



Meeting: **Cabinet**

Date/Time: **Friday, 24 November 2017 at 2.00 pm**

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

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

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Membership

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC (Chairman)

Mr. R. Blunt CC Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC
Mr. I. D. Ould CC Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC
Mr. B. L. Pain CC Mr. E. F. White CC
Mrs. P. Posnett CC

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Appendices for agenda items 5 – 13 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=4865&Ver=4>
A copy can also be obtained by contacting the committee officer.

AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2017.	(Pages 3 - 14)
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.	

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|-----|--|--|-------------------|
| 4. | Removal (Closure) of Residential Facilities at Maplewell Hall Special School. | Director of Children and Family Services | (Pages 15 - 64) |
| 5. | Revised Leicestershire Youth Justice Plan 2016 - 2019. | Director of Children and Family Services | (Pages 65 - 68) |
| 6. | Annual Delivery Report and Performance Compendium 2017. | Chief Executive | (Pages 69 - 76) |
| 7. | Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022. | Chief Executive | (Pages 77 - 86) |
| 8. | Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan Consultation Draft. | Chief Executive | (Pages 87 - 94) |
| 9. | Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities: Joint Statement of Co-operation. | Chief Executive | (Pages 95 - 100) |
| 10. | Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 Proposed Submission Consultation Response | Chief Executive | (Pages 101 - 108) |
| 11. | Integrated Sexual Health Services - Outcome of Consultation and Re-Procurement. | Director of Public Health | (Pages 109 - 118) |
| 12. | Annual Report of the Director of Public Health - 'Leicestershire Health - New Insights Into Our Population'. | Director of Public Health | (Pages 119 - 122) |
| 13. | Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement | Director of Corporate Resources | (Pages 123 - 126) |
| 14. | Items referred from Overview and Scrutiny. | | |
| 15. | Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent. | | |
| 16. | Exclusion of the press and public. | | |

The public are likely to be excluded during the following item of business in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972:-

- *Purchase of a Share in a Teckal Waste Management Company.*

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| 17. | Purchase of a Share in a Teckal Waste Management Company. | Director of Environment and Transport | (Pages 127 - 164) |
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(Exempt under Paragraphs 3 and 10 of Schedule 12A)



Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 10 October 2017.

PRESENT

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC (in the Chair)

Mr. R. Blunt CC
Mr. I. D. Ould CC
Mr. B. L. Pain CC
Mrs. P. Posnett CC

Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC
Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC
Mr. E. F. White CC

In attendance

Dr. R. K. Feltham CC, Mr. T. J. Pendleton CC, Mr. D. Jennings CC, Mrs. R. Page CC, Mr. D. Slater CC, Mr. L. Breckon, Dr. T. Eynon CC

43. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

44. Urgent Items.

The Chairman advised that there was one urgent item for consideration, a joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Adults and Communities and Director of Health and Care Integration regarding progress with the assurance of the Leicestershire Better Care Fund Plan 2017/18 – 2018/19 and the target for improving delayed transfers of care set by NHS England.

The report was urgent because the issue had arisen after the agenda for the Cabinet meeting had been published and the subject needed to be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

With the agreement of the Cabinet the report was taken as the first substantive item (minute 46 refers) and the order of business was amended from that set out on the agenda for the meeting.

45. 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.

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC, Mr. R. Blunt CC, Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC, Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC, Mr. B. L. Pain CC and Mrs. P. Posnett CC declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 (Localisation of Council Tax – County Council Contributions), item 8 (Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places – Consultation Response) and item 9 (Delegation of

Adult Social Care Functions To Blaby District Council (Lightbulb Programme) – Urgent Action by the Chief Executive) as district council members.

Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC also declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 (ESPO Trading Company Limited) as a member of the ESPO Management Committee.

Mr. R. Blunt CC also declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 11 (Delivery of Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy (including HS2)) as an owner of land affected by HS2 and he undertook to leave the meeting during consideration of that item.

46. Urgent Item - Delayed Transfers of Care and Assurance of the Leicestershire better Care Fund Plan.

The Cabinet considered an urgent joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Adults and Communities, Director of Health and Care Integration regarding progress with the assurance of the Leicestershire Better Care Fund Plan 2017/18 – 2018/19 and the target for improving delayed transfers of care set by NHS England. A copy of the report, marked '13', is filed with these minutes.

The Director of Health and Care Integration said that in all respects NHS England had confirmed that the Leicestershire Better Care Fund Plan was acceptable, but it would not approve this without the Council's acceptance of the target to improve delayed transfers of care (DTOC) by November 2017. It had also threatened to withdraw funding if this was not agreed. Like a number of others, the Director said the Authority was faced with two unsatisfactory options; to agree a target which was unreasonable and unachievable, or risk losing funding of up to £22m.

The Director of Adults and Communities highlighted that responsibility for DTOC fell either to the NHS, the County Council (adult social care services), or they were a joint responsibility. The Council was meeting its DTOC targets. Performance across the health system to release acute care beds was also good in Leicestershire. It did experience difficulties in respect of transfers of people with more complex mental health needs that required non-acute care in the community. However, measures had been identified with health partners to address this.

The Director said that the approach of NHS England and the threat of withdrawing funding risked upsetting local partnership arrangements and could result in the Council no longer meeting its DTOC targets and more importantly, being able to meet its overall statutory responsibilities for domiciliary care. He further highlighted that any withdrawn funds would be transferred to the NHS to procure care directly which perversely would cost the NHS more as this would be less planned and at higher rates.

