoroughly about the impact of this policy and to critically examine whether it is likely to have a positive or negative impact on different groups within our diverse community. It is also to identify any barriers that may detrimentally affect under-represented communities or groups, who may be disadvantaged by the way in which we carry out our business.

Using the information gathered either within the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, this EHRIA Report should be used to consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights as outlined in

APPENDIX D

Leicestershire County Council's Equality Strategy.

Section 3 **A: Research and Consultation**	
When considering the target groups it is important to think about whether new data needs to be collected or whether there is any existing research that can be utilised.	
15.	Based on the gaps identified either in the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, how have you now explored the following and what does this information/data tell you about each of the diverse groups? a) current needs and aspirations and what is important to individuals and community groups (including human rights); b) likely impacts (positive and negative, intended and unintended) to individuals and community groups (including human rights); c) likely barriers that individuals and community groups may face (including human rights)
16.	Is any further research, data collection or evidence required to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known affects of the policy on target groups?
When considering who is affected by this proposed policy, it is important to think about consulting with and involving a range of service users, staff or other stakeholders who	

APPENDIX D

may be affected as part of the proposal.	
17.	Based on the gaps identified either in the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, how have you further consulted with those affected on the likely impact and what does this consultation tell you about each of the diverse groups?
18.	Is any further consultation required to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known effects of the policy on target groups?

Section 3 **B: Recognised Impact**		
19.	Based on any evidence and findings, use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any 'protected characteristics' are likely be affected by this policy. Describe any positive and negative impacts, including what barriers these individuals or groups may face.	
		Comments
	Age	
	Disability	

APPENDIX D

	Gender Reassignment	
	Marriage and Civil Partnership	
	Pregnancy and Maternity	
	Race	
	Religion or Belief	
	Sex	
	Sexual Orientation	
	Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities	
	Community Cohesion	

20.	Based on any evidence and findings, use the table below to specify if any particular Articles in the Human Rights Act are <u>likely</u> apply to your policy. Are the human rights of any individuals or community groups affected by this proposal? Is there an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics?	
		Comments
	Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms	
	Article 2: Right to life	

APPENDIX D

	Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way	
	Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour	
	Article 5: Right to liberty and security	
	Article 6: Right to a fair trial	
	Article 7: No punishment without law	
	Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life	
	Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	
	Article 10: Right to freedom of expression	
	Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association	
	Article 12: Right to marry	
	Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against	
	Part 2: The First Protocol	
	Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment	
	Article 2: Right to education	
	Article 3: Right to free elections	
Section 3 C: Mitigating and Assessing the Impact		
Taking into account the research, data, consultation and information you have reviewed and/or carried out as part of this EHRIA, it is now essential to assess the impact of the policy.		
21.	If you consider there to be actual or potential adverse impact or discrimination, please outline this below. State whether it is justifiable or legitimate and give reasons.	

APPENDIX D

N.B. i) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately. ii) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.	
22.	Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination. a) include any relevant research and consultations findings which highlight the best way in which to minimise negative impact or discrimination b) consider what barriers you can remove, whether reasonable adjustments may be necessary, and how any unmet needs that you have identified can be addressed c) if you are not addressing any negative impacts (including human rights) or potential barriers identified for a particular group, please explain why
Section 3 **D: Making a decision**	
23.	Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Leicestershire County Council's responsibilities in relation to equality, diversity, community cohesion and human rights.

APPENDIX D

Section 3 **E: Monitoring, evaluation & review of your policy**	
24.	Are there processes in place to review the findings of this EHRIA and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?
25.	How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? *e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems*

APPENDIX D

Section 3:
F: Equality and human rights improvement plan

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Objective	Action	Target	Officer Responsible	By when

APPENDIX D

Section 4: Sign off and scrutiny

Upon completion, the Lead Officer completing this assessment is required to sign the document in the section below.

It is required that this Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is scrutinised by your Departmental Equalities Group and signed off by the Chair of the Group.

Once scrutiny and sign off has taken place, a depersonalised version of this EHRIA should be published on Leicestershire County Council's website. Please send a copy of this form to louisa.jordan@leics.gov.uk, Members Secretariat, in the Chief Executive's department for publishing.

Section 4
A: Sign Off and Scrutiny

Confirm, as appropriate, which elements of the EHRIA have been completed and are required for sign off and scrutiny.

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Screening [x]

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Report [ ]

1st Authorised Signature (EHRIA Lead Officer): ………Vicky Cormie ……………………………………………

Date: …9 August 2016………………………..

2nd Authorised Signature (DEG Chair): ……Ann Carruthers…………………………….

Date: ……10 August 2016………………………

This page is intentionally left blank

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET - 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

FUTURE STRATEGY FOR THE DELIVERY OF LIBRARY SERVICES - OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON KIRBY MUXLOE LIBRARY AND UPDATE CONCERNING DESFORD LIBRARY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation with the Kirby Muxloe community regarding alternative library service provision, and to provide an update on developments with Desford Library.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that:

a) The comments of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;

b) The consultation undertaken to explore alternative library provision in the Kirby Muxloe area and the outcome of the consultation be noted;

c) The submission of an outline business case by a group of residents in Kirby Muxloe which meets the County Council's criteria and is capable of moving forward to formal agreements be noted;

d) The Director of Adults and Communities, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to enter into formal agreements for the transfer of Kirby Muxloe Library;

e) The current position regarding Desford Library be noted and if an agreed position cannot be reached with the Desford Community Group by the end of September, a three-month consultation exercise in Desford to explore alternative library provision in the area be agreed;

f) A report in respect of Desford Library be submitted to the Cabinet in the new year, following completion of the consultation referred to in e) above.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. The Council has a statutory obligation to ensure provision of a comprehensive and efficient library service. It has sought to enable and facilitate the ongoing provision, wherever possible, of library services by closer working with communities and other

providers, whilst at the same time sustaining the countywide infrastructure to enable it to meet both its statutory obligations and budget challenges.

4. In November 2014, the Cabinet agreed, inter alia, a delivery model for its library services and a support package for community libraries.

5. The outline business plan submitted by the Kirby Muxloe community group meets the criteria set out by the County Council to enable it to access the support package.

6. The County Council and the existing Desford Community Group have been unable to reconcile differences over the provision of leasing arrangements to enable them to progress with their original plans.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

7. The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a progress report on 6 September 2016 and its comments will be reported to the Cabinet.

8. Recommendations regarding Desford Library will be submitted to the Cabinet in the new year if a position has not been able to be reached with the Desford Community Group by the end of September 2016.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

9. In November 2014, following consultation, the Cabinet approved a remodelling of the library service based on the following elements aimed at meeting its statutory responsibilities:

   - 16 major market town and shopping centre libraries funded by the Council within the following locations: Ashby, Birstall, Blaby, Broughton Astley, Coalville, Earl Shilton,Glenfield, Hinckley, Loughborough, Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Oadby, Shepshed, Syston, Wigston;
   - A formal invitation to encourage the delivery of library services to the remaining areas of the County (the 36 community libraries) to be undertaken by local communities and groups with an infrastructure support package from the County Council as outlined in the report of the scrutiny review panel;
   - Identification (during the next phase of engagement) of 8 of the 36 community libraries to act as bases from which a library liaison officer would advise and support local groups and management committees operating community libraries;
   - An online library service available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to those with access to the internet;
   - A mobile library service providing a regular library service to most villages without a static library.

10. Between January 2015 and March 2016 several reports which outlined the business cases submitted by local groups wishing to manage their local libraries were considered by the Cabinet. To date, 27 libraries have transferred to community management.

11. Of the remaining nine libraries, two are the subject of this report (Desford and Kirby Muxloe), six are scheduled to transfer to community management (Braunstone Town,

Cosby, Ibstock, Mountsorrel, Narborough and Quorn and one library (Barwell) has closed.

Resources Implications

12. Since April 2014, the Communities and Wellbeing Service (part of the Adults and Communities Department) has implemented changes to deliver £1.5 million of savings from a mixture of efficiencies and service reductions.

13. Members will be aware of the worsening financial situation which is reflected in the 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by the County Council on 17 February 2016. At the time of writing this report, a further £1.9 million saving will need to be made by the Communities and Wellbeing Service by 2018/19. However, the outlook for public finances remains bleak and there is a likelihood that this savings requirement will increase significantly.

14. The annual savings from the community libraries programme remain in line with the initial estimates. For the libraries that have transferred, or are scheduled to transfer, to become community managed, annual savings are expected to be £0.4 million from staff savings and £0.3 million from running costs, (net of income) following the end of the seven-year tapering period when the groups assume full responsibility for the costs in question. This will also help to enable further savings from the departmental infrastructure that supports all libraries.

15. The County Council has set aside £0.4 million to support community groups in the initial set up stage. These implementation costs will be met from earmarked transformation funds, as will redundancy and pension costs relating to the staff changes.

16. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

Mr. R. Blunt CC; Mr D Sprason CC.

Officers to Contact

Jon Wilson, Director of Adults and Communities
Adults and Communities Department
Tel: 0116 305 7454
Email: jon.wilson@leics.gov.uk

Nigel Thomas, Head of Service, Communities and Wellbeing
Adults and Communities Department
Tel: 0116 305 7379
Email: nigel.thomas@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Background

Kirby Muxloe

17. The report to the Cabinet on 1 March 2016 advised that Kirby Muxloe Parish Council, which had originally submitted an outline business plan to manage the library, had reluctantly decided to withdraw its plan. This was because the Parish Council elections in May 2015 did not give it sufficient elected members to be able to award itself the general power of competence required to undertake its original plans, and despite repeated attempts to recruit by the Parish Council, there was a lack of interest in volunteering.

18. The Cabinet was also advised that a number of issues had been raised by solicitors acting on behalf of unknown clients regarding the lease for Kirby Muxloe Library. The Cabinet agreed that the Director of Adults and Communities, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, should decide whether further consultation should take place, following receipt of legal advice.

19. Legal advice was sought on the issues raised regarding the leases which provided the necessary reassurance to allow the Director of the Adults and Communities and the Director of Law and Governance to recommend a three-month consultation. The consultation would seek local views on the provision of alternative library provision through a mobile library service, and invite a second and final period of ROI (registration of interests) from local groups to submit an outline business plan to manage the library. Interested parties would have until 22 May 2016 to submit an ROI. Subsequently, the deadline for submissions was extended to 29 July 2016.

20. On 19 April 2016, the Cabinet noted the comments of the Director of Law and Governance on the legal advice received regarding the lease and the commencement of the three-month consultation exercise which had begun in March to explore alternative library service provision in Kirby Muxloe

Kirby Muxloe consultation

21. A three-month consultation period began in Kirby Muxloe on 21 March 2016 and ended on 19 June 2016. The consultation sought responses to proposals to provide six hours of mobile library services across either a single session on a particular day of the week, or across two sessions on different days of the week. This would provide alternative library provision should no ROIs be received by the 22 May 2016 from local groups and a decision needed to be taken to close the library in the future.

22. The consultation comprised the following elements:

    - A bespoke consultation document that outlined the background and proposals for the specific library available online and in hard copy;
    - A survey questionnaire available online and as hard copy integrated into the bespoke document;
    - A public meeting in Kirby Muxloe on 20 April 2016 aimed at informing residents about the ROI process and consultation proposals to enable them to make an informed response to the consultation (via the survey);

- Posters at local venues and information boards to promote the consultation and the public meeting;
- An information display at the library;
- Social media messaging through Twitter and Facebook;
- A “future libraries” email address for people to direct comments and queries.

Analysis and Outcomes of Consultation

23. A report of the detailed findings of the consultation is attached as Appendix B and a note of the public meeting on 20 April 2016 is attached as Appendix C.

24. Queries were raised regarding this latest consultation exercise. Advice was sought which provided the necessary assurances to the Council that it was following the correct processes. The issues previously raised regarding the lease at Kirby Muxloe Library were again raised during the consultation.

25. Key responses emerging from the consultation are as follows:

    - Of the 27 respondents, 13 visited the library at least once a fortnight;
    - The most popular activity was borrowing a book, hiring a CD or DVD, followed by using the library to access face to face advice, attend events or access information;
    - Five respondents felt that the proposed mobile library would be a poor alternative to the current service, and five accepted that a reduced service was better than none;
    - If a mobile library were to be introduced, 16 respondents felt that this should consist of two half-day sessions on different days of the week in one location.

26. The public meeting held at Kirby Muxloe Library, attended by 24 people, resulted in a group of local residents submitting a ROI and subsequently an outline business plan to manage the library that met the deadline set for 29 July 2016. This plan has been assessed by officers and following minor amendments agreed with the group, the outline business plan now meets the criteria to progress the transfer of the library to community management.

Desford

27. Desford Library originally submitted a successful outline business plan that was approved for transfer by the Cabinet on 11 May 2015. Since then the local group have raised concerns over the condition of the building which has prevented the progression of the transfer of the library.

28. The Desford Community Group has stated that it has received legal advice from their solicitor who has recommended that it does not sign the 10 year lease agreement based upon its assessment of the current state of repair of the building and for it to apply to the Council for, and receive a commitment of funding of circa £45,000 to undertake a variety of repair work including the roof, heating system and window replacement prior to signing the lease.

29. The Council’s own building condition survey recognises that a number of the building issues contained in the group’s request have also been highlighted in its own report. However, none of the items raised by the Desford Community Group have been judged in the past to be priorities for the limited resources of the Council’s central

maintenance fund, and are not items which would pose either a risk to health and safety of occupants, or result in legislative non-compliance. Throughout the process of establishing community managed libraries, the Council has communicated clearly to all community groups that the Council would not invest in non-essential maintenance prior to the transfer.

30. Officers have reminded the Group that the Council has allocated a £150,000 contingency fund to which they can apply (once they have signed their lease) for non-routine repairs, ie when building or mechanical items are beyond economic repair and require replacement.

31. The risk in agreeing to fund any of the works requested for Desford prior to the lease agreement being completed is that this could be seen as firstly, a precedent that may lead to pressure from other groups to receive the same treatment with the resultant increase in costs, and secondly, if the lease did not then proceed, the Council would have committed expenditure thereby reducing the amount for other libraries.

32. Building leases were an issue that the Scrutiny Review Panel explored in detail as part of the original support package review in September/October 2014. As a result of the concerns raised, it was agreed that where buildings had less than 25 years “life” remaining that the lease would be offered on an internal repairing basis , rather than a full repairing lease due to potentially higher costs of maintaining buildings approaching the end of their useful life.

33. A full repairing lease means that a group would be liable for the entire building structure both internally and externally together with any external areas. For an internal repairing only lease a group would be responsible for keeping just the interior of the premises in repair.

34. Desford Library was assessed as having an estimated remaining life of circa 60 years (given the building age, construction and condition) it therefore falls into the full repairing category.

35. Despite a number of meetings on this issue, the County Council and the Desford Community Group have been unable to find a solution to the position.

36. Whilst discussions remain ongoing with the Desford Community Group, it is recommended that should an agreed way forward not be achieved by the end of September, a three-month public consultation is undertaken in the community served by Desford Library to explore alternative library provision through a mobile library service.

37. The aim of the public consultation will be to receive feedback on proposed replacement services via a mobile library service and to assess impact on users and inform any mitigating measures to be taken. Alongside the consultation, there would also be a second and final opportunity for any other group who may wish to submit a ROI and a subsequent outline business plan to manage the library with the support package offered by the County Council.

38. The consultation will comprise the following elements:

- A bespoke consultation document that outlines the background and proposals for the specific library - available online and in hard copy;

- A survey questionnaire available online and as hard copy integrated into the bespoke document described above;
- An information event at each library location aimed at informing residents about the ROI process and consultation proposals and enable them to make an informed response to the consultation (via the survey);
- Information displays at Desford Library.

39. It is proposed to submit a further report to the Cabinet recommending a way forward for Desford Library in the new year if a position has not been able to be reached with the Desford Community Group by the end of September 2016.

Conclusion

40. To date, 27 local libraries have been transferred to community management across Leicestershire.

41. The outcome of the Kirby Muxloe consultation has resulted in a positive solution for the sustainability of the library in its current location.

42. Work will continue in finding a solution for services in Desford.

Background Papers

- Report of the Cabinet to the County Council meeting, 19 February 2014 - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2017/18 - http://ow.ly/JmQUZ
- Report to the Cabinet, 5 March 2014 - Consultation on Proposals for Changes in the Delivery of Community Library Services - http://ow.ly/JmQOC
- Report to the Cabinet, 19 September 2014 - Outcome of Consultation on Proposals for Changes in the Delivery of Library Services - http://ow.ly/JmQGv
- Reports to the Cabinet - Future Strategy for the Delivery of Library Services
  - 19 November 2014 – http://ow.ly/JmQwT
  - 16 March 2015 – http://ow.ly/Ynxiu
  - 11 May 2015 – http://ow.ly/Ynxn5
  - 16 June 2015 – http://ow.ly/Ynxrw
  - 7 October 2015 – http://ow.ly/YnxuM
  - 1 March 2016 - http://ow.ly/kaI4303lFb3
  - 19 April 2016 - http://ow.ly/YR6F303lFeo

Appendices

- Appendix A - Alternative Library Services in Kirby Muxloe – Consultation Survey Results;
- Appendix B – LCC Library Events: Recorded Notes of Meeting Held on 20 April 2016.

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

43. An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) for each of the 36 community libraries was appended to the Cabinet report dated 19 November 2014 and can be accessed via the following link - http://ow.ly/105GkG

44. The EHRIA process is iterative in nature and Equality and Human Rights Improvement Plans, attached to the EHRIA, outlines mitigating actions to be monitored should there be any decision to close libraries in these areas.

45. An online interactive community profile for the libraries has been established which outlines key features associated with the community from a number of criteria. This can be viewed through the following link: http://ow.ly/JmQgE

46. It should be noted that although the majority of the information contained in the profiling work is not required in order to address the Council's Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED), it is regarded as good practice and a means of supporting informed decision making. However, any further reports to the Cabinet will include appropriate assessments with regard to the PSED.

47. Any decision to close the library would, through its EHRIA framework seek to mitigate the impact of such a decision on protected groups such as children and older people by producing and reviewing and equalities improvement plan.

48. Further work on Desford Library will be undertaken in time for the February Cabinet meeting should a decision need to be made to close the library and provide mitigating actions and alternative service provision in the area.

Alternative Library Services in -
Kirby Muxloe

Consultation survey results

September 2016

Strategic Business Intelligence Team
Leicestershire County Council

Jo Miller
Strategic Business Intelligence Team Leader

Alistair Hay
Research and Insight Officer

Michelle Monamy
Research and Insight Officer

Strategic Business Intelligence Team
Strategy and Business Intelligence
Chief Executive's Department
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall, Glenfield
Leicester LE3 8RA

Tel 0116 305 7341
Email jo.miller@leics.gov.uk

150

Produced by the Strategic Business Intelligence Team at Leicestershire County Council.

With support from:

- Communities Team, Leicestershire County Council
- Communications Team, Leicestershire County Council

Contents

List of charts and tables

Chapter 1: Introduction & methodology

In November 2014, following a public consultation, Leicestershire County Council agreed a new library service to meet ongoing budget challenges and changing customer expectations.

The new library service model would be based on:

- 16 libraries fully funded by the county council
- An infrastructure support package to enable community groups to manage 36 community libraries with county council help
- A mobile library service which will provide a regular library service to most villages without a static library
- An online library service available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to those with access to the internet

Kirby Muxloe Library was one of the 36 libraries that the council invited community groups to come forward to manage with local authority support. The council did not receive a viable proposal from Kirby Muxloe for a community managed library based on the local authority support package. This meant the council has to make a decision about the future of Kirby Muxloe Library by September 2016.

The council is proposing to:

- Close Kirby Muxloe Library
- Provide six hours of mobile library service which offers a book lending service to the residents of the Kirby Muxloe community on a weekly basis
- Make any changes from November 2016

Overview of the process

The council has consulted with the public on the proposed changes for the Kirby Muxloe Library. A public meeting was held in Kirby Muxloe to provide an opportunity for people to discuss the proposals and ask questions.

The consultation involved a survey with residents, library users and staff.

The survey was made available on the council website from 21 March 2016. This was accompanied by an information booklet which set out the proposals in more detail, a useful facts document and a community profile. Copies of the consultation and questionnaire were also printed and distributed to Kirby Muxloe Library.

The survey asked for views on the proposed changes for Kirby Muxloe Library as well as asking about how people currently used the service. The consultation closed on the 19 June 2016 (a three month fieldwork window).

Communications and media activity

The council communicated the Kirby Muxloe Library consultation in a number of ways, including:

- press releases sent to local media at the beginning and half way through
- social media messages on Twitter and Facebook
- information posters of the consultation sent to Kirby Muxloe parish council, Kirby Muxloe library, community centres, and shops
- on the consultation webpage of the local authority website (www.leicestershire.gov.uk/futurelibraries)
- e-blasts sent to library users of the affected library which outlined the key changes and encouraged them to have their say

Alternative Formats/Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment

The EHRIA screening process highlighted equalities considerations and steps were put in place to make the processes open and inclusive, and reduce any barriers to participation.

Copies of the information booklet with integrated questionnaire were freely available at Kirby Muxloe Library and on request at other libraries.

The information booklet and questionnaire were made available to download from the council's website and were available in alternative formats, including Easy Read, on request as stated in the information booklet.

A help line was provided for anyone who wanted assistance completing the surveys over the phone.

A freepost return address was provided for completed surveys to encourage response.

Response rate

During the three month consultation window, 27 people responded to the survey. The majority (15) took part by completing an online survey, with the remainder returning a paper response (12).