Mr White CC said the position was very frustrating as local care, partnership working and DTOC performance by the Authority was good. He said he also remained concerned about the possible consequences if NHS England's target was not met.

Mr Blunt CC said that the NHS was in difficulty and a pragmatic approach was necessary, as despite NHS England's method of tackling its problems, the Council was committed to working with local NHS partners to improve DTOC across the County.

Mr Rhodes CC said he was concerned about how the approach of NHS England might affect the local health economy as reducing funding would risk a deterioration in the

DTOC position in Leicestershire. He said he considered the approach of NHS England to be 'stupid' and a result of incompetence by senior management within the organisation which could not continue.

RESOLVED:

- (a) Notes the current status of the assurance of the Leicestershire BCF Plan as "not approved", the reason for this position, and the placing of Leicestershire's BCF plan in formal escalation with NHS England as a result of this;
- (b) Notes the additional risks on the BCF pooled budget and the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) should any BCF funds be withheld/removed during 2017/18 or 2018/19, the impact this could have on core service provision for citizens, and the associated reputational risk for the Council and NHS partners;
- (c) Reluctantly accepts the DTOC target imposed by NHS England but with the following caveats:
 - (i) The County Council continues to object to the imposition of this target by NHS England, with the significant risks that have been placed on BCF assurance, and the associated financial penalties if a compliant target is not submitted;
 - (ii) In accepting this change to the submitted DTOC trajectory, the County Council expects the Health and Wellbeing Board's BCF plan assurance rating to be reviewed and adjusted with immediate effect;
 - (iii) As the County Council and partners still bear a clear risk of financial penalties during 2017/18 (if the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (LLR) area does not reach the required level of improvement by November 2017) information is immediately provided to the three Councils and the three CCGs about:
 - a) The process, scale and timing for imposing any DTOC performance penalties per the November milestone, so that partners can plan effectively for the remainder of this financial year; and
 - b) Implications for local areas in relation to DTOC performance beyond November 2017 so that financial risks for 2018/19 can be assessed as soon as possible.
- (d) Draws the attention of the Local Government Association and the County Councils' Network to its serious concerns about the actions and attitude of NHS England in this regard and requests them to continue to challenge Ministers so that partnership working on health and care integration is not further damaged;
- (e) Notes that a further report on this matter will be made to the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 16 November 2017.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

In July 2017, after a lengthy national delay, technical guidance was published by NHS England for the preparation and submission of BCF Plans for the period 2017/18 – 2018/19. This technical guidance included new requirements for improving delayed

transfers of care (DTC) with challenging expectations placed on each health and wellbeing board area in terms of the rate of improvement to be achieved during 2017/18.

The guidance also highlighted that areas with poor performance on DTC could be subject to escalation with NHS England, external review by the Care Quality Commission and financial penalties.

The national conditions for the BCF Plan include a requirement that it is jointly agreed by the County Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups, including through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

47. ESPO Trading Company Ltd.

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources, which set out the recommendations of the ESPO (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) Management Committee and senior officers of the six member councils concerning the establishment of a new company, ESPO Trading Company Ltd. A copy of the report, marked '4', is filed with these minutes.

Mr Rhodes CC said that ESPO had grown into a very successful organisation and by creating a limited company it would be able to expand further, increasing its trading capacity and therefore the income generated.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the decision of the ESPO Management Committee, having reviewed the detailed business case and other documents, to recommend each of the six member authorities establish a new trading company, be noted;
- (b) That approval be given to the establishment of a new trading company, 'ESPO Trading Company Limited', on the basis outlined in the report and that the Chief Executive be authorised to agree the terms of, and sign the necessary documentation to give effect to this decision;
- (c) That it be noted that the Board of Directors of the trading company will include five officers, acting as Executive Directors made up as follows:
 - (i) three officers from ESPO's senior Management Team including the Director;
 - (ii) the Director of Corporate Resources (Leicestershire County Council) or his nominee;
 - (iii) an officer nominated by the other Shareholders (member authorities) of ESPO;
- (d) That approval be given for arrangements to be put in place to indemnify the ESPO and Leicestershire County Council officers in discharging their role as Executive Directors of the Company;
- (e) That it be noted that the Shareholders (member authorities) may nominate up to two Non-Executive Directors to serve on the Board of the Company;
- (f) That it be noted that each of the six member authorities will be equal shareholders in the new Company and that the shareholder representatives on the new company will be one elected member from each member authority drawn from the membership of

the ESPO Management Committee;

- (g) That it be noted that the shareholder representatives (elected members) will be responsible for taking strategic decisions and agreeing the Annual Business Plan for the Company.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

ESPO is established as a joint committee set up in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000. Its servicing authority, Leicestershire County Council, is limited to trading under powers in section 1 of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 with a limited number of organisations defined as public bodies under that Act.

Member authorities of ESPO have the opportunity to explore alternative markets that are not public bodies, by using the powers under:-

- i) Section 4 of the Localism Act 2011 and Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2003 to trade for profit, through the new separate company;
- ii) Section 3 of the Localism Act 2011 and Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2000 to make a charge through the existing joint committee and servicing authority for goods and services to organisations other than those with which ESPO may trade by virtue of the Local Authority (Goods and Services) Act 1970.

By virtue of being able to trade with organisations in addition to public bodies, ESPO and the new Company will be able to secure ESPO's position in an increasingly competitive market and deliver the growth and profit targets set by the ESPO Management Committee in its Medium Term Financial Strategy.

48. Implementation of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II).

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources, which recommended action to ensure the County Council could continue to access a full range of relevant investment opportunities following implementation of the Markets in Financial Instrument Directive 2014/65 (MiFID II). A copy of the report, marked '5', is filed with these minutes.

Mr Rhodes CC criticised the new EU directive, but said the proposed approach to 'opt-up' would ensure the Authority was not unreasonably disadvantaged.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the potentially detrimental impact on the County Council's treasury management and other investment activities if it becomes classed as a 'retail client' in accordance with Markets in Financial Instrument Directive 2014/65 with effect from 3rd January 2018, be noted;
- (b) That the Director of Finance be authorised to commence the relevant applications for the County Council to seek to opt-up to elected professional client status with

all relevant institutions in order to enable it to continue to implement an effective treasury management strategy and other investment activities;

- (c) That it be noted that if it is successful in its applications to obtain elected professional client status, the County Council will forgo those protections available to retail clients as listed in the appendix attached to this report.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Unless the County Council seeks to 'opt-up' to elected professional client status there will be a detrimental impact on the investments it can access either as part of its treasury management function, or as part of any other investment activity. Retail investors (which, under the new Directive, the County Council will become classified as without the opt-up) will not be able to access some of the investment options that are currently available, and there is a possibility that some of the existing investments (most notably the pooled property funds currently held) may be forcibly sold if the County Council is reclassified as a retail investor.

49. Localisation of Council Tax Support - County Council Contributions.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which sought approval to cease all contributions made by the County Council to Leicestershire billing authorities (i.e. the seven district councils) to support the administration of the Localisation of Council Tax Support schemes (LCTS) and to the Discretionary Discount Funds (DDF) administered by the billing authorities, both introduced in 2013. A copy of the report, marked '6' is filed with these minutes.

The Director of Finance emphasised that council tax collection was a district council function for which it received Government funding and that the withdrawal of County Council contributions to the DDF did not necessarily mean it would come to an end.

Mr Rhodes CC said that delaying the withdrawal of contributions to the DDF to 2019 gave district councils time to consider and introduce changes to the scheme as they considered necessary. The Fund was established for a good purpose, but over time had not been drawn on as expected and it was therefore appropriate for the Council's contributions to now be withdrawn.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the County Council cease all contributions it makes to billing authorities towards the administration costs of operating the Localisation of Council Tax Support schemes as from 1 April 2018 and to the Discretionary Discount Funds from 1 April 2019;
- (b) That £100,000 be set aside from the forecast 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Strategy monitoring underspend to fund the contribution to the Discretionary Discount Fund in 2018/19 until this is ceased in accordance with (a) above.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Due to the financial pressures facing the County Council, the MTFS included a saving from a review of the contributions it makes to the 7 Leicestershire billing authorities in respect of Localisation of Council Tax Support scheme administration costs and to the Discretionary Discount Funds (DDF). The proposals set out in this report are aimed at achieving this saving but on a timescale that will enable billing authorities to manage the proposed reduction in funding, particularly in respect of the DDF.

50. Developer Contributions towards County Council Services - Update.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive, which provided an update on the work undertaken to address concerns that the Council's reasonable expectations of receiving Developer Contributions via S106 planning agreements are being met to meet demands placed on services created by development across the County following the previous report to the Cabinet in November 2016. A copy of the report, marked '7', is filed with these minutes.

Members noted the comments received from the Labour Group, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Mr Rhodes CC emphasised the need for all district councils to support the Council's requests for developer contributions which would in turn support the infrastructure required by schemes approved by local planning authorities.

RESOLVED:

That the update now provided be noted and that progress on Developer Contributions continue to be monitored.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

It is important that the County Council does what it can to meet the demands on its services in increasingly difficult financial circumstances. Ensuring that developers make appropriate contributions to mitigate the consequences of their developments via Developer Contributions is essential if communities are not disadvantaged and the County Council is not put under excessive financial demands which it will not be able to meet.

Local planning authorities should do all they can to ensure developments are sustainable and meet the reasonable obligations requested of them.

51. Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places - Consultation Response.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval of the draft response to the Department for Communities and Local Government's 'Planning for the right homes in the right places' consultation. A copy of the report, marked '8', is filed with these minutes.

Mr Rushton CC said it was unfair that the need for additional resources for county councils was not being recognised as they too played a role in supporting housing delivery.

Mr Rhodes CC expressed concern that the introduction of a formula based approach to apportioning housing need could be too rigid and needed to allow for some local flexibility. He also supported the concern raised by Mr Rushton.

The Chief Executive undertook to address both issues further in the final response to be submitted to Government.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the summary response to the Government Consultation 'Planning for the right homes in the right places' as set out in paragraphs 18 to 46 of the report be approved;
- (b) That the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make any minor amendments to the proposed response arising from further detailed consideration of the consultation paper prior to its submission to the Government by the 9th November 2017 deadline.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To respond to the Government Consultation regarding a number of proposals to reform the planning system which are aimed at increasing the supply of new homes and local authority capacity to manage growth.

The County Council is working with Local Planning Authorities across Leicester and Leicestershire to develop a Strategic Growth Plan which will guide housing and infrastructure requirements across the agreed Housing Market Area. This response has been written to ensure that the robust and collaborative work already undertaken is not undermined, but benefits from any changes to a revised National Planning Policy Framework.