Respondent profile

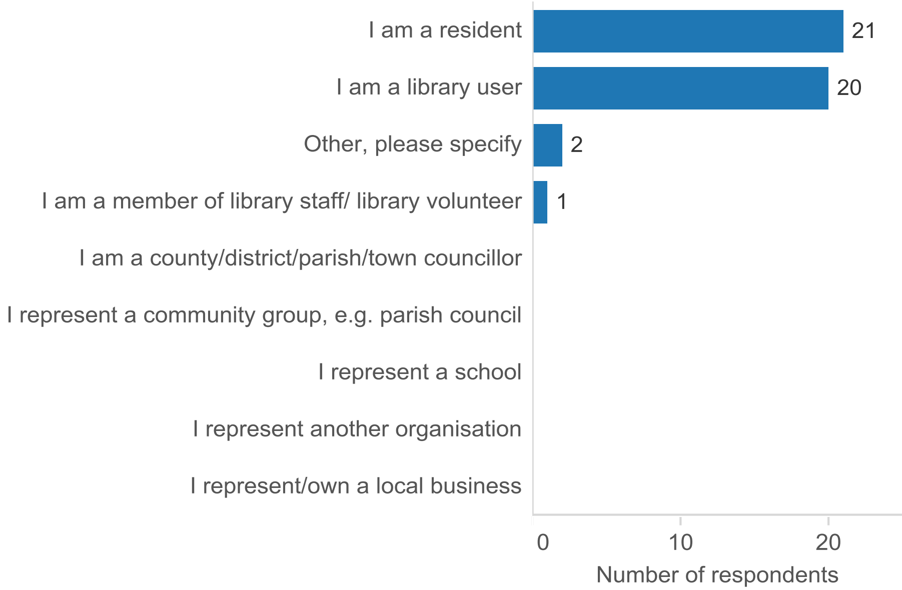
The questionnaire included a range of demographic questions on:

- Gender
- Gender identity
- Age
- Parent or carer of children
- Parent or carer of children (by age of children)
- Carer of an adult
- Long-term illness or disability
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Number of cars in household
- Internet access
- Qualifications
- Economic status
- Council employee
- Sexual orientation

The demographic profile of those responding to the survey is reported in Appendix 2.

Most respondents were residents (21) and library users (20) (Chart 1).

Chart 1 - Role in which responding (multiple choice) (Q1) (Base=27)



Analysis methodology

Graphs and tables have been used to assist explanation and analysis. Question results have been reported based on those who provided a valid response, i.e. taking out the ‘don’t know’ responses and no replies.

Demographic analysis

The questionnaire included a range of demographic questions. The counts and percentages of responses to these questions are reported in Appendix 2.

Analysis of open-ended comments

The survey contained eight open-ended questions. Just over 80 comments were left by respondents across these questions. For the purpose of analysis, coding frames were devised for each of the questions. All of the comments were read and coded by analysts. The Libraries Service will be given all comments in full for further consideration.

Chapter 2: Your library service

Respondents were asked three questions about their current use of the library service in Leicestershire.

Frequency of use of Kirby Muxloe Library (Q3)

Respondents were asked how often, if at all, they used a range of different services at Kirby Muxloe Library.

Chart 2 shows that 13 respondents visited the library at least once a fortnight. The most popular activity was borrowing a book or hiring a CD or DVD, followed by using the library to access face-to-face advice, attend events, or access information.

Chart 2 - Uses of the Kirby Muxloe Library service (Q3) - Number of respondents (Base=27)

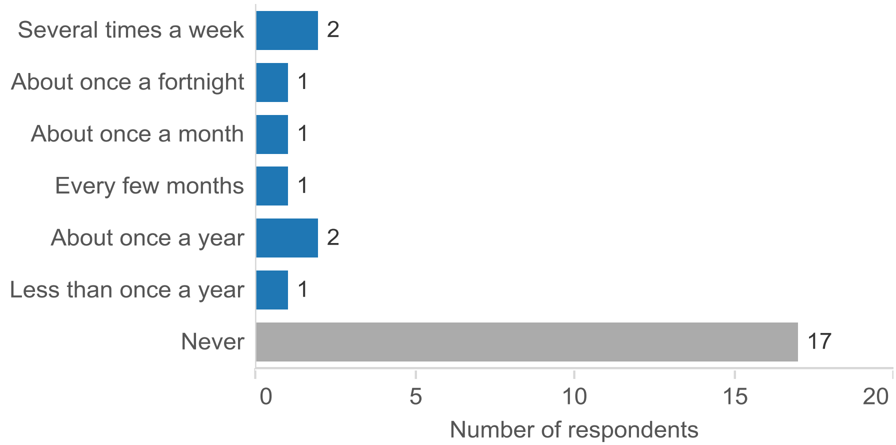
	Several times a week	About once a week	About once a fortnight	About once a month	Every few months	About once a year	Less than once a year	Never
Visit the library	1	5	7	4	3		2	3
Borrow a book or hire a CD/DVD	1	5	4	5	3			5
Access face-to-face advice			1		2	1	2	8
Attend events at the library				1	1	3	2	8
Access information	1	2	2	1		1	2	9
Use the library space to meet people	1	1	1	2		1		10
Use the library for study/reference/education			1	2			1	10
Use the public computers				1		2	1	10
Use the fax/printing/photocopying services					1	1	1	11

Frequency of use of online library service (Q4)

Respondents were asked how often, if at all, they used the online library service. Chart 3 shows 17 respondents said they never used the online library service, and five used it every few months or more.

Chart 3 - Online library service use (Q4)

(Base=25)



Alternative library use (Q5)

Respondents were asked which other libraries they used, if any. Chart 4 shows 11 respondents said they used no other libraries, whereas nine used one or more others. Chart 5 shows five respondents said they used Glenfield, and two used a non-county council library.

Chart 4 - Number of other libraries used (Q5)

(Base=20)

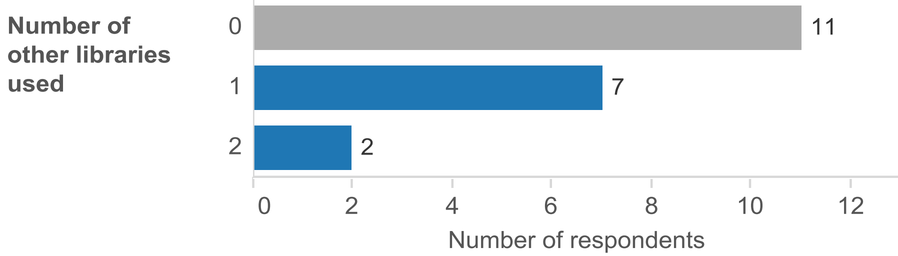
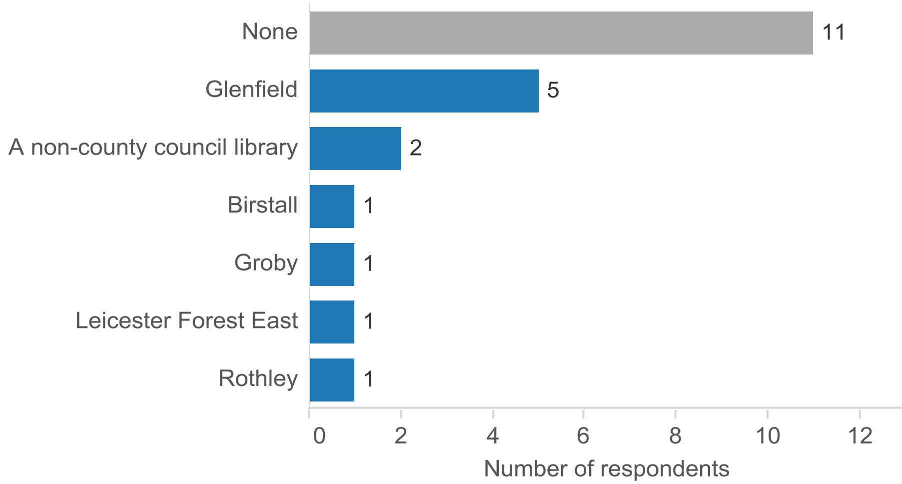


Chart 5 - Other libraries used (Q5)

(Base=20)



Chapter 3: Our proposals

Proposed replacement service

Adequacy of proposals (Q6)

Respondents were asked, within the context of reducing council budgets, if Kirby Muxloe Library were to close, to what extent they agreed or disagreed that the council's proposals would provide an adequate alternative service. Chart 6 shows that 11 respondents said they disagreed that the proposals would provide an adequate alternative, whereas 10 agreed.

Open comments (Q7)

Respondents were asked to provide comments for their answer to Q6. Chart 7 shows six respondents said the library was an important resource for the community, particularly for children and elderly residents. Five respondents felt the proposed mobile library would be a poor alternative to the current service, whereas five accepted that a reduced service was better than none.

"A library is a community resource"

"A mobile service has very limited book stock and space in which to relax and many people use libraries for computer access"

"I suppose a mobile library with restricted hours and choice is better than nothing"

Chart 7 - Open comments (Q7) - Top 10 (Base=22)

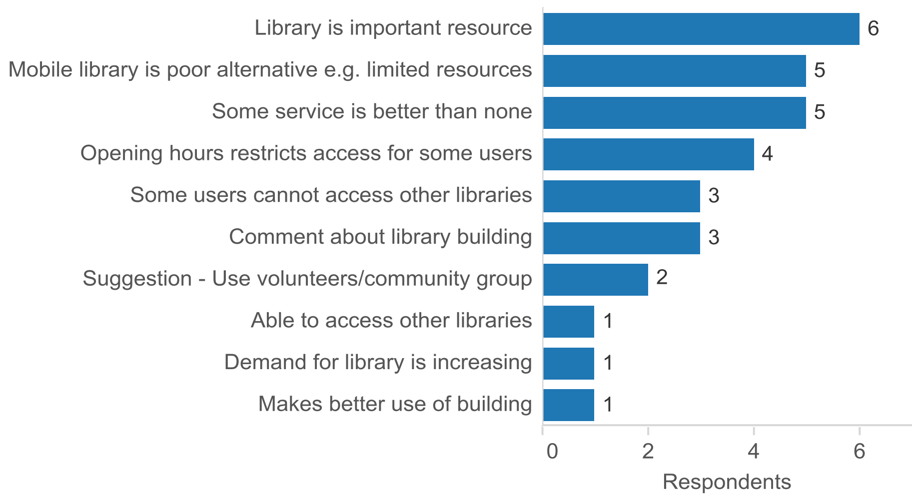


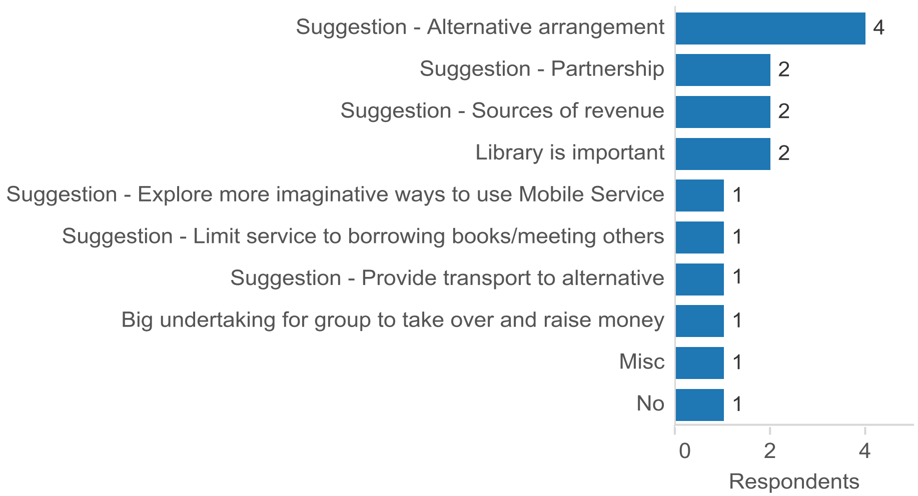
Chart 6 - Adequacy of proposals (Q6) - Number of respondents (Base=25)

Alternative solutions (Q8)

Respondents were asked to provide alternative solutions for a replacement service that the council should consider. Chart 8 shows four respondents suggested a number of changes to the day-to-day running of Kirby Muxloe library to make itself more financially viable. Two respondents suggested forming a partnership with another organisation, and two suggested ways to increase revenue for the library.

> *"I think a local hall or church just for this would be fine"*
>
> *"A coffee shop at the park, would be really well used, they could give you rent, and would cover the cost of keeping the library going"*
>
> *"Leicester Forest East library not that far away so can't really see the need for two libraries so close together"*
>
> *"An annual fee could be charged for the use of the library, if it is only a few pounds per year"*

Chart 8 - Alternative solutions (Q8) (Base=10)



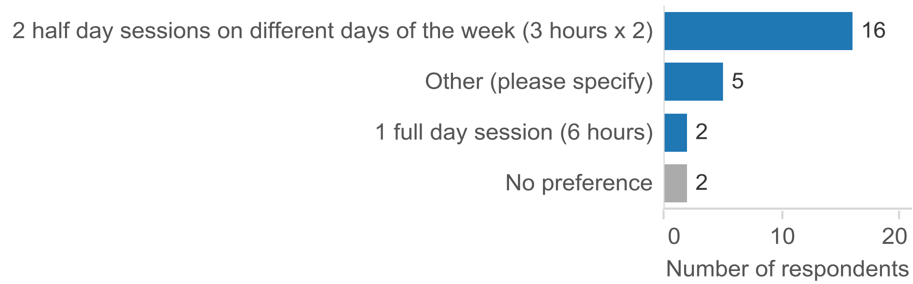
Options in detail

It was explained that if Kirby Muxloe Library were to close, Kirby Muxloe would be provided six hours of mobile library service on a weekly basis from November 2016. Respondents were then asked how they would like this service to work.

Preferred number of sessions (Q9)

Respondents were asked what would be their preferred number of sessions over which the six hours of mobile library provision were delivered. Chart 9 shows that 16 respondents preferred two half-day sessions.

Chart 9 - Preferred number of sessions (Q9) (Base=25)



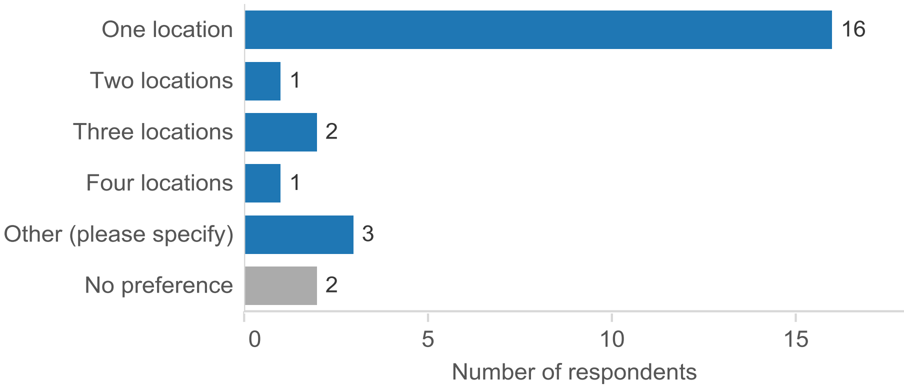
The five respondents who said they would prefer an 'Other' suggested: three one-hour sessions each week configured differently every other week (e.g. two morning sessions and one afternoon session in one week, then one morning session and two afternoon sessions in the following week) instead of six hours so more communities can be receive a service as well, and at least one session outside of 9am-5pm working hours.

Preferred number of locations (Q10)

Respondents were asked what would be their preferred number of locations during a session.

Chart 10 shows 16 respondents preferred the mobile library to stop in one location, followed by three who said ‘other’.

Chart 10 - Preferred number of locations (Q10) (Base=25)



The three respondents who said ‘Other’ did not provide an alternative suggestion, but reiterated their view that they would not use a mobile library.

Preferred locations of stops (Q11)

Respondents were provided a map of the Kirby Muxloe area with the proposed locations for where the mobile library service could stop.

Respondents were asked to identify their preferred location(s).

Map 1 - Kirby Muxloe with proposed locations of stops

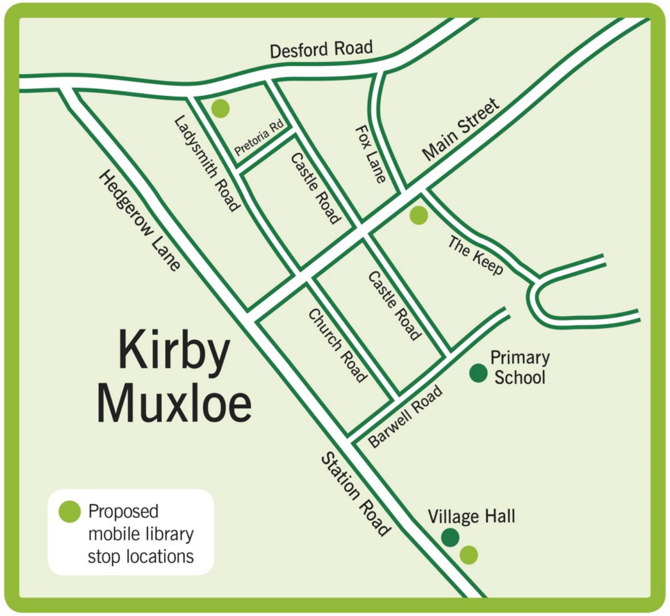
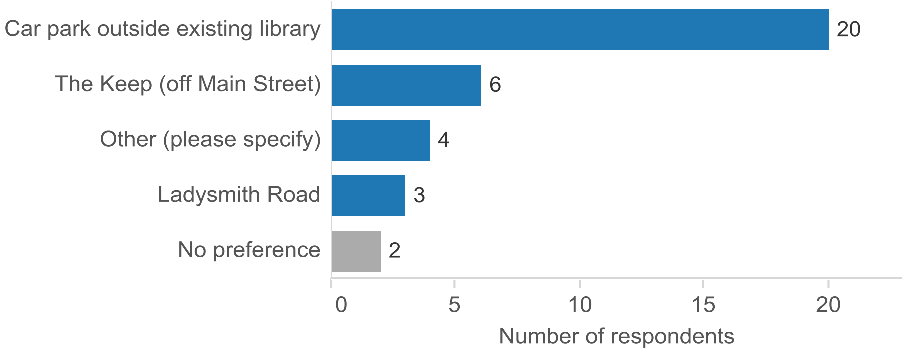


Chart 11 shows 20 respondents said they preferred the mobile library service to be delivered in the car park outside the existing library, followed by six who preferred The Keep (off Main Street).

162

Chart 11 - Preferred locations of stops (Q11)

(Base=27)



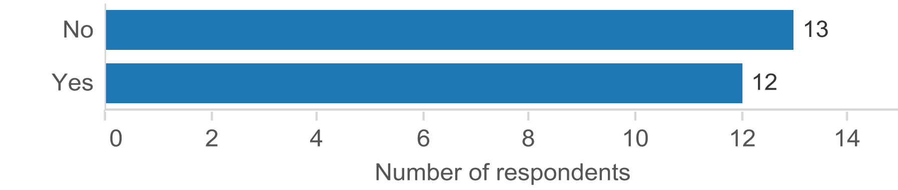
Respondents who said ‘Other’ were then asked to provide further detail. One respondent provided an alternative suggestion; Hedgerow Lane.

Preferred days and times for mobile library service (Q12-13)

Respondents were asked whether they had any preference for days or times of the week for the proposed mobile library services to be delivered. Chart 12 shows 12 respondents had a preference.

Chart 12 - Preference for days and times for proposed mobile library service (Q12)

(Base=25)



Respondents who said ‘Yes’ to Q12 were then asked to specify what day(s) or time(s) they preferred the mobile library service to be delivered. Chart 13 shows six respondents preferred 10:00-13:00 on Saturday, and four preferred 13:00-16:00 on Friday.

Chart 13 - Preferred days and times for mobile library service (Q13) - Number of respondents

(Base=27)

	Half day (10:00-13:00)	Half Day (13:00-16:00)	Full day (10:00-16:00)
Monday	1	3	
Tuesday	2		1
Wednesday	1	2	
Thursday		2	
Friday		4	
Saturday	6		1
Sunday	1	1	

Future service delivery

Accessing library services (Q14-15)

Respondents were asked, if Kirby Muxloe Library were to close and a mobile library service introduced, how easy or difficult would it be for them to access library services. Chart 14 shows 15 respondents said it would be easy for them to access library services following the council's proposals, whereas four said it would be difficult.

Chart 14 - Accessing other library services (Q14) - Number of respondents

(Base=23)

Respondents were asked to provide comments for their answer to Q14.

Chart 15 shows nine respondents said they are mobile and able to walk to alternative library services should Kirby Muxloe library close, and seven said they had access to transport to access those further away. Six said the close proximity of the proposed locations of the mobile library would make it easy for them to access the service, and four said they could access alternative libraries. Four were concerned that the proposed opening hours would restrict their ability to access the service.

"I live in Kirby and am mobile, so could walk to alternate sites"

"I am able to drive to Glenfield library"

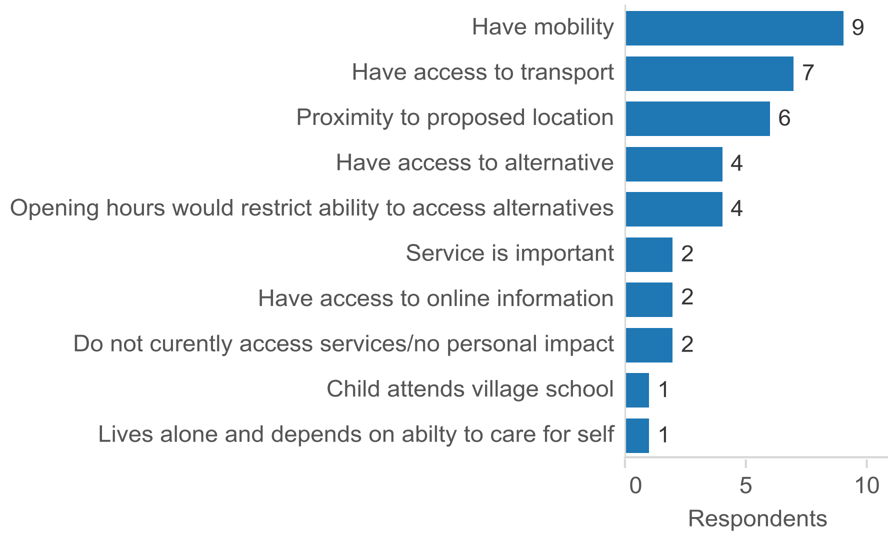
"Because it is only 5-7 minutes from home"

"I would use Leicester Forest East"

"If the library closed I would not be able to make use of the mobile service because I would be at work when it visited the village"

Chart 15 - Open comments (Q15) - Top 10

(Base=22)



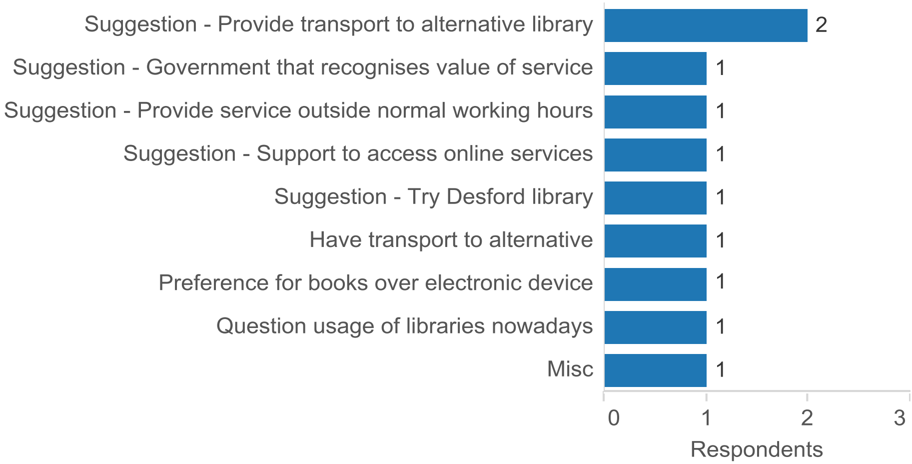
Help to access alternative library services (Q16)

Respondents were asked what else, if anything, would help them access alternative library services.

Chart 16 shows two respondents suggested the provision of transport to alternative libraries would help them access the service. Other suggestions included: recognition from the government of the value of public services, providing an evening or weekend service for people who work during the day, and being provided support on how to access the online library service.

> *"A mini bus service to L.F.E Library"*
>
> *"A new government that recognised the value of public services"*
>
> *"For people who work full-time an evening service might be as handy as a weekend one."*
>
> *"Tell us how to access library services online."*

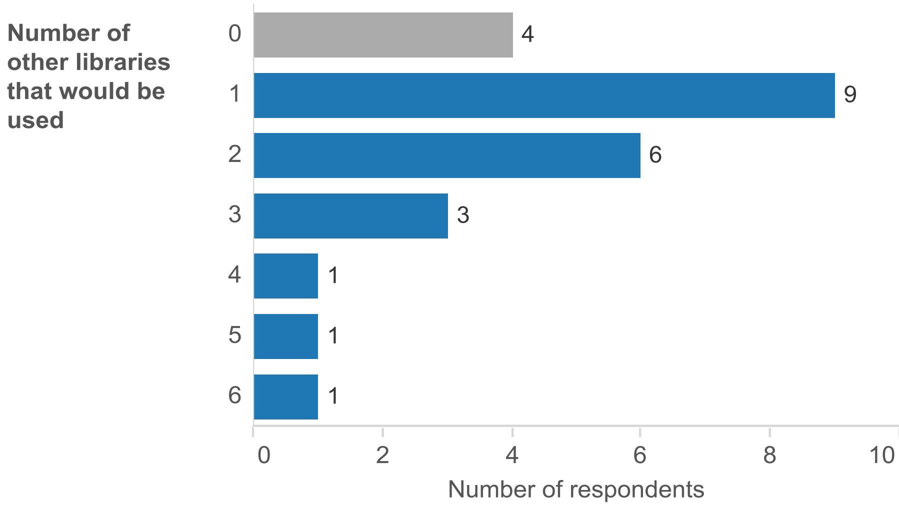
Chart 16 - Help to access alternative library services (Q16) (Base=7)



Use of alternative libraries (Q17)

Respondents were asked, if Kirby Muxloe Library were to close, which other libraries would they use. Chart 17 shows four respondents would not use any other library, whereas 21 would use one or more others.

Chart 17 - Number of other libraries that would be used (Q17)

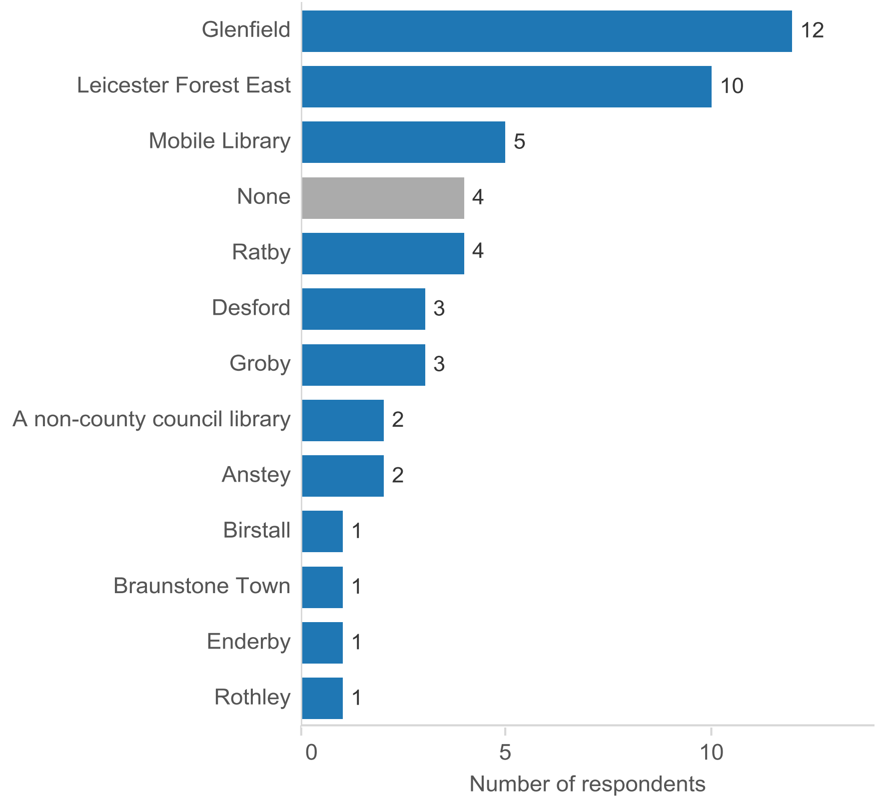


(Base=25)

Chart 18 shows 12 respondents said they would use Glenfield Library in the event of Kirby Muxloe Library closing, followed by 10 who would use Leicester Forest East Library.

165

Chart 18 - Other libraries that would be used (Q17) (Base=25)



Any other comments (Q18)

Respondents were asked if they would like to make any other comments. These are summarised in Chart 19.

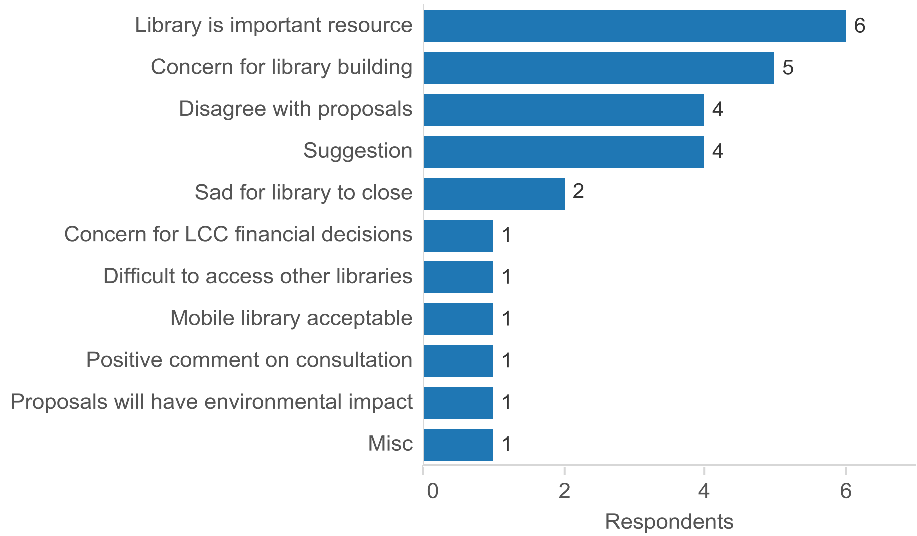
> *"The library is part of the community. It is a place where people meet; it supports the education of our children; it provides a place for groups to meet and extra sessions to be put on"*

> *"The building at Kirby Muxloe is reasonably new. It is a lovely building - what will happen to that?"*

> *"I think it is disgraceful that this is being considered"*

> *"Why not consider using Kirby Muxloe library as a co-working space, so that freelancers and sole trader creatives (e.g. web designers and graphic designers) can work together in a shared space and also use the library for business networking?"*

Chart 19 - Any other comments (Q18) (Base=15)



166

Chapter 4: Summary of comments

The proposed changes to the library service delivered in Kirby Muxloe produced a mixed response. Some respondents understood the need to reduce service provision due to reductions in the budget, and voiced their relief that the service provision was only being reduced and not completely removed. Furthermore several respondents said they would be able to access other library services, due to being mobile and able to walk, having access to transport, and being close to the alternatives.

Other respondents regularly emphasised the importance of Kirby Muxloe library to the community, citing the role the library plays as a hub for service users to get together and socialise, and the role it plays in the educational progress of schoolchildren. In particular, a regular concern was held for the library building itself, with several respondents voicing their confusion and disapproval at the proposed closure of a newly, purpose-built facility. Other frequent concerns about the proposed mobile library service included: comparatively lower stock of books and shorter opening hours compared to the current library, the difficulty for working people to be able to access a mobile library service delivered during the day, and the difficulties some groups would have in accessing a mobile library service or other static libraries. Lastly, some respondents reiterated their view that the proposals were unacceptable, and that the current library should remain open.

When asked, respondents were forthcoming with suggestions on how else alternative library services could be delivered in Kirby Muxloe. Some respondents felt the current model of service could be sustained more effectively by changing an aspect of its operation. These suggestions included using a local or church hall, or forming a partnership with other organisations to fund the service. Other respondents provided suggestions on how the library service could increase its revenue in order to fund itself, in the form of an annual library fee, or running more events at the library. When asked on how the proposed mobile library service could run, respondents advocated for the service to be delivered at alternative times each week, and to deliver at least one session of the service outside of normal working hours during the day.

Appendix 1 - Questionnaire

Leicestershire County Council

Have your say on providing alternative Library Services in Kirby Muxloe

Introduction

Leicestershire County Council continues to face its biggest ever financial challenge. In 2014 the council consulted widely about the future of library services in Leicestershire. Following the consultation, the council agreed in November 2014 that the new library service model would be based on:

- 16 libraries fully funded by the county council
- An infrastructure support package to enable community groups to manage 36 community libraries with county council help
- A mobile library service which will provide a regular library service to most villages without a static library
- An online library service available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to those with access to the internet

Kirby Muxloe Library is one of the 36 libraries that we invited community groups to come forward to manage with our support. For reasons explained in more detail below, in Kirby Muxloe we have not received a viable proposal for a community managed library based on our support package.

Continuing to fully fund the operation of Kirby Muxloe library is not an option. Budgetary pressures mean we have to make a decision about the future of Kirby Muxloe library by July 2016.

We are therefore providing a second and final opportunity for residents and community groups to come forward to register their interest to manage the library with County Council support. However, in case we do not receive any interest or viable plans, we also have to prepare for the possible closure of the library and consider options for alternative library service provision.

Please note: Your responses to the main part of the survey (Q1 to Q18, including your comments) may be released to the general public in full under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any responses to the questions in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire will be held securely and will not be subject to release under Freedom of Information legislation, nor passed on to any third party.

Q1 In which role(s) are you responding to this consultation? Please tick ALL applicable

- ☐ I am a resident
- ☐ I am a library user
- ☐ I am a member of library staff/ library volunteer
- ☐ I am a county/district/parish/town councillor
- ☐ I represent/own a local business
- ☐ I represent a community group, e.g. parish council
- ☐ I represent a school
- ☐ I represent another organisation
- ☐ Other, please specify

Other (please specify below)

Q2 If you are a representative of a stakeholder organisation, please provide your details.

Name:

Organisation:

This information may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Your library service

Please could you tell us about how you currently use Kirby Muxloe library.

Q3 How often, if at all, do you do the following at Kirby Muxloe library? Please tick one per row

	Several times a week	About once a week	About once a fortnight	About once a month	Every few months	About once a year	Less than once a year	Never
Visit the library	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Borrow a book or hire a CD/DVD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Use the public computers	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Use the fax/printing/photocopying services	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Attend events at the library	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Use the library for study/reference/education	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Access information	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Access face-to-face advice	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Use the library space to meet people	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q4 How often, if at all, do you use the online library service? Please tick one option only

Several times a week	About once a week	About once a fortnight	About once a month	Every few months	About once a year	Less than once a year	Never
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q5 Do you use any other libraries? Please tick all applicable

- ☐ **Mobile Library**
- ☐ Anstey
- ☐ Ashby de la Zouch
- ☐ Barrow upon Soar
- ☐ Barwell
- ☐ Birstall
- ☐ Blaby
- ☐ Bottesford
- ☐ Braunstone Town
- ☐ Broughton Astley
- ☐ Burbage
- ☐ Castle Donington
- ☐ Coalville
- ☐ Cosby
- ☐ Countesthorpe
- ☐ Desford
- ☐ Earl Shilton
- ☐ East Goscote
- ☐ Enderby
- ☐ Fleckney
- ☐ Glenfield
- ☐ Glenhills
- ☐ Great Glen
- ☐ Groby
- ☐ Hathern
- ☐ Hinckley
- ☐ Ibstock
- ☐ Kegworth
- ☐ Kibworth
- ☐ Leicester Forest East
- ☐ Loughborough
- ☐ Lutterworth
- ☐ Market Bosworth
- ☐ Market Harborough
- ☐ Markfield
- ☐ Measham
- ☐ Melton Mowbray
- ☐ Mountsorrel
- ☐ Narborough
- ☐ Newbold Verdon
- ☐ Oadby
- ☐ Quorn
- ☐ Ratby
- ☐ Rothley
- ☐ Sapcote
- ☐ Shepshed
- ☐ Sileby
- ☐ South Wigston
- ☐ Stoney Stanton
- ☐ Syston
- ☐ Thurmaston
- ☐ Wigston Magna
- ☐ **A non-county council library** (e.g. in Leicester City, in another county, or a school library)
- ☐ **No**

Our Proposals

Our preferred option for the future of Kirby Muxloe library remains finding a community managed library solution. We are therefore asking any people and groups interested in running Kirby Muxloe Library with a package of support from Leicestershire County Council to register their interest by 22nd May 2016.

Should it not be possible to find a viable community managed solution, we are proposing that the current library will close. All library services, including public access computers, will be available at any of the 16 county council funded libraries, including Glenfield. We are proposing that a mobile library service will provide a book lending service to residents in the Kirby Muxloe community. We propose that this service would be available for six hours on a weekly basis, These changes could come into effect from November 2016.

We remain open to discussing and considering other options for supporting a community managed library or any other viable options for providing a library service in Kirby Muxloe.

<u>Proposed replacement service</u>

Q6 Within the context of reducing council budgets, if Kirby Muxloe library were to close, to what extent do you agree or disagree that our proposals provide an adequate alternative to the current service?

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
○	○	○	○	○	○

Q7 Why do you say this?

Characters left: left

Q8 Are there any alternative solutions for a replacement service that you think the council should consider?

Characters left: left

<u>Options in detail</u>

If Kirby Muxloe library were to close, the council proposes to provide the community with six hours of mobile library services on a weekly basis.

Q9 The six hours could be allocated across one or more sessions. What would be your preferred option?

- ○ 1 full day session (6 hours)
- ○ 2 half day sessions on different days of the week (3 hours x 2)
- ○ Other (please specify)
- ○ No preference

Other

Characters left: left

169

Q10 During a session, the mobile library could stop at one location for the whole time, or several locations. Based on your previous answer, what would be your preferred option for the number of locations?

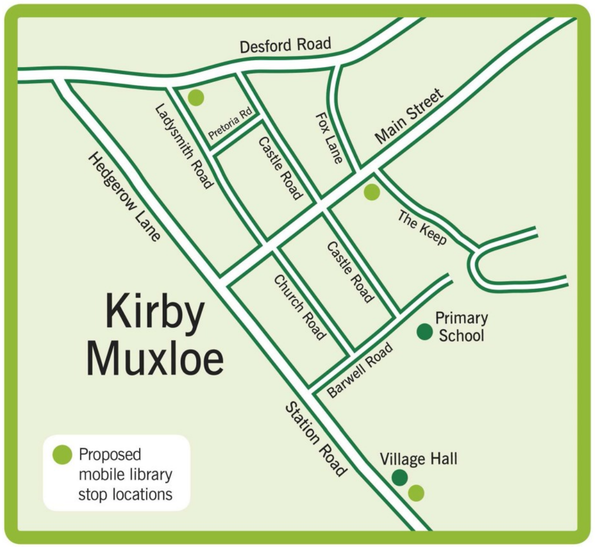
- One location
- Two locations
- Three locations
- Four locations
- Other (please specify)
- No preference

Other

Characters left: left

The most likely location for a single stop would be the Car park outside the existing library building.

The most likely locations for multiple stops would be The Keep (off Main Street) and Ladysmith Road.



Q11 Based on your previous answers, where would you like the mobile library to stop? Please tick all applicable

- Car park outside existing library
- The Keep (off Main Street)
- Ladysmith Road
- Other (please specify)
- No preference

Other

Characters left: left

Q12 Based on your previous answers, do you have any preference for day(s) or time(s) of the week?

- Yes
- No

Q13 If yes, what day(s) or time(s) of the week would you prefer? Please tick all applicable

	Half day (10:00-13:00)	Half Day (13:00-16:00)	Full day (10:00-16:00)
Monday	○	○	○
Tuesday	○	○	○
Wednesday	○	○	○
Thursday	○	○	○
Friday	○	○	○
Saturday	○	○	○
Sunday	○	○	○

Future service delivery

We'd like to know how the proposed changes may affect you and what we could do to help you access library services.

Q14 If Kirby Muxloe library were to close, and a mobile library service was introduced, how easy or difficult would it be for you to access library services?

Very easy	Fairly easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Fairly difficult	Very difficult	Don't know
○	○	○	○	○	○

Q15 Why do you say this?

Characters left: left

Q16 What else, if anything, would help you access alternative library services?

Characters left: left

Q17 If Kirby Muxloe library were to close, which other libraries, if any, would you use? Please tick all applicable

- ☐ **Mobile Library**
- ☐ Anstey
- ☐ Ashby de la Zouch
- ☐ Barrow upon Soar
- ☐ Birstall
- ☐ Blaby
- ☐ Bottesford
- ☐ Braunstone Town
- ☐ Broughton Astley
- ☐ Burbage
- ☐ Castle Donington
- ☐ Coalville
- ☐ Cosby
- ☐ Countesthorpe
- ☐ Desford
- ☐ Earl Shilton
- ☐ East Goscote
- ☐ Enderby
- ☐ Fleckney
- ☐ Glenfield
- ☐ Glenhills
- ☐ Great Glen
- ☐ Groby
- ☐ Hathern
- ☐ Hinckley
- ☐ Ibstock
- ☐ Kegworth
- ☐ Kibworth
- ☐ Leicester Forest East
- ☐ Loughborough
- ☐ Lutterworth
- ☐ Market Bosworth
- ☐ Market Harborough
- ☐ Markfield
- ☐ Measham
- ☐ Melton Mowbray
- ☐ Mountsorrel
- ☐ Narborough
- ☐ Newbold Verdon
- ☐ Oadby
- ☐ Quorn
- ☐ Ratby
- ☐ Rothley
- ☐ Sapcote
- ☐ Shepshed
- ☐ Sileby
- ☐ South Wigston
- ☐ Stoney Stanton
- ☐ Syston
- ☐ Thurmaston
- ☐ Wigston Magna
- ☐ **A non-county council library** (e.g. in Leicester City, in another county, or a school library)
- ☐ **None**

Any other comments

Q18 Do you have any other comments?

Characters left: left

About you

Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community.

We would therefore be grateful if you would answer the questions below. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did.

This information will not be disclosed in the event of an Freedom of Information request.

Q19 Are you male or female?

- ◯ Male
- ◯ Female

Q20 Gender Identity: A person has an internal, deeply held sense of their own gender. For trans people, their own sense of who they are does not match the sex that society assigns to them when they are born.

Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Q21 What was your age on your last birthday? (Please enter your age in numbers not words in the box below)

Q22 What is your full postcode? This will allow us to see how far people are travelling to use the library. It will not identify your house. Please write in the box below

Q23 Are you a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Q24 If yes, what are the ages of the children in your care? Please tick ALL applicable

- ☐ 0-4
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 11-15
- ☐ 16-17

Q25 Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or over?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q26 Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q27 What is your ethnic group?

- ○ White
- ○ Mixed
- ○ Asian or Asian British
- ○ Black or Black British
- ○ Other ethnic group

Q28 What is your religion?

- ○ No religion
- ○ Christian (all denominations)
- ○ Buddhist
- ○ Hindu
- ○ Jewish
- ○ Muslim
- ○ Sikh
- ○ Any other religion

Q29 In total, how many cars or vans are owned or available for use by members of your household?