52. Delegation of Adult Social Care Functions to Blaby District Council (Lightbulb Programme) - Urgent Action by the Chief Executive.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities regarding urgent action taken by the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to delegate the Adult Social Care functions to be undertaken under the Lightbulb Programme pathway to Blaby District Council. A copy of the report, marked '9' is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the urgent action taken by the Chief Executive under delegated powers, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to delegate the Adult Social Care functions to be undertaken under the Lightbulb Programme pathway to Blaby District Council as detailed in paragraph 19 of the report, be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The delegation of those Adult Social Care (ASC) functions detailed in paragraph 19 of this report is a requirement under the legal agreement necessary to enable the delivery of a streamlined housing support pathway under the Lightbulb Programme being hosted by Blaby District Council.

Urgent action was taken by the Chief Executive on 12 September 2017 to delegate these ASC functions to Blaby District Council to enable the Lightbulb Programme to be rolled out to all Leicestershire districts by 2 October 2017.

53. Draft Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers Strategy 2018 - 2021.

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Adults and Communities, Director of Children and Family Services and the Director of Public Health which sought approval to consult on the draft Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Carers Strategy 2018-2021. The Strategy set out the draft strategic priorities relating to unpaid carers of all ages and was intended as a joint strategy including all local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups across LLR. The report also highlighted key improvements being made to the cares support offer in Leicestershire. A copy of the report, marked '10', is filed with these minutes.

Mr Rushton CC thanked the Director of Adults and Communities for what was an excellent piece of work to ensure carers of all ages were being properly supported.

Mr Blunt CC said that from the survey, it was clear that the support offered to carers was not good enough and therefore work was being undertaken to address this and to improve things for the future.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers Strategy 2018 – 2021 (attached as Appendix A to the report) be approved for consultation;
- (b) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in March 2018 regarding the outcome of the consultation and presenting the final Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers Strategy 2018 – 2021 for approval;
- (c) That the Director of Adults and Communities be authorised to take such action as he considers appropriate in response to the engagement feedback received to improve the Council's response to adult carers whilst further consultation on the overarching Strategy is completed.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Directors of Adults and Communities, Children and Family Services and Public Health require the Cabinet's permission to undertake a formal joint consultation alongside Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), West Leicestershire CCG and East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG on the priorities and actions identified for supporting unpaid carers.

Significant carer and stakeholder engagement has been undertaken during the summer of 2017, and the draft Strategy has been co-produced alongside carers. Amendments may be required to the draft Strategy after formal consultation responses are received.

Through the engagement undertaken during the summer of 2017, three key areas for improvement to support adult carers have been identified which can be implemented without impact on the progression of the Strategy:

- helping carers to navigate the pathway to support;
- simplification of the assessment process;
- increase in respite provision.

54. Delivery of Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy (Including HS2)

[Mr. R. Blunt CC left the meeting during consideration of this item.]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport which sought approval of the Council's proposed response to the East Midlands Rail Franchise consultation, to advise of the impact of the Department for Transport announcement to cancel electrification of the Midland Mainline (MML) north of Kettering on the delivery of the priorities set out in the Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy, and to re-affirm the Council's position, in light of this announcement, on the now confirmed route for HS2 Phase 2b, as set out in Appendix A. A copy of the report, marked '11', is filed with these minutes.

Members noted the comments received from Mr Sheahan CC, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

The Director of Environment and Transport highlighted that the Chancellor in his recent speech at the Conservative Party Conference had announced a further £300m to future proof the railway network in the north to ensure HS2 infrastructure could link up with future Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Rail projects. The Director confirmed that officers were seeking clarification of what this might mean for rail projects in the Midlands and whether this might affect Leicester and Leicestershire.

Mr Rushton CC said he was very disappointed by the announcement not to proceed with electrification of the MML and felt that bi-mode trains would not prove to be adequate.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed County Council response to the Government's East Midlands Rail Franchise consultation as set out in Appendix B to the report be approved;
- (b) That the Government announcement to cancel the proposed electrification of the Midland Mainline north of Kettering and to instead introduce bi-mode inter-city trains by 2022 be noted with regret, together with the effect this will have on the future delivery of priorities identified in the Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy;
- (c) That the Director of Environment and Transport be authorised to:
 - (i) Undertake work, as necessary, to make the case to the Department for Transport (DfT) to reverse its decision to cancel electrification of the Midland Main Line north of Kettering;
 - (ii) Enter into discussions with the DfT and other bodies, as necessary, to seek clarification and assurances in respect to concerns about future rail services on the Midland Mainline, as set out in paragraph 39 of this report;

- (d) That the Council continue its support, in principle, for the now confirmed route of HS2 subject to the caveats previously agreed and set out in Appendix C, and those issues now identified in paragraph 49 of this report;
- (e) That the Director of Environment and Transport explore opportunities through the HS2 Phase 2b hybrid Bill or other means to achieve the objectives and benefits of the Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy with regards to HS2;
- (f) That the Council's support for HS2 be reviewed following the introduction of the HS2 Phase 2b hybrid Bill (to be introduced to Parliament in 2019) and the response to the reassurances sought on Midland Mainline performance in accordance with (c)(ii) above, and that a further report be brought back to the Cabinet as appropriate.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Government has set out its proposals to improve train services on the East Midlands rail network under the new East Midlands rail franchise and is seeking feedback on those proposals.