- ○ None
- ○ One
- ○ Two
- ○ Three
- ○ Four or more
- ○ Don't know

Q30 Which of these, if any, do you use? Please tick all applicable

- ☐ Broadband at home
- ☐ Internet via dial up at home,
- ☐ Internet at work, place of study or elsewhere (e.g. library or internet café)
- ☐ Internet via a smartphone
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None

Q31 What is the highest level of qualification you have obtained?

- ○ No qualifications
- ○ GCSEs/O-levels or equivalent
- ○ A-levels or equivalent
- ○ Diploma in higher education
- ○ Lower degree or PGCE (e.g. BA or BSc etc)
- ○ Higher degree (e.g. MSc, Phd etc)
- ○ Professional, vocational or work-related qualifications
- ○ Other

Q32 Which of these activities best describes what you are doing at present?

- ○ Employee in full-time job (30 hours plus per week)
- ○ Employee in part-time job (less than 30 hours per week)
- ○ Self employed full or part-time
- ○ On a government supported training programme
- ○ Full-time education at school, college or university.
- ○ Unemployed and available for work
- ○ Permanently sick / disabled
- ○ Wholly retired from work
- ○ Looking after the home
- ○ Doing something else

Q33 Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q34 Many people face discrimination because of their sexual orientation and for this reason we have decided to ask this monitoring question. You do not have to answer it, but we would be grateful if you could tick the box next to the category which describes your sexual orientation.

- ○ Bi-sexual
- ○ Gay
- ○ Heterosexual / straight
- ○ Lesbian
- ○ Other

Thank you for your assistance. Your views are important to us. Your feedback will be incorporated with the other consultation feedback received and will be presented for consideration to the Cabinet Meeting in September 2016, where the final decision on the proposals will be taken. The results from the consultation will be published on the website in due course.

Please click the button below to submit your response.

Please note that once you have clicked submit it may take a few seconds for your information to be sent. Please do not click submit more than once.

Data Protection: Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the county council and its partners. Leicestershire County Council will not share any information collected from the 'About you' section of this survey with its partners. The information will be held in accordance with the council's records management and retention policy. Information which is not in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Appendix 2 - Demographic profile of respondents

Wording	Response	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Are you male or female?	Male	6	24%
	Female	19	76%
Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?	Yes	23	100%
What was your age on your last birthday?	25-34	1	4%
	35-44	2	8%
	45-54	5	21%
	55-64	7	29%
	65-74	4	17%
	75-84	4	17%
	85 or above	1	4%
Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?	Yes	4	16%
	No	21	84%
What is your ethnic group?	White	25	100%
What is your religion?	Christian (all denominations)	15	65%
	No religion	8	35%

Wording	Response	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Are you a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under?	Yes	6	25%
	No	18	75%
If yes, what are the ages of the children in your care?	0-4	4	67%
	5-10	3	50%
	11-15	1	17%
Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or over?	Yes	5	21%
	No	19	79%
In total, how many cars or vans are owned or available for use by members of your household?	Four or more	2	8%
	None	3	12%
	One	9	36%
	Three	3	12%
	Two	8	32%
What is the highest level of qualification you have obtained?	A-levels or equivalent	7	28%
	GCSEs/O-levels or equivalent	3	12%
	Higher degree (e.g. MSc, Phd etc)	3	12%
	Lower degree or PGCE (e.g. BA or BSc etc)	6	24%
	Other	1	4%
	Professional, vocational or work-related qualifications	5	20%

Wording	Response	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Which of these activities best describes what you are doing at present?	Employee in full-time job (30 hours plus per week)	5	20%
	Employee in part-time job (less than 30 hours per week)	8	32%
	Looking after the home	1	4%
	Permanently sick / disabled	1	4%
	Self employed full or part-time	1	4%
	Wholly retired from work	9	36%
Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council?	Yes	5	20%
	No	20	80%
Which of these, if any, do you use?	Broadband at home	21	88%
	Internet at work, place of study or elsewhere (e.g. library or internet café)	6	25%
	Internet via a smartphone	7	29%
	Internet via dial up at home,	2	8%
	None	3	13%
Sexual orientation	Bi-sexual	1	5%
	Heterosexual / straight	19	95%

About the Strategic Business Intelligence Team

The team provides research and insight support to the council, working with both internal departments and partner organisations.

The team provides assistance with:

- Asset Mapping
- Benchmarking
- Business case development
- Community profiling
- Consultation
- Cost benefit analysis
- Journey mapping
- Data management
- Data cleaning/matching
- Data visualisation/ Tableau
- Engagement
- Ethnography
- Factor/cluster analysis
- Focus groups/workshops
- Forecasts/modelling
- Literature reviews
- GIS Mapping/ Mapinfo
- Needs analysis
- Profiling
- Questionnaire design
- Randomised control trials
- Segmentation
- Social Return on Investment/evaluations
- Statistical analysis/SPSS
- Surveys (all formats)/ SNAP
- Voting handsets
- Web analytics
- Web usability testing

Contact

Jo Miller
Strategic Business Intelligence Team Leader

Strategic Business Intelligence Team
Strategy and Business Intelligence
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall, Glenfield
Leicester LE3 8RA

Tel: 0116 305 7341
Email: jo.miller@leics.gov.uk
Web: www.lsr-online.org

Strategic Business Intelligence Team
Strategy and Business Intelligence
Chief Executive’s Department
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RA

ri@leics.gov.uk
www.lsr-online.org

Leicestershire County Council

If you require information contained in this leaflet in another version e.g. large print, Braille, tape or alternative language please telephone: 0116 305 6803, Fax: 0116 305 7271 or Minicom: 0116 305 6160.

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ ઇચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 6803 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને અમે આપને મદદ કરવા વ્યવસ્થા કરીશું.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0116 305 6803 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਦਵਾਂਗੇ।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 6803 এই নম্বরে ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں 0116 305 6803 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，請致電 0116 305 6803，我們會安排有關人員為你提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 6803, a my Ci dopomożemy.

1. MEETING DETAILS

Place of meeting and name of local library:	Kirby Muxloe Village Hall, Station Road, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester. LE9 2EN Kirby Muxloe Village Hall Ann 0776 809 5358 Opening at 5:45 (set up) close around 9:30
Date and time of meeting:	20th April 2016, 7pm – 8.40
This form completed by:	Ray Hurst **Date 21st April 2016**
Staff present:	
Lead facilitator:	Derk Van Der Wardt
Note-taker:	Ray Hurst
Library Service representative:	Nigel Thomas, Paul Love
Number of participants:	24

2. KEY POINTS FROM DISCUSSION

Views expressed about proposal / situation in general	A view was expressed that the Council should continue to provide a library service as it is committed via a lease contract to do this.
Views expressed on the adequateness of the proposed alternative provision.	
Views expressed on community managed library solution.	Most of the questions were related to how this could work in practice. The lease/ownership situation is cause for some concern, but there was genuine interested in exploring how the library can be saved via community management.
Views expressed on the proposed stops in the local area and the frequency.	There was a suggestion that the proposed locations may not be suitable for people living in the Barns / Barons Close area.
Accessibility of other / alternative services (online and other libraries)	n/a

3. ANY OTHER POINTS TO NOTE

There were concerns that LCC was looking to hand over the building and all its related commitments to a community managed library group in perpetuity. Delegates needed reassurance that this was not the case and that the County Council was looking to sub-let to the group.

It was agreed to meet again in due course with interested residents to explore community management solutions.

4. QUESTIONS ASKED:

1. Are the costs and grant information [on the slides] related to the Kirby Muxloe library?

2. I was under the impression that the library future had been secured some time ago via a bid from the parish council. What happened?
3. What happens to the building if it closes and the on-going maintenance costs?
4. Do you have any alternative uses in mind for this building?
5. Does the lease & responsibility for building costs run beyond the 7 year funding package?
6. The county council would be making a big saving on the staff costs?
7. What number of volunteers will be required to run the library and what training do they need?
8. There would be a need to have a good management in place to run the library.
9. The lease has 91 years to run and there is a clause in the agreement that means LCC should provide a library service from there. The Parish Council should hold LCC to the conditions of the lease.
10. The lease is an on-going cost to the county council which needs to be factored in. The library should not have been put on trust land in the first place and LCC should not expect the village to pick up these costs
11. Was LCC aware of the lease agreement or will you have to look at this in more detail now?
12. Could Kirby Muxloe be a hub library for the surrounding community libraries?
13. Given the comments and questions raised tonight the 22nd May does not seem long enough for a community group to come together and sort this out.
14. If a group formed would the lease put significant limitations on the community group?
15. If no community group comes forward what would be the closing date of the existing library?
16. The Chairman of the Parish Council addressed the room to set out the ownership situation with regards to the library and set out the position of the parish council with regards to supporting a community group to come forward.
17. Derk asked for a show of hands in the room to see how many people would be interested in coming along to a second meeting to explore the options available, 10 people raised their hand and action agreed:
    a. To arrange another meeting next Wednesday 27th May at 7pm in the library
    b. Everyone will be contacted if we have their contact details
    c. Voluntary Action Leicestershire will be invited along

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

MARKET HARBOROUGH TRANSPORT STUDY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the findings of a transport study jointly funded by the County Council and Harborough District Council into the current and expected future condition and performance of the transport network in Market Harborough and seeks agreement to undertake an engagement and consultation exercise on the outcomes in order to finalise a preferred transport strategy for the town.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that:

   a) The emerging outcomes of the recent study work, with particular reference to the key findings and recommendations outlined in paragraphs 31 to 45 of the report be noted;

   b) A consultation exercise be commenced later in 2016 on the draft Market Harborough Transport strategy identified within the Transport Study;

   c) A further report be submitted to the Cabinet detailing the outcome of the consultation and engagement exercise, and identifying how the refinement and implementation of the Transport Strategy will be progressed.

Reason for Recommendations

3. It is intended that the transport strategy will not only assist with the implementation of Harborough District Council's new Local Plan, but it will also ensure that the County Council continues to deliver an efficient transport network and develop well planned infrastructure to support economic and population growth ambitions in the town.

4. Government funding for transport projects remains heavily focused on the delivery of economic growth. Government money for local schemes is generally now being awarded via Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), which have to demonstrate how investments will support economic growth.

5. The strategy will provide a strong evidence base, bringing together existing known and future anticipated transport issues and providing the enhanced context and justification required to exploit future funding and delivery opportunities. The strategy will be used to inform future bid opportunities, such as the Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF), and will also provide a basis for securing developer contributions.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

6. In order to determine how the transport strategy will be progressed it is proposed to report the outcomes of the consultation to the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet for consideration in the New Year. This will follow on from the anticipated announcement of the next round of Local Growth Funding (LGF) in the Government's 2016 Autumn Statement, enabling officers to provide Members with greater clarity about future funding opportunities.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

7. Supporting the economy of Market Towns and rural Leicestershire is a priority of the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership's (LLEP) Strategic Economic Plan, which was considered by the Cabinet in March 2014.

8. The Enabling Growth Action Plan, approved by the Cabinet in March 2015, identifies supporting the development of Market Towns as a priority activity for the County Council. It included specific actions to work with Harborough District Council to plan for the future growth of the town and to undertake a transport study.

9. The Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) Implementation Plan 2015/16, which was approved by the Cabinet on 16 March 2015, included actions to:

   a) continue to work with districts councils and other parties to plan for and support the future population and economic needs of Leicester and Leicestershire, including to support the development of new Local Plans (and other Development Plan documents), including for the district of Harborough, in accordance with districts' timetables; and

   b) undertake a study of transport conditions in Market Harborough, with the intention of being able to identify potential options for addressing current and future transport issues.

10. The key findings and recommendations from the study, and the proposal to undertake a consultation exercise has been reported to Harborough District Council Executive on 5 September 2016.

Resource Implications

11. The study work has been jointly funded by the County Council (from Local Transport Plan capital budgets) and Harborough District Council, at a total cost of £190,000. As a result an outline package of transport measures, totalling £14.9m (excluding a potential relief road between the A508 and A6) have been identified.

12. In March 2016 Leicestershire County Council submitted a number of Single Local Growth Fund bids to the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP). Amongst these was the £10.5m bid for Market Harborough. In July 2016 the LLEP submitted its Growth Deal 3 Bid to government outlining a range of projects (transport and otherwise) for which it is seeking funding. Whilst Market Harborough was not put forward as part of this bid it remains on the LLEP Pipeline for consideration for other funding.

13. The transport strategy will need to be developed and, where appropriate, amended as a result of the key stakeholder and wider public feedback received during the consultation. To enable this to happen, provision has been made for up to £150,000 of LTP money, which was previously allocated for scheme development/advanced design. This is subject to the Cabinet's approval of the above recommendations.

14. Currently, developer contributions are being sought as match funding for the SLGF bid. This includes a £1.4m contribution from the Strategic Development Area site (SDA) to the north-west of the town. However, at present it is difficult to forecast exactly when these contributions will be triggered and made available.

15. Building on the work already completed the County Council will continue to work closely with Harborough District Council to explore other funding opportunities.

16. Whilst funding may be available in the future from a variety of sources, including developers and/or successful SLGF bids, the County Council currently does not have sufficient funding identified in its budgets to continue to refine the transport strategy beyond March 2017 and to provide SLGF match funding for implementation. The County Council will therefore continue to work closely with Harborough District Council to secure funding to progress this work.

17. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

Mr. B. L. Pain CC and Dr. S. Hill CC

Officers to Contact

Ann Carruthers - Assistant Director, Highways and Transportation
Environment and Transport Department
Tel: (0116) 305 7966 Email: ann.carruthers@leics.gov.uk

Ian Vears - Head of Service, Transport Policy and Strategy
Environment and Transport Department
Tel: (0116) 305 7215 Email: ian.vears@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Study Purpose

18. Market Harborough is a thriving market town in the south-east of Leicestershire. However, the town faces significant growth pressures with around 2,200 new dwellings proposed before 2031 (including a total of 1,500 dwellings in a Strategic Development Area (SDA) to the west of the town), in addition to 825 dwelling built over the last five years. In order to ensure that the town's economy is not adversely impacted by traffic growth, Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and Harborough District Council (HDC) have jointly funded a transport study in order to develop a transport strategy that will mitigate the impact of planned future growth in the town and support HDC's new Local Plan. Whilst the study provides useful evidence in respect of traffic conditions in the town, its purpose is not necessarily to indicate whether any further future growth of the town (i.e. beyond that already known) would be acceptable in transport terms.

19. Similar exercises have been carried out in other County towns, notably Hinckley, providing an evidence base to support future funding bids and inform the content of future transportation programmes.

20. Market Harborough has not had a significant traffic study completed since the 1990's, when the A6 bypass was completed and the bypass demonstration project was implemented in the town centre.

Study Overview

21. The study area is shown in the main study report in **Appendix A**, covering the Great Bowden & Arden, Little Bowden, Welland and Logan district wards.

22. The study is aimed at developing an understanding of current and future transport issues in Market Harborough and potential measures required to address them, taking into account all planned and currently known future growth.

23. The study outcomes will feed into Harborough District Council's Local Plan and ensure LCC continues to support and deliver transport measures that are compatible with, and enable, future growth.

24. It will build on work carried out for the development of the District's Core Strategy and the proposed SDA site, to the north-west of the town.

25. Once finalised, the study will set out a range of transport improvements to ensure that the town's transport system continues to function as effectively as is possible and the town can continue to thrive economically, including the impact of known (planned) growth.

Study Progress

26. An important part of this study was the use of robust evidence on which to base recommendations. Traffic surveys were carried out in May 2015 with data collection undertaken at 40 junctions across the town. This evidence has helped to identify:
    a) how the network is currently being used;
    b) current transport issues; and
    c) the most appropriate measures to address these issues.

27. LCC and HDC held workshops in July 2015 to seek key stakeholder views on transport issues in the town centre. This information was used to inform the evidence base and provide a starting point for investigations.

28. The Leicester and Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model (LLITM) has been updated and revalidated for the study area. This has enabled officers to track any forecast change in demand on the network and identify where the greatest levels of stress could occur on the network in the future.

29. Further to this robust evidence base being established, a set of draft recommendations have been put forward. These recommendations include further improvements to encourage walking and cycling, junction improvements to tackle congestion and the possibility of more significant changes to the way that traffic moves around the town including a south-eastern bypass; linking Northampton Road (A508) with Harborough Road (A6).

30. It is important to stress that at this stage these are emerging recommendations and that they do not represent any commitment to further County Council funding.

Study Key Findings

31. The key findings below are based on various sources of information; whilst in some cases they appear to be obvious and well known, the study provides the evidence necessary to support bidding opportunities. They are derived from the study and relate to the current and future condition and performance of the transport network.

32. The detailed study is available in **Appendix C** along with the study appendices.

Findings

33. Traffic volume in the town is forecast to increase by 24% between 2011 (base year for the study) and 2031. Transport modelling work indicates increased queues and travel time on the network as a result.

34. It is evident from transport modelling and site observations that there are a number of junctions within the study area that currently, and in the future perform more poorly than others. Those junctions are:

    - A6 / B6047 (aka McDonalds Roundabout)
    - The Square / St Mary's Road / Coventry Road
    - Northampton Road / Springfield Street

- Northampton Road / Welland Park Road
- Springfield Street / Kettering Road
- St Mary's Road / Kettering Road / Clarence Street
- Rockingham Road / Gores Lane
- A6 / Harborough Road / Dingley Road / A4304
- Sainsbury's store entrance / Springfield Street

35. Traffic modelling work suggests that during the peak traffic periods:
    a) the greatest proportion of trips on the network are those going from within the study area to outside of the area, or vice versa.
    b) around a third of the trips using the study area over the peak hours in 2011 were making internal trips.
    c) 'through' traffic (traffic using the roads in the town to get to/from destinations outside the town) accounts for approximately 10% of trips.

36. Two of the three 'A' and 'B' classified routes (the B6047 and the A4304) within the study area both converge on The Square and therefore much of the traffic in the study area is reliant upon using the very heart of the town centre; in excess of 13,000 vehicles per day.

37. Feedback from local residents and stakeholders suggests that this results in an unwelcome mix of vehicular traffic in an area which local residents and stakeholders feel ought to be primarily dominated by pedestrians.

38. The classification of roads in the study area is not wholly representative of the amount of traffic they currently carry and are forecast to carry in the future.

39. The control and management of HGV and high sided vehicles (typically HGVs) routing through the town is constrained by low underpass height on a number of bridges, often necessitating passage to sites in the south of the town from the north via the town centre.

40. Whilst a localised scheme to reduce sign clutter in The Square was carried out in the town recently, traffic signing across the area lacks a coherent strategy and is in need of review.

41. Infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transport is generally quite good. However, there are clear gaps in the existing elements, which would benefit from improving.

42. Both on-street and off-street parking is generally well catered for in the study area. However, it is essential that one coherent parking strategy is developed for the town, incorporating a range of measures/parking controls which take account of the parking requirements of local residents, shoppers, visitors, disabled motorists, local business and workers.

43. All but a small minority of recorded vehicle speeds are generally in line with the posted speed limits and do not cause undue concern for highway safety.

44. Market Harborough consistently records a comparatively low level of road traffic collisions, compared to other similar areas (towns) in the county. Furthermore the

frequency of accidents on the 4 main routes across the town, the A4304 (west), A4304 (east), A508 and B6047, fall below that which might be expected on similar roads nationally.

45. Feedback from early stakeholder workshops suggests that the town centre's public realm is perceived to be in need of updating.

Emerging outline recommendations (The Strategy)

46. The study makes 16 recommendations, which form the basis of the transport strategy. These are broadly based around the following proposals:

a) encouraging walking, cycling and public transport use
b) improving key junctions and general traffic flow around the town
c) possible public realm enhancements
d) changes to the way that traffic is routed through and around the town.

47. The 16 recommendations are set out in the table below.

Emerging outline recommendations	
Capacity / Congestion Improvements	
R1	Undertake option appraisals for capacity improvements at the following key junctions: (i) A6 / B6047 (aka McDonalds Roundabout) (ii) The Square / St Mary's Road / Coventry Road (iii) Northampton Road / Springfield Street / Welland Park Road (iv) A4304 St Mary's Road / Kettering Road / Clarence Street (v) A4304 Rockingham Road / Gores Lane (vi) A6 / Harborough Road / Dingley Road / A4304 (vii) Sainsbury's store entrance / Springfield Street
Recommendations that result in changes to the network and traffic routing	
R2	Consider the upgrade of Welland Park Road to become the A4304, with a respective downgrading of Coventry Road. Determine the associated engineering, accommodation & complementary works to facilitate this work
R3	Identify opportunities to divert Highways England emergency diversion routes away from the town centre
R4	Determine the viability of increasing underpass height on Rockingham Road Rail Bridge
R5	Consider the principle of providing a relief road between the A508 & A6 to the south-east of the town
Sustainable transport infrastructure / behaviour change initiatives	
R6	Extend and enhance the walking and cycling network
R7	Make localised public transport infrastructure improvements
R8	Identify a suite of tailored behaviour change initiatives to encourage modal shift in travel choice towards active and sustainable travel.