Confirmation of the Authority's position on the eastern leg of HS2 and MML electrification will enable officers to engage with the DfT to seek outcomes that are for the benefit of Leicester and Leicestershire residents and businesses and which will ensure that the priorities identified in the Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy can be met. This will enable the Authority to respond appropriately to correspondence and enquiries regarding rail.

2.00 - 2.45 pm
10 October 2017

CHAIRMAN

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CABINET – 24 NOVEMBER 2017

**REMOVAL (CLOSURE) OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AT
MAPLEWELL HALL SPECIAL SCHOOL**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES**

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the results of the first stage of the consultation on the proposals to remove (close) the residential facilities at the Maplewell Hall Special School with effect from September 2018, and to seek approval to publish a Statutory Proposal and Notice as the next step to implement the process for removal of the residential facilities. The report also advises of the use of the Council's High Needs Block budget.
2. The removal of funding for the residential facilities will not have an adverse impact on the afterschool activities that precede overnight stays for pupils, as these afterschool activities are operated separately by the school.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that:
 - (a) The online and written responses received to the first stage of consultation including an e-petition and a paper petition with a total of 11,592 signatures, many from outside Leicestershire, be noted;
 - (b) Approval be given to proceeding with the proposal to remove (close) the residential facilities at Maplewell Hall School with effect from September 2018;
 - (c) It be noted that the removal of the residential provision, if progressed, is not expected to have an adverse impact on the afterschool activities provided by Maplewell Hall School and that, subject to the outcome of further audit work, officers will work with the school to ensure the continuance of the afterschool activities;
 - (d) The publication of a Statutory Notice in early January 2018 supported by a statutory proposal as the next step to progress the removal (closure) of the residential provision be approved, and it be noted that

this will be followed by a four week 'representation period', during which further comment on the proposals can be made;

- (e) The use of the Council's High Needs Block budget and the increasing pressures on it be noted;
- (f) A further report be submitted to the Cabinet on 9th March 2018, after the representation period, to enable a final decision to be taken on the implementation or otherwise, of the closure of the residential facilities;
- (g) In light of the petition having over 10,000 signatures, the decision of the Cabinet be reported to the Council on 6th December to enable the Council to debate the issue.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. There has been a significant response to the consultation. The over-riding majority of the reasons put forward by respondents to keep the residential facilities open are not considered to relate directly to an educational need. For example, many refer to use of the facilities as respite care provision.
5. The removal of the residential funding will not have an adverse impact on the afterschool activities that precede overnight stays for pupils, as these are operated separately by the school.
6. There are no pupils placed at Maplewell Hall who are assessed as having a need for educational residential provision stated in their Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
7. No other school in the County catering for pupils with special educational needs including those educating children with profound and multiple difficulties has been provided with funding which is being used for a residential element.
8. The Council's High Needs Block (HNB) budget is provided solely for the purpose of providing education for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Therefore this budget should not be used to fund children's social care needs including respite care or short breaks.
9. There is significant pressure on the HNB budget. The closure of the residential facilities will allow savings to be made and funding to be directed to other areas of increased demand and greater priority as appropriate, recognising the range of pupils with SEND across the County.
10. The closure of the residential facilities in September 2018 will allow for appropriate support to be put in place (where assessed to be required) for families/pupils affected by the change.
11. The publication of the Statutory Notice is in keeping with Council's legal obligations as set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

12. The Council's Constitution provides that petitions with over 10,000 signatures are debated by full Council. The decision on the removal of the residential facility is a matter for the Council's Executive - the Cabinet - which must take the final decision.
13. [Members are advised that parents of pupils affected by the change are entitled to make a complaint (under the Children Act complaints procedure) if they consider that their child is being denied entitlement to an overnight short break from social care.]

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

14. Should the Cabinet agree the recommendations in this report, it is proposed that a Statutory Notice be published in the week commencing 15th January 2018. This would allow the County Council to debate the matter and its views to be taken into account.
15. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed the proposals for the removal of the residential facilities at its meeting on 13th November 2017. The draft minute is attached to this report as Appendix A. In brief, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognised the value and quality of the residential provision and noted that this was not in dispute. The Committee's concerns related to the lack of detailed information about:
 - a) The cost of operating the residential care provision;
 - b) The cost to the Council of any alternative provision to be made for children currently using the facility who might qualify for additional support.
16. In the absence of such information the Committee was unable to come to a view on the matter and asked the Cabinet to ensure that it had this information to hand when coming to a final decision.
17. Subject to the Cabinet's decision at this meeting, the outcome of the Statutory Notice and representation period would be reported to the Cabinet on 9th March 2018, to enable a final decision on the closure of the residential facilities to be taken. More detail about the statutory process is given in Part B of this report.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

18. The Cabinet approved the commencement of consultation on the proposals at its meeting of 15th September 2017.
19. County Council policy requires that any petition of 10,000 signatures or more is considered at a meeting of the full Council.
20. The statutory guidance for making prescribed alterations to maintained schools, which sets out the arrangements for the removal of residential (boarding) provision at a community special school, was re-issued by the Department for Education (DfE) in April 2016. The guidance requires that the

Statutory Proposal and Notice is published, and subsequently determined, by the Local Authority within two months of the end of the representation period.

Resource Implications

21. The Council faces significant financial pressures across all services but particularly in respect of children's services. The residential facility at Maplewell Hall is funded from the HNB of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This budget overspent by £2 million in 2016/17. The £63 million budget is forecast to overspend again in 2017/18 by £1 million. This is despite an approved increase in the budget of £2.8 million. To date these overspends have been met from a withdrawal from DSG reserves. This is unlikely to be possible after next year as reserves will be depleted.
22. The Children and Families Service (C&FS) has achieved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings totalling £28.2 million between 2010/11 and 2016/17. The 2017/18 MTFS savings for the C&FS total £1.9 million, rising to £8.1 million in 2021.
23. An updated SEND Strategy is being developed to ensure the Council is using the finite resources available within the HNB to best effect to meet rising demand for services and to ensure services are targeted towards those in greatest need. As part of this a review of the eligibility criteria for services is being undertaken and as a result some services will need to be reduced or cease. This will mean some families and children will no longer be able to access services they have previously received. The proposed removal of residential facilities at Maplewell School falls into this category. It is accepted that this is regrettable but recognised that it is unavoidable given the present unsustainable financial situation and the fact that the Council has to prioritise those children with the most complex needs.
24. A number of initiatives are being implemented that aim to contain the costs of services for children with SEND within the available grant. The removal of the residential provision at Maplewell Hall will, if progressed, contribute to the achievement of the savings required to reduce the overspend on the HNB. The full year savings will be £293,000. For the 2018/19 financial year, assuming removal of the facilities from September 2018, the partial saving is projected at £170,900.
25. This is a challenging programme of reform against a backdrop of rising demand for SEND services with 355 additional children requiring support during 2016/17 and an additional 50 up to the end of October this year. Failure to contain expenditure within the HNB block of DSG would add further pressure to the Council's budget which already has a substantial gap at the end of the medium term, which will increase if decisions affecting all services are not taken.
26. The consequence of not making the saving on removal of the residential provision is that other services funded by the HNB will need to make savings, all impacting on pupils with SEND including potentially those with severe disabilities.

27. The revenue costs associated with the proposals and process for removal of the residential facilities, including those relating to the publication of the Statutory Notice, will be met from within existing service budgets, and this will largely be to the C&FS.
28. It should be noted that further revenue costs may arise to provide any individual support to families/pupils as a consequence of the removal of facilities, these costs relate to social care arrangements and transport.
29. Officers within C&FS have re-reviewed all children currently attending Maplewell Hall School and who are currently supported by children's social care. None of these children are likely to require any additional support over the existing plans that are in place for them. Therefore the appraisal shows additional costs to children's social care will be minimal, if anything.
30. Officers within the Environment and Transport Department have advised that based on a provisional assessment, the expected increased costs relating to home to school transport arising from closure of the residential facilities are projected to be low, and no more than £5,000 overall.
31. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

Mrs D. Taylor CC

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PART B

Background

Special Educational Needs in Leicestershire

32. In Leicestershire there are currently around 3600 children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This represents a 22% increase in plans since the 2014/15 academic year when there were 2801. The categories of Special Education Needs as defined by the SEN Code of Practice are:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

33. Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, and in order of hierarchy or need can be defined as follows:-

a) Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)

These are children who are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment. Their level of need is defined as **high to severe**.

b) Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)

These children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication. Their level of need is defined as **moderate to high**.

c) Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)

These children are likely to need less support with curriculum activities than the groups above. Their level of need is deemed to be **low to moderate**.

34. In the context of the above MLD has to be considered as a relatively low area of SEND Need. The majority of children with severe and profound disabilities do not attend Maplewell Hall School; they generally attend Area Special Schools.

Maplewell Hall School

35. Maplewell Hall Special School caters predominantly for pupils with MLD having 183 pupils on roll, including 20 pupils within a designated Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The school has maintained status and is therefore directly controlled by the Local Authority.

36. The residential provision referred to in this report is defined as overnight stays for pupils. In the case of Maplewell Hall this will follow afterschool activities normally ending at 7.30pm and covers the evening meal, social activities that may follow, overnight sleeping and preparation for school the next day. There are some children who attend Maplewell who participate in the afterschool activities but do not stay overnight. These children are either collected by parents or transport arrangements are made for them.
37. The residential facilities comprise bedrooms located on the first and second floors of the main school building which was constructed in 1857. This originally offered 24 beds to pupils for overnight stays but has recently been reduced to 20 beds as a consequence of two bedrooms (four beds) being taken out of use as a consequence of concerns raised during a Fire Risk Assessment.
38. The school currently receives an allocation of £293,000 per annum from the HNB to support the residential provision calculated via the use of a formula based on a payment per place. No other school in Leicestershire catering for children with special educational needs, including those catering for children with high or severe needs, has residential provision or funding for residential provision.
39. Recent information provided by the school confirms that for the last academic year 69 pupils used the residential facilities, this equates to 37% (approximately 1 in 3) of the school population. However no pupils currently attending the school have any requirement for education residential provision included within their EHCP, and this has been the case for the past few years.
40. Discussions with the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors indicate that the funding provided is used to support extended school activities with regular pupil sleepovers.
41. The purpose of residential provision within a school is to meet an educational need through curriculum enrichment and it has to be identified within a pupil's EHCP. It is not appropriate to use such facilities for the provision of respite care which is provided via children's social care and subject to a different regulatory framework. In other SEN schools in the County curriculum enrichment is undertaken after school hours without the need for residential provision. The funding provided to Maplewell Hall School is additional to that made to other SEN schools, it is not designated as either respite or short break provision and should not be used for this purpose, particularly when there is such pressure on the HNB budget.