Safety Improvements	
R9	Continue to monitor Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) within the study area. If an RTC occurs within, or adjacent to, a proposed improvement scheme proportionate efforts should be made where appropriate to include complementary measures that could reduce further RTCs.
Traffic Management Improvements	
R10	Devise and implement a new strategy for traffic signing across the study area
R11	Review parking controls in the vicinity of the town centre and train station, with particular regard to the need/benefit of further permit parking zones
R12	Sites with recorded speeds in excess of the Association of Chief Police Officers enforcement threshold should be reviewed
HGV controls	
R13	Identify undesirable routes for HGVs and impose suitable prohibitions. Whilst the promotion of a town wide environmental weight restriction would be preferable, two key routes are particularly vulnerable to exploitation by inappropriate HGV traffic and should be adopted as a minimum: (i) Ashley Road /Kettering Road between the A4304 and the A6 (ii) Bath Street/Western Avenue between the A508 and Farndon Road
R14	Send updated map to ‘sat-nav’ contacts, advising of HGV controls
Public Realm / Highway Maintenance	
R15	Extend the public realm to encompass the nearby rail and bus terminals. Make general aesthetic upgrades to existing materials and arrangement
R16	In light of the size and scope of the study, incorporate / consider maintenance activities in relation to improvement proposals

Consultations

48. Key stakeholder workshops have been held as part of early evidence gathering.

49. Subject to the Cabinet’s approval, it is proposed that a consultation with the public and key stakeholders is undertaken on the draft strategy identified in the study later this year. The consultation exercise will be coordinated with next stage of Harborough District Council’s Local Plan consultation period.

50. The intention of the exercise will be to act as a sense-check on the findings; seek views on specific recommendations; and to help to identify any priority order for implementation.

51. The consultation exercise will focus primarily on key stakeholder feedback / workshop sessions, but will be opened up to wider public consultation via a web based consultation feedback page.

52. The outcomes of the consultations will be reported to the Cabinet prior to continuing with any further work to refine and implement the strategy (subject to funding).

53. Where appropriate, individual schemes will continue to be subject to consultations

with local members and the public. Reports will be made available to members, as appropriate.

54. Leicestershire County Council will continue to work closely with Harborough District Council to try to secure funding to progress this work. This is likely to include the refinement and development of business cases for future bids to central government through the LLEP/SLGF or the use of developer contributions.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

55. The equalities and human rights implications are considered in the Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment provided as **Appendix B**. The schemes have been assessed as providing a positive overall impact.

Environmental Impact

56. The emerging transport strategy for Market Harborough is aimed at encouraging sustainable travel. This will help to boost the local economy, reduce congestion and cut carbon emissions.

Background Papers

Third Local Transport Plan (LPT3) (2011-2026)
http://www.leics.gov.uk/ltp3v1-3.pdf

LTP3 Implementation Plan (2015-2016)
http://www.leics.gov.uk/ltp3_implementation_plan_2015-16_n0954-3.pdf

Appendices

Appendix A – Study area map

Appendix B – Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)

Appendix C – Market Harborough (Draft) Transport Strategy (Main Study document) with its appendices:

Appendix A – LLEP Single Local Growth Fund bid application

Appendix B – Supplementary report: Transport Model Local Validation report

Appendix C – Supplementary report: Highways Maintenance

Appendix D – Supplementary report: Walking and Cycling

Appendix E – Supplementary report: Public Transport

Appendix F – Supplementary report: Junction Capacity

Appendix G – Supplementary report: Traffic Signing

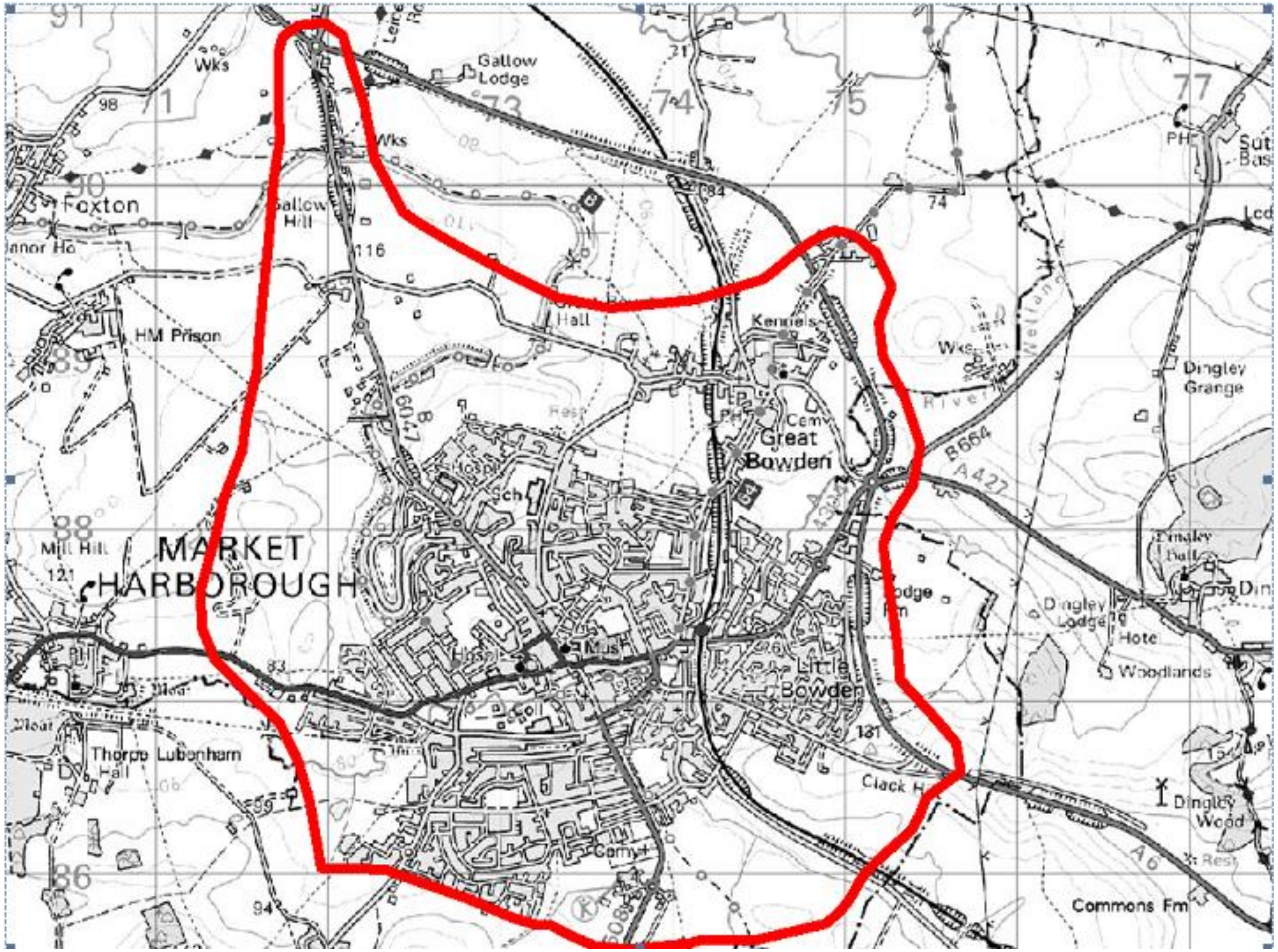
Appendix H – Supplementary report: Travel behaviour change

Appendix I – Supplementary report: Southern Relief Road evaluation

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A

Map of study area



This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix B

Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment

MARKET HARBOROUGH TRANSPORT STUDY
Draft Transport Strategy

Department of Environment and Transport

August 2016

Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)

***Please note: The term 'policy' will be used throughout this assessment as shorthand for policy, practice, procedure, function or service.*

Key Details	
Name of policy being assessed:	MARKET HARBOROUGH TRANSPORT STUDY- DRAFT TRANSPORT STRATEGY
Department and section:	Environment and Transport - Highways
Name of lead officer/ job title and others completing this assessment:	Mark Palfreyman Network Management Specialist, Strategy & Policy Department of Environment and Transport
Contact telephone numbers:	0116 305 0001
Name of officer/s responsible for implementing this policy:	n/a.
Date EHRIA assessment started:	1st August 2016
Date EHRIA assessment completed:	15th August 2016

Section 1: Defining the policy

Section 1: Defining the policy
You should begin this assessment by defining and outlining the scope of this policy. You should consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights, as outlined in Leicestershire County Council's Equality Strategy.

1	What is new or changed in this policy? *What has changed and why?* This EHRIA relates to the emerging recommendations arising from a transport study jointly funded by the County Council and Harborough District Council. The study considers the current and future condition and performance of the transport network in Market Harborough, taking into account planned and known future growth. The study will ensure that the County Council continues to deliver an efficient transport network and develop well planned infrastructure to support economic and population growth ambitions in the town..
2	Does this relate to any other policy within your department, the Council or with other partner organisations? Reference should be made to the previous Equalities Impact Assessments prepared for delivery of LTP2 Schemes below £500,000 (March 2009) and greater than £500,000 (March 2009). The policies which this Project relates to are those set out in the Local Transport Plan 3, which has an EIA in http://www.leics.gov.uk/equality_impact_assessment.pdf (March 2011). It also uses the design services of Engineering Design and their EIA can be found at http://www.leics.gov.uk/engineering_design_group_eia.doc Current national guidance document for cycling is the Department for Transport's Local Transport Note 2/08 Cycle Infrastructure Design.
3	Who are the people/ groups (target groups) affected and what is the intended change or outcome for them? **No specific group is adversely affected or is targeted for change.** The recommended transport schemes to emerge from the study provide improvements that will assist the local economy and build sustainable, safe and healthy communities through reducing congestion on our roads and encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport.
4	Will this policy meet the Equality Act 2010 requirements to have due regard to the need to meet any of the following aspects?

		Yes	No	How?
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Yes		Society works because people build relationships with others can only do this by being able to move around. In modern society the need to travel is greater than it has ever. Society needs an effective sustainable transport network which allows everyone to conveniently access employment, education, shops, leisure, healthcare, culture and other essential facilities. Market forces do not provide a universal service; many people lack convenient access, especially those without a car, those living in deprived neighbourhoods, those living in rural areas, and those with caring responsibilities or personal mobility difficulties. Local provision of services encourages community building, but transport isolation and poor connectivity penalises people without a car. People need to be able to access good local services without needing to travel.
	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups	Yes		
	Foster good relations between different groups	Yes		

Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Screening

Section 2 A: Research and Consultation			
5.	Have the target groups been consulted about the following?	**Yes**	**No***
	a) their current needs and aspirations and what is important to them;	Yes	
	b) any potential impact of this change on them (positive and negative, intended and unintended);		No
	c) potential barriers they may face		No
6.	If the target groups have not been consulted directly, have representatives been consulted or research explored (e.g. Equality Mapping)?	n/a	
7.	Have other stakeholder groups/ secondary groups (e.g. carers of service users) been explored in terms of potential unintended impacts?		No
8.	*If you answered 'no' to the question above, please use the space below to outline what consultation you are planning to undertake, or why you do not consider it to be necessary.		
	The proposals are being designed taking account of current national guidance. The next stage of the study is to seek agreement to undertake an engagement and consultation exercise on the outcomes of the first phase of study, in order to develop a preferred transport strategy for the town. Key stakeholders, user groups and the wider public will be consulted on the outcomes of the study; any issues raised in response will be considered as part of finalising the transport strategy and the recommended package of schemes. Moving forward, any impacts arising from construction activities will be temporary, with systems will be in place to provide mitigation where reasonable and proportionate.		

Section 2 B: Monitoring Impact			
9.	Are there systems set up to:	**Yes**	**No**

	a) monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups;		No
	b) enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities	Yes	

Section 2
C: Potential Impact

10. Use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any of the 'protected characteristics' may potentially be affected by this policy and describe any positive and negative impacts, including any barriers.

	Yes	No	Comments
Age	Yes		Improving access to key services by public transport, walking and cycling, and promoting social inclusion will benefit younger and older age groups. Older and young people may not have the same range of travel choices or be able to change behaviour. Improving facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users may benefit some age groups. A focus on packages of measures and value for money may mean isolated improvements needed for different age groups don't happen. Fear of crime or harassment and safety concerns on public transport, cycle-ways and footpaths can be barriers to different age groups. Access to hospitals in the County by public transport can be difficult.
Disability	Yes		Corporate communications and marketing is to take account of the needs of all members of the community. Scheme consultation is to take account of the needs of all members of the community. Ensure we have feedback from network users and the data to make better informed decisions. When developing measures to
Gender Reassignment		No	
Marriage and Civil Partnership		No	
Pregnancy and Maternity			
Race		No	

	Religion or Belief		No	promote and encourage increased walking, cycling and public transport usage consider whether it might be appropriate to provide complementary measures to address people's fears/ perceptions of danger such as improved street lighting. Consultation may identify further issues to be addressed.
	Sex		No	
	Sexual Orientation		No	
	Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities	Yes		Society works because people build relationships with other people, and they can only do this by being able to move around. In modern society, where there are more opportunities and specialities than ever before, the need to travel is greater than it has ever been. Society needs an effective sustainable transport network which allows everyone to conveniently access employment, education, shops, leisure, healthcare, culture and other essential facilities. Being unable to access transport affects earning ability, reduces access to life opportunities such as healthcare, education and training, and can lead in extreme cases to social isolation and mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression. Market forces do not provide a universal service; many people lack convenient access, especially those without a car, those living in deprived neighbourhoods, those living in rural areas, and those with caring responsibilities or personal mobility difficulties. Public policy has to make up for this market failure. Direct intervention can be a lifeline for isolated communities. Transport isolation and poor connectivity penalises people without a car. People need to be
	Community Cohesion	Yes		

				able to access good local services and ensuring transport provision protects vulnerable groups and reduces the barriers which inhibit people from using transport, such as fears about personal safety promotes this. Transport crime, the danger and unpleasantness of cycling on busy roads, and the perceived dangers of walking alone at night deter people from travelling. The project will aim to address many of these issues.

11.	Are the human rights of individuals potentially affected by this proposal? Could there be an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics?			
		Yes	**No**	Comments
	Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms			
	Article 2: Right to life	Yes		Where schemes within this project improved road safety, which reduces the potential for fatal road injury accidents there is a positive contribution from this project to the right to life
	Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way		No	This project does not contribute to the obligation to refrain from, intervene in, not exposing persons to or investigating in subjecting people to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
	Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour		No	This project does not contribute to the obligation to intervene to stop slavery, servitude or forced or compulsory labour as soon as they become aware of it.
	Article 5: Right to liberty and security	Yes		Transport isolation and poor connectivity penalises people without a car. People need to be able to access good local transport network to have the freedom to travel by a mode of their choosing. The project will assist vulnerable groups and reduces the barriers which inhibit people from using transport, such as fears about personal security.

	Article 6: Right to a fair trial	Yes		Where any civil offence is introduced as part of a scheme which makes up this project, the Council's EIA on parking enforcement will be adhered to
	Article 7: No punishment without law		No	This project does not contribute to the implementation or changes of laws.
	Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life		No	This project does not contribute or interfere with a person's right to respect for their private and family life, their home and their correspondence.
	Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion		No	This project does not contribute or interfere with a person's right to manifest their religion or belief.
	Article 10: Right to freedom of expression	Yes		During consultation on various schemes which make up the project, there will be a right to freedom of expression. However, where such expression makes discriminatory comments, only those comments expressed which are relevant to the scheme are taken into consideration.
	Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association		No	This project does not contribute or interfere with someone's freedom of peaceful assembly and association
	Article 12: Right to marry		No	This project does not contribute or interfere with someone's right to marry or found a family.
	Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against		No	This project does not contribute to discrimination on any ground or treat some people more favourably than others
	Part 2: The First Protocol			
	Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment	Yes		Where possible, the Project will try to ensure that policies or decisions do not interfere with peaceful enjoyment of possessions, restrict the use of possessions or take away possessions. However where compulsory purchase of land may be unavoidable, then the interference will be lawful and necessary in the public interest.
	Article 2: Right to education		No	This project does not contribute to securing the right to education nor

				interfere with it.
	Article 3: Right to free elections		No	This project does not contribute or interfere with the voting rights of individuals, nor does it interfere with the right to vote or to use their vote if they wish to do so.

Section 2
D: Decision

12.	Is there evidence or any other reason to suggest that:	**Yes**	**No**	**Unknown**
	a) this policy could have a different affect or adverse impact on any section of the community;		No – taking account of the proposals being developed with reference to current national guidance, and the proposed mitigation identified above.	
	b) any section of the community may face barriers in benefiting from the proposal		No	

13.	Based on the answers to the questions above, what is the likely impact of this policy			
	No Impact ☐	Positive Impact ☒ X	Neutral Impact ☐	Negative Impact or Impact Unknown ☐

Note: If the decision is 'Negative Impact' or 'Impact Not Known' an EHRIA Report is required.

14.	Is an EHRIA report required?	Yes ☐	No ☒ X

Section 3: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Report

As there are no adverse equality, diversity or human rights impacts identified in the EHRIA Screening exercise above, it is concluded that an EHRIA report is not required.

Section 4: Sign off and scrutiny

Section 4
A: Sign Off and Scrutiny

Confirm, as appropriate, which elements of the EHRIA have been completed and are required for sign off and scrutiny.

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Screening X

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Report ☐

1st Authorised Signature (EHRIA Lead Officer):
Mark Palfreyman,
Network Management Specialist,
Strategy & Policy
Department of Environment and Transport

Date:19/08/16

2nd Authorised Signature (DEG Chair):

Date:

This page is intentionally left blank

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

LTP3 HINCKLEY AREA PROJECT ZONE 4- PROPOSED TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval on the development of Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) Hinckley Area Project (Zone 4), which consists of further measures to build on and complement Zones 1 to 3. Zone 4 covers Hinckley town centre and the A47 corridor around the town.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that -

   a) Approval be given for the undertaking of a consultation and engagement exercise on the proposals outline for phase 1 of the Hinckley Project Area Zone 4 as outlined in Paragraphs 31 – 39 of the report;

   b) a further report be on the outcome of the Government announcement regarding the next round of Local Growth Funding and the outcome of the consultation and engagement exercise in order to determine how best to progress the Hinckley Area Project Zone 4 transport improvements.

Reason for Recommendations

3. To enable work to continue to develop proposals for Zone 4, including a key stakeholder and public consultation and engagement exercise

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. Subject to the Cabinet approval of the above recommendations, an engagement and consultation exercise will take place during the winter of 2016. The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet for consideration in the new year. This will follow on from the anticipated announcement of the next round of Single Local Growth Funding (SLGF) in the Government's 2016 Autumn Statement. The County Council, through the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) submitted a bid for £11.86M.

Leicestershire County Council

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. Supporting the economy in South West Leicestershire is a priority of the LLEP's) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), which was considered by the Cabinet in March 2014.

6. The Enabling Growth Action Plan, approved by the Cabinet in March 2015, includes specific actions to support the delivery of critical infrastructure development, including transport connectivity, reducing congestion, and enabling the development of major sites for housing and employment initiatives; in the South West Leicestershire area.

7. The first phase of transport improvements (Zone 1), was approved for implementation by the Cabinet on 17 June 2014, with the second phase (Zone 2) approved on 19 November 2014

8. The third phase of transport improvements (Zone 3), currently being delivered, was approved for implementation by the Cabinet on 10 March 2015.

9. The Environment and Transport Interim Commissioning Strategy Action Plan was approved by the Cabinet on 19 April 2016; it included actions to identify and develop transport proposals for Zone 4.

10. As the proposed transport improvements will have a significant impact on an area affecting more than one electoral division the schemes are being referred to the Cabinet for a decision.

Resource Implications

11. On 7 July 2014, the County Council was successful in its bid, through the LLEP, to the Government's SLGF. The bid approved funding of £5.5m to implement Zones 2 and 3, and to develop proposals for Zone 4 (Zone 1 was funded entirely from Local Transport Plan Capital budgets). Of this £5.5, £3.6m is from the SLGF with the remaining £1.9m being the County Council's matched funding contribution from LTP Capital allocations.

12. Approximately £1.3m of the £5.5m, was allocated for the development of Zone 4, with £300,000 allocated in 16/17 and a further £800,000 in 17/18. To date £200,000 has been spent on detailed feasibility and early design work. As a result a two part package of infrastructure measures, a total of £15.5m has been identified for Zone 4.

13. In March 2016 the County Council submitted a £11.86m funding bid, through the LLEP, to the Government's SLGF towards the further development and implementation of Zone 4 transport improvements. A decision on the success of this bid is expected to be announced during the Government's 2016 Autumn Statement.

14. At this point implementation of Zone 4 works and the further development of proposals beyond 17/18 is dependent on SLGF and developer funding.

15. In line with Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations, developer contributions are currently being sought and would contribute to the match funding. This includes a potential £3.2m contribution for capacity improvements identified on the A47, at the junction of the A447 and the approach to the A5 Dodwells Roundabout, from Barwell and Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extensions and the West of Hinckley site. Specific contributions are currently still to be agreed and subject to Section 106 condition, and as a result it is difficult at present to forecast when these contributions are likely to be triggered and the funding be made available.

16. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on the contents of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

Mrs. J. Richards, CC
Mr. S. L. Bray, CC
Mr. K. W. Lynch, CC
Mr. M.T. Mullaney, CC
Mr. D. C. Bill, MBE CC

Officer to Contact

Ann Carruthers - Assistant Director (Highways and Transportation)
Environment and Transport Department
Tel: (0116) 305 7966 Email: ann.carruthers@leics.gov.uk

Leicestershire County Council

PART B

Background

17. Analysis of the County Council's third Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 (LTP3) evidence base identified the Hinckley area (Hinckley, Burbage, Barwell and Earl Shilton) as a key area of focus for investment, where the Council needs to stimulate economic growth, minimise congestion levels and reduce carbon emissions.

18. The evidence base, which was taken from various sources including the Census, the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (H&BBC) Core Strategy and the Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Assessment, indicated that the Hinckley priority area:

    - needs to develop further economically and attract even more inward investment,
    - would benefit from wider travel choice (the H&BBC Core Strategy (2009) states that real travel choice in the area by public transport, cycling and walking is limited),
    - experiences transport problems, as a result of congestion on the local road network and incidents on the A5,
    - will be accommodating future growth e.g. through sustainable urban extensions at Barwell and Earl Shilton and significant employment development at MIRA.

19. The Hinckley Area Project aims to support the local economy by tackling congestion and improving access to jobs and education in the wider Hinckley area. The project is divided into 4 geographical zones.

20. Zone 1 (North-west Hinckley) was completed in November 2014 and covers the Coventry Road area of Hinckley. Zone 1 was funded from LTP3 capital monies.

21. Works in Zone 2 (South Hinckley / Burbage and Earl Shilton) started in April 2015 and were substantially complete by November 2015, before the start of the Christmas trading period.

22. Zone 3 (North-east Hinckley and Barwell) works are being delivered this financial year and are expected to be substantially complete by November 2016.

23. Zones 2 and 3 have been funded from LTP3 Capital monies (£1.9m) and additional funding (3.6m) from the Government's Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF).

24. Works for Zones 1 to 3 included pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, traffic calming, lorry weight restrictions and parking and traffic management improvements. To complement these infrastructure proposals, 'softer' measures have also been implemented, such as education and training, and funded from the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF).

Leicestershire County Council

Zone 4 Overview

25. Zone 4 seeks to introduce further measures to build on and complement Zones 1 to 3. It focusses on the town centre and the A47 corridor around the town, and aims to:

   - Address key current traffic problems, particularly along the Rugby Road corridor
   - Off-set future traffic impacts of planned housing, employment and retail growth (including Earl Shilton and Barwell Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs); potentially accelerating the delivery of agreed S106 infrastructure.
   - Complement town centre regeneration projects.
   - Improve access to key services (employment, education, health care and food shopping).

26. A detailed feasibility study has been undertaken which considered a range of potential transport measures to meet the project aims. Consultation feedback received over the past two years during Zones 1-3, from the public and key stakeholders including local members, has also feed into the study providing a greater insight into the key transport issues within Zone 4.

27. Based on the feasibility study and feedback to date, an outline transport strategy has been derived for Zone 4. A schematic plan of the proposed measures is provided in **Appendix A** to this report.

28. The total package is estimated to cost £15.5 million. Given current uncertainties about the availability of future funding and to ensure that best use is made of the remainder of the current funds (as per paragraph 13) the overall package has been reviewed to establish an initial series of priority measures, i.e. Phase 1.

29. A second phase package of measures (Phase 2) is likely to cost in the region of £6 million and is still subject to modelling work and early design development before consultation and key stakeholder engagement can be undertaken.

Phase 1

30. Evidence available from the feasibility study has been used to identify the first phase of priority measures, as listed in **Appendix B**. The estimated cost is £9.5 million.

31. This initial first phase package of proposed priority measures includes:
   a) Capacity improvements at two key junctions in the town on the B590 Rugby Road at the junctions with Hawley Road and Brookside;
   b) Capacity improvements on the A47, at the junction of the A447 and the approach to the A5 Dodwells Roundabout; to accelerate the delivery of agreed S106 infrastructure at strategic development sites in Hinckley, and at Barwell and Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs);
   c) Parking and traffic management improvements;
   d) Improved network signage; including car park electronic Variable Message Signs;
   e) Further walking and cycling routes/crossings across Hinckley town centre; and
   f) An extension to the number of 20mph streets/ zones.

Rugby Road / Hawley Road junction

32. Options for improving the junction have been assessed and officers' preferred preliminary scheme is shown at **Appendix D1**. Traffic signal control would be retained, but in order to address traffic congestion issues road widening is proposed in order to increase the number of lanes on junction approaches. The scheme as shown would require land from a supermarket which adjoins the junction. These particular proposals also involve the prohibition of the left turn from Hawley Road (W) to Rugby Road (N).

33. This is a key junction on a route into the town centre from the A5. Based on evidence derived from the feasibility study and from consultation feedback received during Zones 1-3, it is proposed that an emphasis will be placed specifically on accelerating the development of capacity improvement proposals at the Rugby Road / Hawley Road junction to a preconstruction stage (subject to levels of funding available).

Rugby Road / Brookside junction

34. Options for improving the junction have been assessed and officers' preferred preliminary scheme is shown at **Appendix D2**. In order to address traffic congestion issues road widening is proposed on the south side of the junction to provide a two lane exit for southbound traffic on Rugby Road with sufficient space to merge. The proposal also includes a new controlled pedestrian and cycle crossing on Brookside.

Normandy Way A47 / A447 junction

35. Options for improving the junction have been assessed and officers' preferred preliminary scheme is shown at **Appendix D3**. In order to address traffic congestion issues road widening is proposed to increase the number of lanes on junction approaches. The proposal also includes new controlled pedestrian and cycle crossings on the north, south and western arms of the junction.

A47, approach to (A5) Dodwells roundabout

36. Options for addressing traffic congestion issues on the A47 on the approach to the A5 Dodwells roundabout have been assessed and officers' preferred preliminary scheme is shown at **Appendix D4**. Road widening is proposed in order to provide an additional lane on the A47 (from Jacknell Road) for westbound traffic approaching the A5 Dodwells Road roundabout.

Walking and cycling routes and crossings

37. As indicated in **Appendix B,** further walking and cycling routes/crossings, including a pedestrian crossing on Lancaster Road are proposed across Hinckley town centre in order to improve access to and from key destinations in the town and improve connectivity between Zones 1-3, ensuring that the full benefits of a complete network are realised.

Leicestershire County Council

20mph zone

38. An extension to the number of 20mph streets/ zones in the town is also included in the first package of proposals for Zone 4, to complement the proposed walking and cycling routes above. This will cover a number of mainly residential roads off the main 'B' Road network, supported by the installation of traffic calming measures and signing. The 20mph zone will reduce vehicle speeds and provide a safer environment for walking and cycling supporting further enhancing the experience of using these modes.

Parking, traffic management and signing improvements

39. **Appendix B** also includes a number of parking, traffic management and signing improvement schemes to:

    - address inconsistencies and the suitability of current traffic/parking management controls.
    - address changing demand in parking patterns as a result of development and aspirations of local residents and businesses.
    - provide a coherent strategy of routing vehicles to car parks reducing the unnecessary circulation of traffic around the town

Proposed next steps

40. Subject to the Cabinet's approval it is proposed to undertake a consultation exercise with the public and key stakeholders on Phase 1. The intention of the exercise will be to act as a sense-check and seek views on specific proposals; to help confirm any preference for further development and potential implementation, should funding become available.

41. The consultation exercise will focus primarily on key stakeholder feedback / workshop sessions but be opened up to wider public consultation via a web based consultation feedback page.

42. Not withstanding the Growth Deal Bid submitted earlier this year the County Council will continue to work closely with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to explore other funding opportunities.

43. Any delivery of Phase 1 measures or future development of further phases will be dependent on securing funding. However, proceeding with early consultations and further design work will ensure that proposals have been fully developed should SLGF funding be awarded and help the authority secure developer (Section 106) contributions to achieve the required matched funding. In the event that the SLGF bid is unsuccessful, it will still be important to continue to develop the proposals within the resources available, to ensure that the authority is best placed for any future bidding opportunities.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

44. The equalities and human rights implications are considered in the Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment provided as **Appendix C**. The schemes have been assessed as providing a positive overall impact.

Environmental Impact

45. The proposals form the fourth and final phase of the LTP3 Hinckley Area Project aimed at encouraging sustainable travel. This will help to boost the local economy, reduce congestion and cut carbon emissions.

Background Papers

Third Local Transport Plan (LPT3) (2011-2026)
http://www.leics.gov.uk/ltp3v1-3.pdf

Interim Commissioning Strategy (2015-2016)
http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4601&Ver=4

The Hinckley Area Project website
www.leics.gov.uk/hinckley_area_project.

Information on LSTF2
http://www.public-sector.co.uk/news/article-1415

Information on the Local Growth Fund Deal
www.llep.org.uk/growthdeal

Appendices

Appendix A – Schematic Plan of proposals for Hinckley Project Area Zone 4

Appendix B – Zone 4 proposed priority measures

Appendix C – Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment

Appendix D1 – Preliminary design proposals for Rugby Road / Hawley Road / Westfield Road junction

Appendix D2 – Preliminary design proposals for Rugby Road / Brookside junction

Appendix D3 – Preliminary design proposals for Normandy Way A47 / A447 junction

Appendix D4 – Preliminary design proposals for A47, approach to (A5) Dodwells roundabout

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

A50 BRADGATE HILL, MARKFIELD ROAD, GROBY ROAD AND LEICESTER ROAD IN THE PARISHES OF GROBY AND GLENFIELD - PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval for proposals to introduce a 40mph speed limit and to close a number of gaps in the central reservation on parts of the A50 corridor through Glenfield, Groby and Markfield.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that a 40mph speed limit be introduced on Leicester Road, Glenfield, Groby Road, Glenfield, Markfield Road, Groby and Bradgate Hill, Groby and the gaps in the central reservation on Markfield Road and Bradgate Hill, Groby be closed as shown on the plan attached as Appendix A of the report.

Reason for Recommendation

3. Implementing a 40mph speed limit will provide a consistent speed limit along the A50 corridor as well as addressing the concerns of and to improve the quality of life for local residents.

4. There have been three personal injury accidents recorded in connection with the gaps in the central reservation, including one fatality in 2012, closure of the gaps will improve safety along this stretch of the carriageway. A recent safety audit supports the closure of the gaps and there is overwhelming support to do so from consultation respondents (92%). The background, proposals and consultation are outlined in Part B of this report.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. Subject to the Cabinet's approval, the TRO will be made and implemented as soon as possible.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

6. In March 2000, the Cabinet authorised the Director of Environment and Transport to overrule objections to future Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), provided that the proposed order had the support of the appropriate local Member(s), and that the Cabinet Lead Member was in agreement. Where support is not forthcoming, the matter should be referred to the Cabinet for determination.

7. Having considered the proposal, Mr. L. Yates CC has indicated that he cannot support the scheme. The proposal is therefore referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

Resource Implications

8. The estimated cost of implementing the speed limit scheme is £9,500. The estimated cost of implementing the scheme for the closure of the gaps is £20,000. These measures would be funded from the £200,000 allocated for Road Safety schemes.

Legal Implications

9. The Council's power to make TROs is derived from the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Section 122 of the Act places a duty on the Council to exercise the functions conferred by the Act to secure the expeditious convenient and safe movement of traffic. The proposals in this report are intended to improve highway safety.

10. In making the TRO, the Council would comply with prescribed statutory process.

11. The Director of Law and Governance has been consulted on the proposals.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

12. Mr. L. Yates CC, Mr. O. O'Shea CC and Mr. D. A. Sprason CC.

Officers to Contact

Phil Crossland Tel: 0116 305 7000 Email: Phil.Crossland@leics.gov.uk
Director of Environment and Transport

Ann Carruthers Tel: 0116 305 7966 Email: Ann.Carruthers@leics.gov.uk
Assistant Director (Transport)

PART B

Background

13. Concerns were raised by local residents and Mr. O. O'Shea CC regarding excessive vehicle speeds on Bradgate Hill in Groby. Those concerned highlighted two recent accidents on Bradgate Hill; the first of which was a double fatality that occurred on 29 January 2016 and the second a 'slight' injury accident that occurred on 1 March 2016.

14. A number of local residents, Mr. O. O'Shea CC, Edward Argar MP and David Tredinnick MP held a meeting in March 2016 regarding their concerns. As a result of representations made following the meeting, the County Council consulted on a proposed speed limit reduction from 50mph to 40mph and the closure of the gaps in the central reservation.

15. It should be noted that the cause of the double fatality on the 29 January has not yet been determined. One driver involved in the collision has been charged with two counts of causing death by dangerous driving and one count of causing serious injury by dangerous driving in connection with the incident. The court proceedings arising are ongoing therefore it is yet to be determined whether or not speed was a contributory factor.

Setting Local Speed Limits

16. The Department for Transport (DfT) has issued guidance regarding setting local speed limits DfT Circular 01/2013 -

    https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/63975/circular-01-2013.pdf

17. The overall speed limit framework is the responsibility of Government. The three national speed limits are:

    - 30mph on roads with street lighting
    - 60mph on single carriageway roads
    - 70mph on dual carriageways and motorways.

18. These national limits however are not appropriate for all roads. The speed limit regime enables highway authorities to set local speed limits in situations where local needs and conditions suggest a speed limit which is different from the respective national speed limit.

19. Key objectives of the Circular (01/2013) include achieving local speed limits that better reflect the needs of all road users, not just motorised vehicles and ensuring improved quality of life for local communities, especially in rural communities, emphasising that speed management strategies should seek to protect local community life.

20. The guidance outlines common factors that should be considered including the level of road-side development and possible noise or air quality impacts on residents and states that these factors may be weighted differently and that the impact on community and environmental outcomes should be considered.

21. Interpretation of the guidance could deem A50 Bradgate Hill appropriate for either a 40mph or 50mph speed limit; 50mph is the appropriate limit for dual carriageways that have become partially built up, with little or no roadside development. However the guidance also states that to ensure consistency within routes, assessments should be made for each length of 600 metres or more to determine the appropriate limit. When this assessment is complete, the final choice of speed limit for individual sections might need to be adjusted to provide reasonable consistency over the route as a whole.

22. At present the route from the M1 to the City boundary is subject to a number of changes in speed limit; 50mph, national speed limit, 40mph, 50mph, 40mph, national speed limit, 50mph and then 40mph from the City boundary. Therefore, based on the methodology set out in the guidance it would not be unreasonable for the A50 Bradgate Hill, Markfield Road, Groby Road and Leicester Road to be deemed appropriate for a 40mph limit to provide consistency to drivers along the route. Such consistency aids with reducing driver confusion, making it easier for drivers to determine the appropriate speed at which to drive.

23. Speed limits are imposed by the making of a TRO; the provisions for their creation are contained within the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA). Section 1 of this Act outlines the reasons for making such Orders, for example to avoid danger to persons or traffic using roads, to facilitating the passage of traffic and for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs. Section 122 of the RTRA outlines that it is the duty of local authorities to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) on the highway.

Proposals

24. The consultation proposal comprised of two options as shown on drawing numbers TM4410/3/2016 (Option A) and TM4410/4/2016 (Option B) attached as Appendix B:

- Option A proposes a 40mph speed limit on Leicester Road, Glenfield, Groby Road, Glenfield, Markfield Road, Groby and Bradgate Hill, Groby and the closure of 7 gaps in the central reservation. This option has an additional length of proposed 40mph speed limit on Markfield Road, Groby in the vicinity of Markfield Road slip road, situated south-east of the Scania depot north-west bound only, to the existing 40mph limit. This option sees the gaps at the Scania depot and Groby Parks Farm, on Bradgate Hill, remain open.

- Option B proposes a 40mph speed limit on Leicester Road, Glenfield, Groby Road, Glenfield, Markfield Road, Groby and Bradgate Hill, Groby and the closure of 9 gaps in the central reservation. This option sees the existing national speed limit remain on north-west bound approach to the Scania depot, until it meets the existing 40mph limit. This option proposes the closure of the gaps at the Scania depot and Groby Parks Farm, on Bradgate Hill.

Consultation

25. The scheme crosses the electoral divisions of Mr. L. Yates CC, for Glenfield, Mr. O. O'Shea CC for Ratby and Groby, and Mr. D. Sprason CC for Markfield, Desford and Thornton. All three Councillors were informed 21 days prior to the publication of the proposal.

26. Mr. Yates does not support the speed limit proposal, Mr. O'Shea is fully supportive of the proposals and Mr. Sprason would be supportive of the scheme provided there were to be adequate enforcement.

27. The public consultation was undertaken on the proposed TROs on 13 May 2016 for five weeks. The scheme was advertised in the local press, Leicestershire County Council's website, signs were erected on site, and letters were sent to affected residents and businesses. Copies of the proposals were made available for inspection at the offices of Blaby District Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and at the Parish Councils for Glenfield, Groby and Markfield.

28. During the consultation period 214 responses were received in connection with the speed limit proposals; 58% (124) objected and 42% (90) supported the introduction of a 40mph limit. The table below identifies the views of respondents broken down by their location:

	Object	Support	Total
A50 residents, or residents of side roads and directly affected	6 (10%)	56 (90%)	62 (100%)
Residents of Groby, Markfield or Glenfield, excluding A50 & side roads	52 (78%)	15 (22%)	67 (100%)
Derive from outside of the affected villages	66 (78%)	19 (22%)	85 (100%)
Total	124 (58%)	90 (42%)	214 (100%)

The above table clearly demonstrates that the vast majority of those residents living on, or just off the road, support the proposals, whereas a significant majority of those residents who live further afield but who use the road object to the proposals. Of those supporting the speed limit proposal 46 (51%) preferred Option A which includes the additional length of 40mph speed limit in the vicinity of the Markfield Road slip road, 12 (13%) preferred Option B, and 32 (36%) did not specify a preference.

29. The response from Leicestershire Police states that "*The National Police Chiefs Council guidance makes it clear that proportionality is the key word when discussing any level of enforcement. The police should not routinely enforce inappropriate limits. Action taken by the police to achieve compliance should be proportionate to the risk to individuals and property. Should a 40 mph limit be introduced and high levels of non-compliance become an issue, Leicestershire Police will request Leicestershire County Council to introduce other measures on Bradgate Hill in [sic] gain better compliance*".

30. Officers understand that the basis for Leicestershire Police's view regarding the proposed speed limit reduction on Bradgate Hill is that current recorded speeds on that section of road are likely to support the retention of a 50mph speed limit. The mean speed on Bradgate Hill is 49mph southbound and 50mph northbound. This would appear to show that drivers' perception is that the road environment is such that higher speeds are appropriate for this section of road.

31. The proposal for the reduced speed limit does not include any engineering measures therefore the only physical amendment will be signage. DfT guidance indicates that a principle aim should be to provide a consistent message between the speed limit and what the road looks like, i.e. drivers' perception of appropriate speed for the environment can be a factor in determining the speed at which they will drive on that road. Therefore Leicestershire Police may consider that without any additional measures, it is unlikely that that there will be a perception of a need to reduce speed.

32. Whilst there have been a number of recorded personal injury accidents on Bradgate Hill over the past five years, the site is below the national average accident rate. Therefore given the current budgetary constraints facing the authority, this site would not meet the criteria for physical measures to be implemented.

33. During the consultation period 118 responses were received in connection with the closure of the gaps; 108 (92%) supported the closure of the gaps and 10 (8%) objected.

34. A summary of the written responses received during the consultation are provided in Appendix C with an officer's response.

Conclusions

35. DfT guidance could be interpreted to determine an appropriate speed limit of either 40 or 50mph, based on the grounds of consistency of speed limit and therefore reducing potential driver confusion of the speed limit that should be

adhered to while travelling along the A50 between the M1 and Leicester, or alternatively due to its characteristics of partially built-up dual carriageway.

36. As is clear from the consultation responses on the speed limit proposals, the majority of the local residents are supportive of the speed limit reduction to 40mph while for those in surrounding communities or “through motorists”, the majority object. A number of those objecting cite additional journey time or the classification of the road (A50) as justifying the higher speed limit. The DfT guidance on speed limits considers these matters and states that higher speed is often perceived to bring benefits in terms of shorter travel times for people and goods. However, evidence suggests that when traffic is travelling at constant speeds, even at a lower level, it may result in shorter and more reliable overall journey times, and that journey time savings from higher speed are often overestimated (Stradling *et al.*, 2008).

37. A number of the objectors to the speed limit reduction cite the road environment, which being only partially built up in nature of this section of road, could equally justify a 50mph limit. The DfT guidance does state that while key factors for consideration are history of collisions, road geometry and engineering, road function, composition of road users (including vulnerable users), existing traffic speeds and road environment, the impact on community and environmental outcomes should also be considered.

38. A number of objectors raised the matter of the need for enforcement to ensure compliance with a 40mph limit. DfT guidance supports this in its view that speed limits are only one element of speed management and that local speed limits should not be set in isolation. They should be part of a package with other speed management measures including engineering and road geometry that respect the needs of all road users and raise the driver's awareness of their environment; education; driver information; training and publicity.

39. It has already been stated that due to the below national average recorded personal injury accident rate on this section of road, this site would not justify further measures. The County Council, through its involvement in the Leicester and Leicestershire Road Safety Partnership, does however provide driver awareness training, education and information programmes to help across the board with road safety matters including compliance with speed limits. It is acknowledged however, that there is a risk that implementation of a speed limit reduction to 40mph would not guarantee a significant reduction in actual speeds as this will rely on self-compliance by drivers.

40. The issue of difficulty of being able to comply with a 40mph speed limit when travelling south east towards Leicester given the downhill topography has been raised. This however, is potentially the same has having to comply with 30mph limits on downhill roads within the urban area. As drivers will be aware, starting such a downhill section at or just below the set limit with no acceleration usually means a car will stay around that speed. Given that on entering this downhill section, drivers will just have negotiated the roundabout at the entrance to the landfill site means speeds at that point should be relatively low, thus merely

requiring drivers to refrain from accelerating on exit from this roundabout to ensure they comply with the 40mph limit.

41. It should also be noted that a procurement exercise by the Road Safety Partnership for new safety cameras is currently ongoing. As part of this work a review will be undertaken on suitable sites for these cameras across the county. If the speed limit was to be reduced to 40mph, the assessment of the A50 would be based on that new speed limit. Until this review is carried out however, the potential for safety camera enforcement on this section of highway cannot be confirmed.

42. A summary of the advantages and disadvantages of reducing the speed limit to 40mph is provided in the table below.

Advantages	Disadvantages
40mph	
Consistency of speed limit for drivers along this section of the A50, therefore less confusion and potentially better compliance	Does not meet criteria for physical measures to ensure compliance therefore relying on driver compliance
Supports DfT guidance aim of seeking to protect local communities	Current recorded speed figures demonstrate that drivers perceive that they should be driving at higher speed on this section of road.
Local community support	“through motorists” lack of support
50mph	
“through motorists” support	Lack of consistency of speed limit (70mph, 40mph, 50mph, 40mph, 70mph from M1 to Markfield Rd) leading to potential confusion for drivers and potentially less compliance with posted speed limit
Better reflects drivers perception of the road environment as demonstrated by current recorded speed figures	Negative impact of higher speeds on local community in terms of quality of life
	Local community lack of support

43. On considering the DfT guidance on speed limits and the results of the recent consultation exercise, the recommendation is to implement a 40mph speed limit on the A50 between Leicester City and the A46 junction and between the Markfield Road junction and Field Head Roundabout. This recommendation seeks to take into account the concerns of local residents affected by A50 traffic speeds on a daily basis, as well as those travelling through who would experience a marginally slower journey time.