Education Health and Care Plans

42. Education Health and Care Plans were introduced in September 2014 and replaced Statements of Special Educational Needs. EHCPs are written by the Council's Special Educational Needs Assessment Service following statutory guidance in the SEND Code of Practice and using information provided by all professionals involved with the child as well as information from the child and their family. The professionals will indicate in their reports the child's

assessed needs, the outcomes that should be met and the provision to meet these needs. This will include the need, if assessed, for any social care provision including overnight short breaks. All of this information is then shown in the EHCP.

43. It is a statutory requirement to review EHCPs annually. Appeals in relation to EHCPs are heard before an independent SEND tribunal.
44. A recent check of EHCPs for pupils attending the school has confirmed that all children have an EHCP, 14 are now over their annual review date. However, dates are scheduled for those outstanding reviews.
45. There are two ways in which a child may access overnight provision -
 - (i) on educational grounds, or
 - (ii) via a social care assessment (overnight short break provision).
46. For a child to be assessed as needing residential education provision, an Educational Psychologist assessment would have to indicate the need for a 24-hour curriculum to meet that child's educational needs. None of the children attending Maplewell Hall School and using the residential unit have been assessed as needing this.

Entitlement to overnight short break provision

47. Overnight short break provision can only be accessed via an assessment of need by the Disabled Children Service. To be eligible for such an assessment a child or young person must have a disability that has been formally diagnosed and which is permanent or long-term and meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - A severe or profound learning disability;
 - A severe or profound physical disability;
 - Significant or profound sensory disability;
 - Complex and permanent medical needs;
 - Life threatening illness;
 - Severe communication disabilities or behavioural difficulties but related to the child's disability;
 - Severe developmental delay;
 - A combination of disabilities, which individually are not severe but together cause as much stress as a very severe disability;

and

 - Be identified as a child in need or a child in need of protection.
48. Overnight short breaks would only be provided following an assessment and only to children with the most significant and profound needs, i.e. where support or care would be needed during the night.

49. As stated previously, the majority of children with severe and profound disabilities do not attend Maplewell Hall but go to Area Special Schools, none of which have any overnight residential education provision.
50. The need for overnight residential provision will be set out in a Child in Need Plan; these are reviewed twice yearly. Parents are entitled to raise objections under the Children Act complaint procedure if they consider their child is being denied entitlement to an overnight short break from social care.

Results of the Consultation

51. Consultation on the proposals commenced on 18th September for 6 weeks, closing on 29th October 2017.
52. The consultation has involved writing to a wide group of individuals having an interest in the Maplewell Hall School to seek their views. A bespoke document setting out the proposals and a questionnaire to enable consultees to provide feedback was available as hard copy at the school and on request. This information was also made available on the County Council's and school's websites.
53. To support the consultation exercise, two open meetings have been held at the school, which also provided an opportunity for parents to talk on a one-to-one basis about their child's needs. The meetings were also open to staff and residents and were attended by approximately 125 people overall. In addition there have been briefings for the local divisional member, and discussions with representatives of the school's student council, which were attended by 15 pupils.
54. The responses to the consultation have included:
 - A joint letter from the Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP for Loughborough and Edward Argar MP for Charnwood (attached as Appendix B),
 - 252 responses to the consultation questionnaire (details of which are provided at Appendix C),
 - A petition to '*Save Maplewell Hall special needs school residential from closure*' signed by 11,592 people.
55. Respondents to the consultation survey included 63 people who identified as a parent/carer of a child attending the school, 20 members of staff, and 20 pupils at the school. Respondents also included 17 parent/carers who are considering sending their child to the school and 12 members of staff at other schools. The largest group of people (89) who responded to the survey identified as members of the public, with a further 31 responding in other roles, including as family members or friends, ex-staff, and parents of ex-pupils.
56. Analysis of the 252 written or online responses to the consultation shows:

- Very clear disagreement with the proposed closure of the residential facilities, with at least 97% of respondents strongly disagreeing or tending to disagree with the proposals;
 - The majority of respondents (86%) indicated that the proposal would have a 'very negative impact' or 'somewhat negative impact' on them, their child and/or their family. Responses from parents or carers of children attending the school or who are considering sending their children to the school show that all but one respondent indicated that the proposal would have either a 'very' or 'somewhat' negative impact. All responses from students indicate that the proposal would have either a 'very' or 'somewhat' negative impact.
57. An e-petition and paper petition, signed by 11,592 people was presented to officers of the County Council on 27 October 2017. The e-petition in particular has attracted support across the country and indeed the globe, although almost 50% of the signatories of the e-petition live in Leicestershire or Leicester. 1,771 signatories included a comment as part of signing the petition. The feedback contained in these comments broadly echoes the feedback received through the consultation survey.

Summary of concerns arising from the consultation and MPs' letter

58. The consultation feedback demonstrates a general concern, expressed in particular by members of the public, that the proposals are unfair and are taking away vital services that support the most vulnerable in society. There are four principal concerns about the proposals and their impact that are evident throughout consultation feedback (including the petition and representations from MPs):-
- 1) The value of the residential provision to improving pupil educational outcomes.
 - 2) The value the overnight stays provide as an opportunity for pupils to develop their social and independence skills and confidence.
 - 3) The value of the residential provision to improving family life for parents/carers and siblings through the respite provided.
 - 4) The expectation that the closure of the residential facility will result in higher costs for the Council, principally for transport and overnight short breaks.
59. Feedback has also referenced the Ofsted inspection of the residential provision in September 2016 which judged the residential provision to be 'outstanding' and made direct reference to the 'exceptional progress made by the young people academically, socially and emotionally because of the residential experience'. However, it is clear from the Ofsted report that the 'residential experience' referred to relates to a wider definition encompassing the afterschool activities and the overnight stays, rather than just the residential element. The proposal to remove the residential provision does not

make any judgement on the quality of the provision neither should it affect the ability of the school to continue to deliver the afterschool activities.