44. The overwhelming support for the closure of the gaps in the central reservation and the subsequent recommendation to implement these closures will also assist with quality of life by improving road safety along the A50.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

45. None arising from this report.

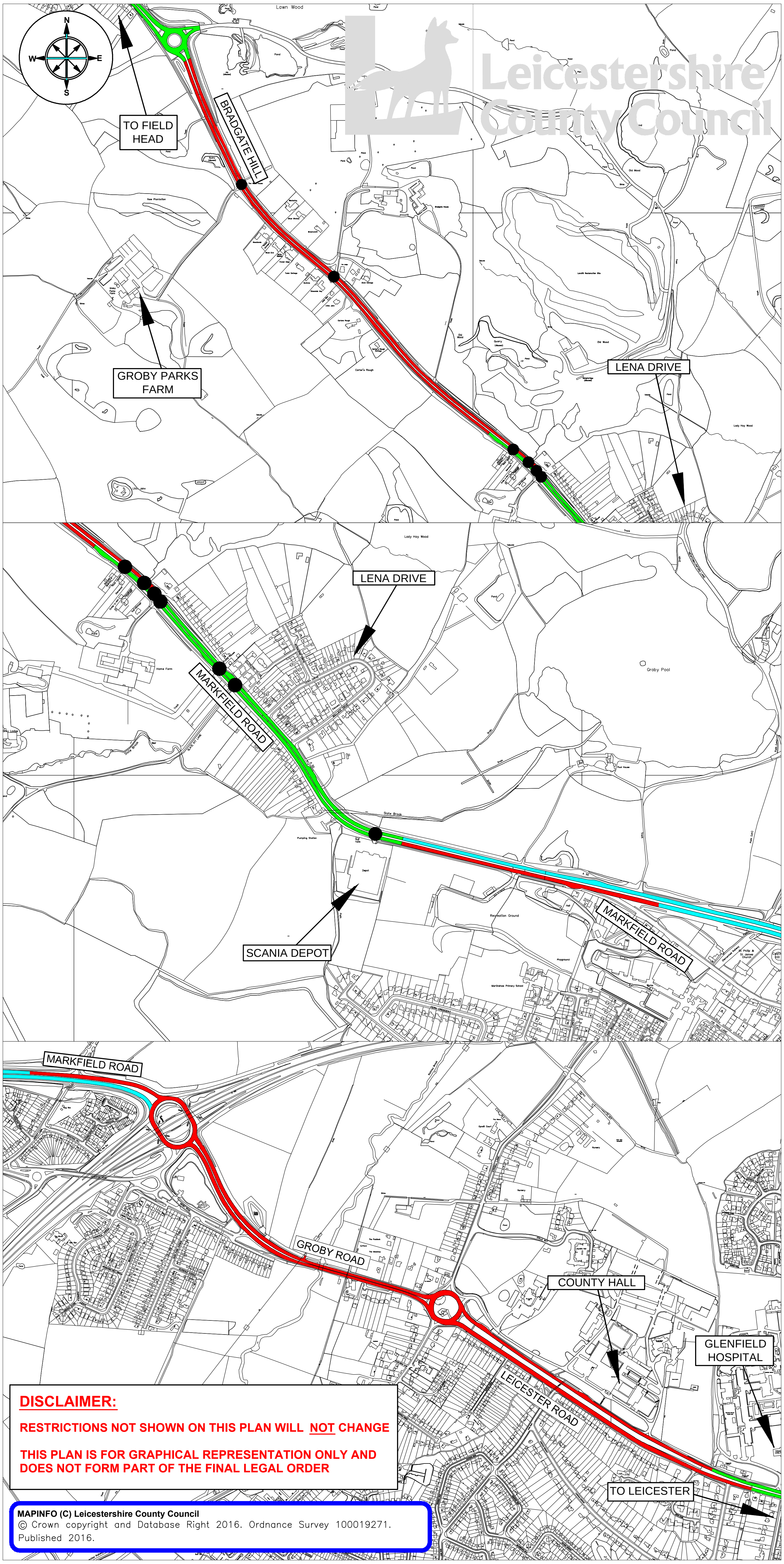
Background Papers

46. None.

Appendices

Appendix A – Drawing No. TM4410/5/2016
Appendix B - TM4410/3/2016 and TM4410/4/2016
Appendix C – Summary of consultation responses

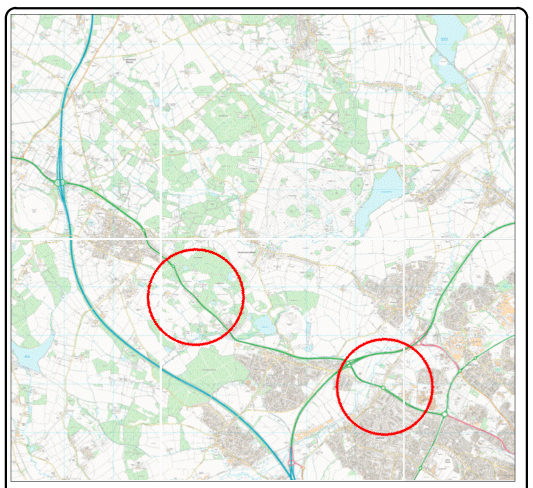
This page is intentionally left blank



DISCLAIMER:

RESTRICTIONS NOT SHOWN ON THIS PLAN WILL NOT CHANGE

THIS PLAN IS FOR GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION ONLY AND DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE FINAL LEGAL ORDER



PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT

EXISTING 40MPH SPEED LIMIT TO REMAIN

EXISTING NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT TO REMAIN

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF GAPS IN CENTRAL RESERVATION

Leicestershire County Council

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

PHIL CROSSLAND DIRECTOR

DESIGN & DELIVERY GROUP

A50 GROBY & GLENFIELD

TITLE:

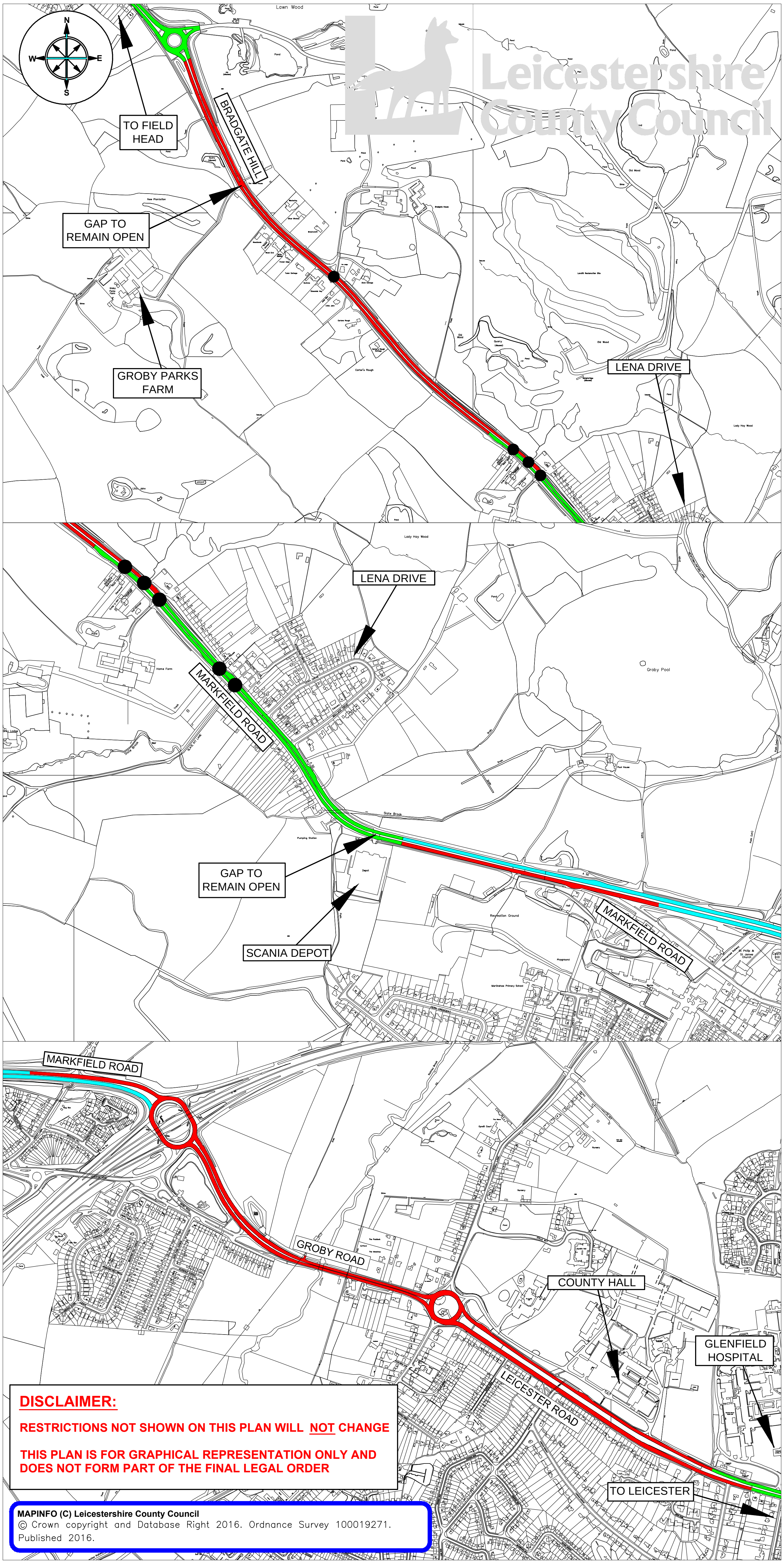
PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT ORDER AND CLOSURE OF 9 GAPS IN CENTRAL RESERVATION

DRAWING NUMBER		SCALE	
TM4410/5/2016		NTS	
PREPARED BY:	R DAVIS	DATE:	AUG 2016
CHECKED BY:	A HOPKINS	SIZE :	A3
APPROVED BY:	D MOULAND	CORR. FILE :	

COUNTY HALL * GLENFIELD * LEICESTER * LE3 8RJ

E.Mail address:	customerservices@leics.gov.uk
Website:	www.leicestershire.gov.uk

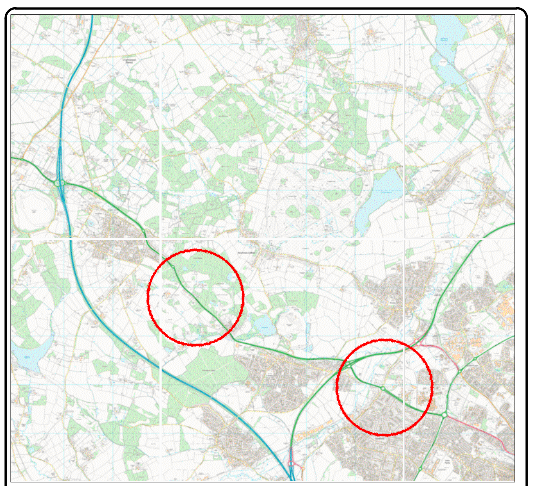
This page is intentionally left blank



DISCLAIMER:

RESTRICTIONS NOT SHOWN ON THIS PLAN WILL NOT CHANGE

THIS PLAN IS FOR GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION ONLY AND DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE FINAL LEGAL ORDER



- PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT
- EXISTING 40MPH SPEED LIMIT TO REMAIN
- EXISTING NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT TO REMAIN
- PROPOSED CLOSURE OF GAPS IN CENTRAL RESERVATION

Leicestershire County Council

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

PHIL CROSSLAND
DIRECTOR

DESIGN & DELIVERY GROUP

A50 GROBY & GLENFIELD

TITLE:

PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT ORDER AND CLOSURE OF 7 GAPS IN CENTRAL RESERVATION

OPTION A

DRAWING NUMBER		SCALE	
TM4410/3/2016		NTS	
PREPARED BY:	R DAVIS	DATE:	MAY 2016
CHECKED BY:	A HOPKINS	SIZE :	A3
APPROVED BY:	S BULLEN	CORR. FILE :	

COUNTY HALL * GLENFIELD * LEICESTER * LE3 8RJ

E.Mail address:	customerservices@leics.gov.uk
Website:	www.leicestershire.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Issues/Objections and Officer Responses - Appendix C

<u>Responses to speed limit proposal:</u>

<table>
<tr><td>Supportive of proposals due to negative effect on quality of life caused by volume of traffic and states that the vast majority of drivers exceed the current speed limit on Bradgate Hill.</td><td rowspan="4">The recommendation of this report is to implement a 40mph speed limit as proposed.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Difficult for residents to enter/exit driveways, therefore a lower speed limit would help.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Current noise and air pollution levels may be an infringement of residents Human Rights in relation to living close to sources of pollution, for example noise and air pollution from traffic on the A50. A reduction in speed limit will help to reduce pollution.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reduced speed limit would improve noise and access for residents at Markfield Road.</td></tr>
<tr><td>A 40mph speed limit will only be effective if enforcement were introduced because the vast majority of motorists do not observe the current limit.</td><td rowspan="3">The site would not meet the Department for Transports criteria for new safety cameras to be installed.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Average speed cameras should be installed.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fixed speed camera on Leicester Road, Glenfield in the vicinity of Oakfield Avenue.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td>Enforcement is unlikely due to limited police resources.</td><td>There are two fixed safety cameras on the southbound carriageway on Bradgate Hill and Lena Drive. Leicestershire Police currently carry out mobile enforcement on the northbound carriageway. However, the frequency of such enforcement cannot be guaranteed</td></tr>
<tr><td>Suggests fixed camera on the northbound carriageway.

Proposed speed limit would be detrimental to their business due to increased journey times and associated costs. Less economical fuel consumption and increased air pollution.

The scheme paves the way for further speed limit reductions in connection with developments.</td><td>The site would not meet the Department for Transports criteria for new safety cameras to be installed.

To reduce the speed limit of a comparatively short length of road by 10mph is unlikely to have a significant effect on journey times.

There are no currently no plans to make any further amendments to the speed limit along the A50 corridor.</td></tr>
<tr><td>A50 is a major arterial route from the M1 to Leicester is often used as a diversion route - A50 is the diversion route for the M1 and A46, therefore reducing the limit to this extent makes a mockery of the road classification.</td><td rowspan="3">When setting local speed limits, local authorities use guidance issued by the Department for Transport (DfT). Whilst it is acknowledged that the A50 does form part of the County Council’s strategic road network, this guidance outlines that traffic authorities can change local speed limits in situations where local needs and conditions suggest a speed limit which is lower than the national speed limit. It also identifies the DfT’s vision which includes improving the quality of life in our communities and encouraging cycling and walking.

The ethos of the scheme is to provide motorists with a consistent speed limit on the A50 corridor. A more consistent approach could help with compliance by virtue of a clearer speed limit throughout the route. In addition to this, the quality of life should be improved for local residents.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reduction in speed limit will deter drivers using the strategic road network, therefore encouraging drivers to pass through villages such as Ratby, therefore accelerating the deterioration of the highway infrastructure along non-strategic routes.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Main artery from between the north to the city and M1, therefore this is a crucial route for businesses.</td></tr>
</table>

Inappropriate speed limit for the environment.	
Proposals are not conducive to Setting Local Speed Limits; unrealistically low limits will not be complied with.	
Reduced limit will create frustration among drivers and those that currently exceed the speed limit will continue to do so. There is no justification for the road to be 40mph, therefore this will antagonise motorists.	
Reduced speed limit is inappropriate and will impede traffic, particularly in light of the Amazon depot and Magna Park Extensions.	
Keeping below 40 mph over the downhill section between the landfill roundabout and Lena drive, and again between Groby and the A46 roundabout will require braking most of the way.	
Extended 40mph in the vicinity of Markfield Road would not be adhered to as this is a good quality, rural and downhill dual carriageway.	
Fails to see how the scheme could be financially viable in the current financial climate	In the current times of austerity, the County Councils traffic and safety budget is heavily focused on high risk sites. However, there are instances where a site may be below the national average accident rate with significant levels of community concern. In this instance, whilst the site is below the national average accident rate, there have been a number of personal injury accidents over the last five years including three fatalities.

and speed reduction would not create sufficient first year rate of return.	The consultation was therefore carried out due to the significant level of community concern and to address the history where possible. When setting local speed limits, local authorities use guidance issued by the Department for Transport (DfT). Whilst it is acknowledged that the A50 does form part of the County Council's strategic road network, this guidance outlines that traffic authorities can change local speed limits in situations where local needs and conditions suggest a speed limit which is lower than the national speed limit. It also identifies the DfT's vision which includes improving the quality of life in our communities and encouraging cycling and walking. In addition to this, the ethos of the scheme was to provide motorists with a consistent speed limit on the A50 corridor. A more consistent approach could help with compliance by virtue of a clearer speed limit throughout the route.
Closure of gaps would deem speed limit reduction even more inappropriate.	The gaps are to be closed on the grounds of road safety. The speed limit proposal assists with concerns raised by the local community and seeks to improve the quality of life for those living in close proximity to the road.
No evidence to suggest speed is an overriding factor in recent accidents, proposal is a knee-jerk reaction.	The cause of the fatal accident that occurred on 29th January 2016 is yet to be determined. There has been a high level of community concern regarding Bradgate Hill section of the A50, therefore it was deemed appropriate to conduct a consultation in order to assess the views of the wider community including commuters.
Route has recently been improved with A453 works and traffic signals therefore the scheme is in contrast to these works.	The Leicester North West Transport Scheme that is currently underway, seeks to improve the link from Leicester City to the North West of the County. This is intended to largely be achieved by improving junctions along this route and installing traffic signals at major roundabouts along this route. To reduce the speed limit of a comparatively short length of road by 10mph is unlikely to have a significant effect on journey times.
Difficult to join the A50 from Markfield Road slip due to speed of traffic.	It is appreciated that those accessing the A50 at this point are required to wait for a break in the traffic in order to enter the main dual carriageway. This is not unusual or considered to be unsafe, however the report recommendation is to implement a 40mph speed limit as proposed which may assist residents at this location.
If Markfield Road access is such an issue it should be	There has been one personal injury accident at this location related to vehicles entering the main dual carriageway.

addressed by increasing visibility.	Whilst accepting that any accident is one too many, this rate of accidents, whilst not desirable, is not considered high for such a location, suggesting that significant works to improve visibility would not be justified or required at this time.
Suggests variable speed limit according to peak times.	The Department for Transport only permits the use of variable speed limits on motorways and for 20mph speed limits, therefore it would not be possible to impose a variable speed limit on the A50.
Concerned about pollution stating it will get worse with new housing developments in Coalville.	The issue of air quality is a district council function which would be taken into consideration as part of the planning process.
Option A should prevent vehicles driving on the footway in the vicinity of Markfield Road slip.	The extent of the speed limit proposed in Option A is to be implemented. Driving on the footway is an offence enforced by the police by means of a fixed penalty notice.
Would result in further excessive braking prior to the speed camera. Suggests limits are not consistent with City Councils A50 speeds.	The ethos of the scheme was to provide motorists with a consistent speed limit on the A50 corridor. A more consistent approach could help with compliance by virtue of a clearer speed limit throughout the route. The lengths of A50 that are within Leicester City Council’s jurisdiction are all subject to either 40mph or 30mph speed limits, therefore the proposal will improve consistency between the two authorities.
Suggests speed limit as a 'cheap fix', drainage and street lighting need attention.	Officers are not aware of any related street lighting or drainage issues.
Suggests roundabout at Scania which would incorporate an access road to the rear of the Markfield Road properties to enable residents to park at the rear of their properties. Suggests this could be as part of development of the fields.	To install a roundabout at this location in order to access a low level of businesses or properties would not be justified as significant carriageway widening would be required which would make such a scheme very expensive. The Council are not currently aware of any development proposed at this location.
Install speed limit count down markers in order to highlight existing speed limit rather than reduce it further.	Speed limit countdown signs are not prescribed by the Department for Transport; therefore they cannot be installed at this location.

Proposed 40mph near Markfield Road slip is unsafe due to change from national speed limit to 40mph. Suggests increasing the current 50mph on the Markfield Road approach to the A46 to national speed limit.	Prior to the consultation, concerns were raised by the local community regarding accessing the A50 via Markfield Road. In order to assist this manoeuvre, it was proposed to introduce a reduced speed limit on the approach to this junction. A reduction from a national speed limit to 40mph is not uncommon. With regards to increasing the existing 50mph speed limit on the approach to the A46 roundabout; this was amended in 2013 in order to reduced approach speeds to the roundabout. This also creates a safer environment for those accessing the A50 via Groby Road, Anstey. To increase the speed limit at this location would be considered detrimental in terms of road safety.
Speed limit from A46 roundabout northbound should be 50mph up to Markfield Road slip.	This length of road is a rural dual carriageway with very few adjoining roads and no residential properties; therefore it is appropriate for a national speed limit. Any reduced speed limit at this location would not be respected by drivers as it would be unrealistically low for the environment.
Objects to speed limit as the extents of the 40mph do not include Groby Road, Anstey slip. Suggests traffic signals at this junction.	It would be inappropriate to install traffic signals at the Groby Road, Anstey and A50 junction due to the low level of traffic that emerges from Groby Road. Whilst it is appreciated that this level is likely to increase with the ongoing development on Groby Road, this would still be comparatively low considering the 26,000 vehicle movements that occur on this length of the A50 daily.
Suggests pedestrian crossing on A50 near Gallimore Close for bus users and to assist with stopping traffic in order for residents to access A50.	There are three crossing facilities on Leicester Road, Glenfield; two pelican crossings and an underpass. To install further crossing facilities would be unnecessary.

Responses to proposal to close gaps:

<table>
<tr><td>There is a covenant in the deeds for the gap to Home Farm to remain open.</td><td>Officers can find no record of this. Supporting information has been requested, however no information has been supplied.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Closure of gaps would negate the need for a reduced speed limit.</td><td>The gaps are to be closed on the grounds of road safety. The speed limit proposal assists with concerns raised by the local community and seeks to improve the quality of life for those living in close proximity to the road.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Supports closure of all gaps as these cause confusion, as they are not clearly visible.</td><td rowspan="4">Upon the conclusion of the public consultation it is recommended to proceed with the closure of the gaps, including at Groby Parks Farm and the Scania depot.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Scania gap should be closed due to HGV's blocking City bound carriageway when waiting to turn.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Supports closure of gaps on the grounds of safety, but objects to gaps being left open for Scania and Groby Parks Farm.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unfair to leave Scania gap open which is a greater risk due to the size of the vehicles crossing.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Requests 1/2 gaps to be kept open north of Lena Drive due to response times as appliances would be approaching from either Birstall or Western Fire Stations.</td><td>The gaps are to be closed on the grounds of road safety, however officers do appreciate concerns regarding response times. Therefore it is proposed to install flexi bollards that could be overridden by fire appliances.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objects to closure of gaps as states that these had no involvement in two fatal</td><td>The cause of the most recent fatal accident (29th January 2016) is yet to be determined. There was a fatal accident in 2012 involving a vehicle using one of the gaps. In addition to this, there have been two further personal injury accidents that have occurred involving use of these gaps within the last five years.</td></tr>
</table>

accidents. States that current banned turn signage is confusing and should be more understandable for motorists.	Furthermore, a safety audit has been carried out and the recommendation contained within that report is for the gaps to be closed. The existing signage complies with Department for Transports guidance. However, with the closure of the gaps, the existing prohibition of U-turns for heavy goods vehicles' signage would no longer be required and therefore would remove any confusion such signs may cause.
Additional journey time if gaps are closed.	The closure of the gaps would result in the maximum additional journey of 5.1 miles and 6.36 minutes. The closure of the gap at Markfield Road Service Road would result an additional journey of 1.8 miles and 2.22 minutes. This does not include the average waiting time of 22 seconds for those currently using the gap to access the Service Road, therefore on average the additional time would actually be 2 minutes. Camera surveillance has been carried out and has shown the gap to be used for this purpose 11 times in a twelve hour period. The County Council will always prioritise road safety over minor additional journey times.
Requests gaps are left open in the vicinity of the service road as closing them would be inconvenient. Also warning signs or road widening to allow for a designated turn into service road.	The closure of the gap at Markfield Road Service Road would result an additional journey of 1.8 miles and 2.22 minutes. This does not include the average waiting time of 22 seconds for those currently using the gap to access the Service Road, therefore on average the additional time would actually be 2 minutes. Camera surveillance has been carried out and has shown the gap to be used for this purpose 11 times in a twelve hour period. The County Council will always prioritise road safety over minor additional journey times. Included in the scheme is the de-cluttering of unnecessary road signs. This is a Department for Transport initiative and the County Council is actively working towards reducing the level of non-essential road signs throughout the County. Carriageway widening to allow for a designated lane for those accessing the service road would be extremely costly. The County Council could not justify such expenditure which would have very little benefit for the whole community.
States further north of the service road there is a gap with a designated lane for	

vehicles to wait before turning, suggest this for the service road turn. Suggests creating a filter lane for access into service road.	Carriageway widening to allow for a designated lane for those accessing the service road would be extremely costly. The County Council could not justify such expenditure which would have very little benefit for the whole community.
Suggests prohibiting right-turns into Lena Drive as queues block outside lane.	There is no evidence to suggest that there is an existing safety concern at this location. The existing right turn into Lena Drive assists with relieving capacity at the landfill roundabout. In addition to this a safety issue could be created as the gap for traffic turning right out of Lena Drive would remain, which may result in vehicles turn right into Lena Drive, without the benefit of being under signalised control. Furthermore, it is unlikely that there would be support from local residents, and without there being a proven safety issue, such alterations could not be justified.
The most danger occurs at the westbound right turn into Lena Drive at traffic signals therefore this should be banned.	
Suggests traffic signals at Markfield Road service road to assist residents.	It would be inappropriate to install traffic signals at the service road due to the extremely low level of traffic that accesses the service road. Furthermore the cost of installing such measures is extremely high and to signalise this junction would cause unnecessary delays to all other traffic using the road.
No mention of gap at the horse field on Markfield Road.	This is out of scope for the scheme.
Money towards closing the gaps would be better used to install average speed cameras.	The site would not meet the Department for Transport criteria for new safety cameras to be installed.
Gaps should be closed and Armco barrier to be installed	Officers are recommending that the gaps are to be closed, however there are no current proposals install Armco barriers at this location. The proposed 40mph speed limit will also be implemented which should further reduce the need for such barriers.

General comments/suggestions:

Suggests cutting back vegetation on Bradgate Hill to assist residents exiting their driveways.	Since the consultation, officers in Highway Control have investigated this matter and arranged for works to be carried out to improve visibility that is impeded due to overgrown vegetation.
Suggests static cameras in both directions on Bradgate Hill, and red light cameras in both directions.	The site would not meet the Department for Transport criteria for new safety cameras to be installed.
Red light camera at the hospital island as it is notorious for motorists jumping red lights.	This length of the A50 is under Leicester City Council's jurisdiction.
Traffic signals would help at Field Head roundabout.	There is no evidence to suggest that improvements are required to the network or that there are existing problems with congestion that could be solved with the installation of traffic signals. Furthermore, there is a lower than expected accident rate at this location, which would also suggest that improvements are not required.
Suggests traffic signals at the Groby Road, Anstey slip and allowing right turn onto A50 to avoid the A50/A46 roundabout.	It would be inappropriate to install traffic signals on the A50 at its junction with Groby Road, Anstey due to the low level of traffic that enters that A50 at this location. Due to the infrequency of vehicles joining the A50 via Groby Road, traffic signals would only be required on a demand call basis. In practise this means that traffic on the A50 would not be required to stop frequently or at regular occurrences, therefore this could pose a safety risk and increase the risk of shunt type accidents. Furthermore the cost of installing such measures is extremely high and to signalise this junction would cause unnecessary delays to traffic using the A50 which would be detrimental to the efficiency of the strategic road network.
Suggests improvements required at Groby Lane slip.	This junction has recently been altered as part of a major scheme to signalise the A46/A50 roundabout. There have been no recorded personal injury accidents at this location within the last five years and based on the recent works at this location, further alterations could not be considered at this time.
Suggests a gap in the	This proposal is seeking to close the existing gaps in the

central reservation in the vicinity of the hospital to assist ambulances and residents.	central reservation along Markfield Road and Bradgate Hill on the grounds of road safety. Whilst there may be lengths of Leicester Road, Glenfield that have significantly wider central reservations and therefore that may be able to accommodate vehicles that are waiting to turn; to create such gaps would be extremely costly and could not be justified at this time. In addition to this, the ongoing works to improve the Glenfield Hospital and County Hall roundabouts have sought to improve efficiency along this length of road, therefore assisted local traffic seeking to access premises.
Suggests the creation of a gap on Leicester Road, Glenfield, to make access easier for residents	
A50 is of low standard of highway construction and a design of a long expired road quality of the A50 northwest of Groby.	Due to the age of the road it is narrower than modern standards. In recent years the northbound carriageway has been patched and the southbound carriageway has been surface dressed. Officers are not aware of any significant outstanding maintenance issues.
A community speed watch scheme could be as an interim measure.	Community Speed Watch is a scheme to help people reduce speeding traffic though their community. The scheme enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally and is a partnership initiative supported by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Road Safety Partnership. For further information on this initiative can be found at http://bealocalhero.com
Suggests that a link is established from the A46 onto the M1 northbound.	Highways England has no such proposal at this time.

This page is intentionally left blank

Leicestershire County Council

CABINET – 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the County Council Infrastructure Plan and the subsequent management and review arrangements which will ensure the County Council is well-placed to provide the required infrastructure to support future demographic and economic growth. The Infrastructure Plan is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that -

    a) The County Council Infrastructure Plan be approved;

    b) The management and review arrangements for the Plan, including strengthening long-term infrastructure planning and associated funding requirement estimates, be overseen by the Enabling Growth Board;

    c) It be noted that the Plan will be reviewed to incorporate projected demographic, housing and employment growth and associated spatial options agreed through the development of the Strategic Growth Plan being prepared by the seven district councils, Leicester City Council and the County Council up until 2050.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The Plan sets out how the Council will establish a more strategic approach to planning infrastructure across service departments by prioritising capital investment to achieve Leicestershire's spatial and economic aspirations in the short (to 2021) and medium (to 2028/31) terms.

4. The Enabling Growth Board has overseen the development of the Plan to date, and recognises the need to strengthen and further develop long-term infrastructure planning including ensuring realistic funding estimates are available to help prioritise the Council's Capital Programme. The Enabling

Growth Board will also work closely with the Council's Finance Team to explore innovative and commercial funding models to help meet future demands.

5. This is the County Council's first Infrastructure Plan which brings together information on future capital investment requirements as a result of demographic and economic growth. All nine local authorities are currently working collaboratively to develop a Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) which will provide agreed spatial options for housing and economic growth up to 2050 and it will be necessary to align the Infrastructure Plan to the SGP as a second phase of the Plan's development.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

6. The Scrutiny Commission considered the draft Infrastructure Plan at its meeting on 13 July 2016, and its comments have been taken into account in preparing the final Plan. These are summarised in Part B of the report.

7. A consultation exercise was undertaken between 20 June and 29 July 2016 during which key stakeholders were invited to comment on the draft Plan. The responses are summarised in Part B of this report.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

8. In May 2014, the Council agreed a Strategic Plan, which identified five high-level priorities and supporting priorities and actions for 2014-18. 'Enabling economic growth' was identified as a high-level priority with 'Building the infrastructure for growth' as a key supporting priority.

9. In March 2015 the Cabinet agreed the Enabling Growth Plan (EGP) which identified the Council's intentions and investments that would support the delivery of economic growth. The EGP was aligned with the three key themes of the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan: Place, People and Business. The 'Place Chapter' of the EGP puts specific emphasis on:

   a. Investing in key economic development opportunities and providing the infrastructure needed to facilitate them;
   b. Implementing strategic transport improvements, reducing congestion and encouraging sustainable travel;
   c. Implementing the Superfast Leicestershire Broadband programme.

10. The draft Infrastructure Plan was agreed by the Cabinet for consultation in June 2016.

Resource Implications

11. In the Plan's project pipeline (attached as Appendix 2) committed and approved expenditure outlined in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (2016/17 – 2019/20) and other secured funding administered by the County Council has been identified. External funds dependent on forthcoming

funding decisions, e.g. the LLEP's Local Growth Deal 3, are referenced along with future indicative and estimated funding requirements which will be subject to further business case development and the identification of appropriate funding sources.

12. The Infrastructure Plan will assist the Council in prioritising its own capital investments as well as supporting the prioritisation of bids for external funding.

13. A summary of the financial aspects of the final Plan are set out in Part B of this report.

14. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

15. This report has been circulated to all Members through the Members News in Brief Service.

Officers to Contact

Tom Purnell, Assistant Chief Executive
Tel: 0116 305 7019 tom.purnell@leics.gov.uk

Peter McLaren, Economic Growth Manager, Chief Executive's Department
Tel: 0116 305 3910 peter.mclaren@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Background

16. Infrastructure investment is central to the aims and objectives of the Council to ensure that local services meet the needs of future demographic growth and that the conditions are right for economic growth. The Plan identifies three high-level outcomes and associated interventions required to deliver these up to 2031/36. The outcomes are: ‘A connected Leicestershire’; ‘A prosperous economy’; and ‘Sustainable and independent communities’.

17. This Infrastructure Plan is the County Council’s first, and it aims to provide a framework to support the prioritisation across all departments of future capital funding requirements to support growth, as well as providing a working project pipeline to improve investment forecasts.

18. Five of the seven Leicestershire district councils have adopted Local Plans – Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth and Oadby and Wigston. Melton and North West Leicestershire are currently working towards this. Planned growth set out in these Local Plans has formed the basis for this first phase of the Infrastructure Plan.

19. The County Council, along with the eight other local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire, has committed to delivering a long-term Strategic Growth Plan which will set out the aspirations for delivering growth up to 2050. The Infrastructure Plan will therefore be reviewed, as a second phase, to take account of the emerging Strategic Growth Plan (SGP); the revised population, employment and housing forecasts anticipated via the imminent Housing and Economic Development Needs Analysis (HEDNA); and the subsequently agreed spatial options.

20. The second phase of the Infrastructure Plan will also be aligned to any future developments as a result of changes to the Council’s Strategic Plan, development of a Combined Authority and /or Devolution Deal, and Midlands Engine / Midlands Connect priorities and investment plans.

21. With ongoing financial pressures on public and specifically local authority funding, and changes to how local authorities will be funded from 2020 it is essential that future capital funding and infrastructure development requirements are planned and prioritised for the longer-term. It is also essential that as a local authority the Council explores innovative and more commercial means of income generation to support this required investment.

22. The Enabling Growth Board acts as the lead officer advisory group to Corporate Management Team on the Council’s economic growth planning and infrastructure development, in conjunction with other key bodies such as the Corporate Property Strategy Group and the Infrastructure and Development Oversight Group. It is responsible for briefing brief lead members whose portfolios reflect economic development priorities on cross-cutting and strategic

economic issues. The Board will therefore consider resource implications of the Council's economic and infrastructure growth ambitions and help plan and inform the effective use of capital investment to support leverage of government finance and other funding, whilst maximising capital receipts and minimising the need for revenue support or ongoing maintenance costs.

Draft Plan Consultation

23. The Scrutiny Commission considered the draft Plan on 13th July 2016. A number of issues were raised and as well as addressing comments directly in the final Plan itself, key responses are highlighted below:

    a) Whilst it is recognised that the focus of this Plan is on County Council investment, there is a requirement to take account of opportunities and impact of schemes and investment in Leicester and any other activity within one or more of the district councils.

    b) It is anticipated that the result of the European Union Referendum will have limited, if any, direct impact on the contents of the Plan due to limited funding referenced being made available from EU sources.

    c) The Plan will need to be refreshed regularly to take account of the emerging Strategic Growth Plan 2050 and changes in circumstance and funding; in particular housing growth and supporting transport infrastructure.

    d) Risk management is not articulated in the Plan; this will feature in the district Local Plans and will be integral to the individual infrastructure projects.

    e) Health and utilities are not included in the Plan as it currently only refers to County Council functions.

24. The Plan has taken account of responses received through the consultation from key stakeholders, and where schemes proposed by district councils have not been included in the Plan, responses have been provided directly by the Council's Transport team. A summary is provided below:

    a) *Highways England*: Welcomed the Council's commitment to (i) improving strategic road infrastructure and delivering key transport schemes in identified locations to support population, housing and employment growth, and (ii) collaborative working with district councils, Highways England and developers to plan, secure investment and deliver future infrastructure needs on the strategic road network.

    b) *Loughborough University:* (i) Acknowledged importance of funding M1 Jnc23/A512 development as integral to success of Enterprise Zone delivery. (ii) Noted that the plan is focused on County Council infrastructure but highlighted the importance of utilities (including power) in any strategic developments.

c) *Leicester City Council:* Welcomed the opportunity to comment on the plan and i) Acknowledged the plan will assist joint working and is a useful starting point for this work. ii) The plan needs to be aligned with the work around the Strategic Growth Plan and is useful for the delivery of housing growth and the supported employment required in Leicester and Leicestershire. iii) Highlighted that the Local Authority will continue to retain considerable responsibility under the recent White Paper, ‘Educational Excellence Everywhere’ and highlighted the need for cooperation and partnership working particularly over development affecting the education provision in the City and the County.

d) *Charnwood Borough Council*: Whilst acknowledging the infrastructure projects identified specifically in relation to Charnwood, feedback requested clarity on the omission of a number of transport schemes in the area as identified in the ‘Charnwood Infrastructure Schedule (March 2015)’.

e) *North West Leicestershire District Council*: Feedback similar to above (b) with a number of additional key transport schemes identified for possible consideration as part of the infrastructure plan. There was also mention of future infrastructure needs in relation to planned development, not least regarding outcomes from HEDNA and links to the (emerging) Strategic Growth Plan (SGP).

f) *Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council*: Highlighted a number key issues in the Plan, including; (i) dualling of the A5 trunk road between the M69 and M42, inclusion of the Hinckley Area Project and improving traffic flow through the Desford Crossroads as key priorities for the district council; (ii) investment in school places to ensure availability and accessibility across the county and (iii) further investment into the rollout of high speed broadband, particularly to rural areas.

g) *Melton Borough Council:* Main focus of response was on provision of school places linked to local plan (noting that its timeframe is to 2036 not 2031 as generally referred to for all local plans in the draft) and the need to make connections with all planned development, not just focussed primarily on Sustainable Neighbourhoods or SUEs. As with above (e), links between this plan and HEDNA/SGP were highlighted.

h) *Harborough District Council*: Whilst welcoming the document in helping local authorities plan delivery of local plan commitments, it was felt that given future funding constraints (not least on S106 obligations), greater reference should be made to the Councils position on the ‘Community Infrastructure Levy’ and that this could be considered as part of ‘other’ sources of funding noted against infrastructure projects, including clarity on the use of S106 itself. Also identified the possibility of providing greater detail on some of the projects (e.g. location) and more clarity on actual capital commitment to ensure better understanding.

Final Plan

25. Following the report to the Cabinet in June 2016, further work has been undertaken on the Plan, specifically in relation to School Place Planning and Adult Social Care services.

26. In terms of School Place Planning, new school claims attached to Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) and large-scale developments, along with pupil forecast data (from the 2016 School Capacity survey (SCAP) have now been used to provide forecast growth in school places along with the estimated financial requirements to deliver this growth. These are now included in the Education section of the project pipeline and further details are shown in Appendices 4, 5 and 6.

27. Strengthened references are also included for Adult Social Care, specifically the development of the Adult Social Care Accommodation Strategy for Older People will help initiate urgent work to guide, coordinate and facilitate the Council's contribution to the development of accommodation support for older people.

28. The Plan is attached as Appendix 1 and covers infrastructure required up to 2028/31 (Phase 1) and sets out priorities and funding commitments/gaps. Appendix 2 lists the Project Pipeline and includes known and indicative funding from 'other' sources, including the Local Growth Fund. Appendix 3 is an indication of longer-term core infrastructure provision - 'Transport Infrastructure Plan (2031)' - which identifies possible major projects integral to Phase 1 and the development of Phase 2 of the Plan, up to 2050.

29. Summary table of financial commitments:

	Funding 2016/31 - £m			
	County Council (latest MTFS) (a)	**Indicative External Funds (b)**	**Other (c)**	**TOTAL**
Transport	36.37	131.30	193.05	**360.72**
Broadband	2.50	0.00	11.50	**14.00**
Land & Assets	24.16	3.24	0.00	**27.40**
Schools	51.60	0.00	451.00	**502.60**
Extra Care	1.00	0.00	0.00	**1.00**
Community Grants	0.42	0.00	0.00	**0.42**
TOTAL	**£116.05**	**£134.54**	**£655.55**	**£906.14**

(a) Includes County Council and other known funding from a public source, which the County Council has been awarded and administers.
(b) Includes applications for grant funds either submitted or to be submitted.
(c) Includes estimate of other external funds either submitted or to be submitted such as Section 106; match funding, other local authorities and estimated costs

Conclusion

30. The final Plan sets out a clear direction and ambition for the Council to focus what it will invest in and how it will seek to secure additional resources for infrastructure critical to enabling economic development and delivering and/or

unlocking economic growth, supporting the provision of housing and creating sustainable communities.

Background Papers

Enabling Growth Plan
http://www.leics.gov.uk/enabling_growth_plan.pdf

Strategic Economic Plan
http://www.llep.org.uk/content/uploads/2015/03/SEP_-_full_document.pdf

Strategy for School and other Educational Places: In the Right Place
http://www.leics.gov.uk/in_the_right_place_-_strategy_for_school_and_educational_places_in_leicestershire_2014_-_2018_june_14-2.pdf

Adult Social Care Strategy: Promoting independence, supporting communities
http://www.leics.gov.uk/draft_adult_social_care_strategy.pdf

Corporate Asset Management Plan
http://politics.leics.gov.uk/Published/C00000137/M00004342/AI00043807/$2015CAMPMasterFinal.pdfA.ps.pdf

Local Transport Plan (E&T Interim Commissioning Strategy Action Plan)
http://www.leics.gov.uk/ltp3_implementation_plan_2015-16_n0954-3.pdf

Superfast Leicestershire
http://www.superfastleicestershire.org.uk/

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Infrastructure Plan
Appendix 2 - Project Pipeline (August 2016).
Appendix 3 - Transport Infrastructure Plan (2031)
Appendix 4, 5 and 6 – School Projection Figures (2031)

Equality and Human Rights Implications

31. There are no equality or human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Partnership Working

32. Effective partnership working is critical to the delivery of projects identified in the Infrastructure Plan. The County Council is an active member of the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, and its People, Place and Business Boards, which lead economic development investment across the sub-region. The Council will also work with the proposed new Combined Authority, district councils, the City Council and a range of other partnerships (including the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and Superfast Leicestershire) to deliver economic growth and meet future infrastructure requirements.

Risk Assessment

33. A full risk assessment will be undertaken for all projects receiving funds as a result of the Infrastructure Plan.