Reasons for Proposed Closure of Residential Facilities

60. The reasons for the proposed closure of the residential provision at Maplewell Hall are set out below -

- No pupils placed at the school, now or in recent years, have residential education provision named in their EHCP, i.e. this is not considered to be required for their needs.
- Evidence indicates that only one in three pupils at Maplewell Hall School have accessed the residential facility. This represents just 1.9% of the overall number of Leicestershire pupils (3603) having an EHCP.
- No other Local Authority Maintained Special School or Academy Special School in Leicestershire that caters for SEND pupils has a residential facility or is funded for residential provision.
- The HNB budget is a finite resource and is under significant pressure to meet increases in demand for the most vulnerable children. It therefore needs to be prioritised according to assessed need. Pupils having MLD are defined as being within an area of low SEND need. If the residential provision at Maplewell Hall is not closed then this will lead to pressures elsewhere in the HNB and in turn impact on the provision for children and young people with more significant assessed needs.
- The estimated increase in home to school transport costs for the Council arising from the proposals are expected to be low - no more than £5000 overall.

61. On consideration of the concerns expressed during the consultation, it is not considered that they represent any material change to the original reasons set out above for the proposal to close the residential provision at Maplewell Hall.

Other issues concerning Maplewell Hall Special School

Funding arrangements for residential provision

62. The consultation has served to highlight concerns regarding the funding arrangements for the residential provision including payments directly made by some parents to the school. A visit by officers from the Council's Internal Audit Service revealed the following:

- The funding given by the Council is not ring-fenced and it is for the Governing Body to take decisions in relation to how the overall budget is to be spent. Once school funding is delegated, the Governing Body

can use it in whatever appropriate provision it wishes subject to compliance with the Council's approved Scheme for Financing Schools; it does not have to spend the residential allocation on residential provision.

- The auditors have identified provisionally that not all of the £293,000 funding provided by the Council for residential facilities is needed by the school for that purpose. This is accepted by the school management team which has advised that not all of the funding provided for residential provision is being used for the intended purpose.
 - As the true cost of running the residential provision is well within the amount of Council funding, and it follows that any monies not used in the funding of residential provision have been used elsewhere within the budget for Maplewell Hall School, this has therefore helped to reduce the school's budgetary deficit.
 - At this time it is not possible to make a distinction between the cost of the residential facilities and the cost of providing the afterschool activities. The Council's Internal Audit Service is conducting further work to ascertain these costs.
 - Some parents voluntarily pay £8 per night per child towards the cost of afterschool activities and associated overnight stays. The latest charging policy is dated 2014. Whilst it is referred to on the school's website the link to the policy is not active. As well as any voluntary contributions received, the school advised that it also utilises elements of pupil premium grant for residential provision. The reasons for these additional contributions being sought have yet to be established.
 - It should be noted that the audit checks have confirmed that there has never been 100% occupancy of the residential facilities so far during the current school year. Analysis of occupancy during the last month shows that there has been between 50% and 80% use of the available beds.
63. The further audit work will better determine the actual costs of the residential provision as opposed to those relating to the cost of running the afterschool activities but the recommendations in this report are not dependent on the outcome of that process.

Fire Safety

64. Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy the Council immediately carried out a review of its eleven owned and maintained buildings that have an accommodation function including Maplewell Hall. To provide additional assurance, externally appointed specialist fire risk assessors, were commissioned to conduct an independent Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) of Maplewell Hall in order to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

65. The FRA concluded that the accommodation function at Maplewell Hall meets existing fire safety regulations. There was an accompanying action plan to make further additional improvements, at the same time it was decided to cease using to use two of the rooms for overnight stays. The action plan works from this FRA are now nearly all complete at a cost of approximately £35,000.
66. It should be noted, however, that the assessment also made recommendations for improvement to the arrangements for waking night staff to ensure that such individuals were fully available throughout the night (to respond to emergencies). A recent inspection in the early hours of the morning by the Council's health and safety team failed to raise a response from the waking night person on duty and did not therefore confirm the effectiveness of the arrangements. Subsequently an explanation was given and discussions have taken place with the school about the improvement actions required. Further unannounced visits are planned to confirm that the agreed actions have been taken.
67. Officers will continue to monitor the FRA of Maplewell Hall and will make necessary changes in light of any revised guidance or assessment.
68. Earlier in the year the DfE confirmed a targeted capital grant to the LA of £2.1 million over three years, commencing April 2018 with the expectation that this will be used to develop additional SEND places to meet growing demand in Leicestershire. This funding is not provided for the purpose of addressing condition issues and cannot therefore be used to address fire safety or accessibility matters. In the same context it should not be used to make enhancements to existing facilities that do not add places.

Accessibility

69. The age and design of the Maplewell Hall buildings and layout of the site is such that there are significant accessibility issues which could limit the type of student that may attend the school. If residential provision were to continue at the school, in the interests of ensuring equity for all pupils who may wish to benefit from the provision, consideration should be given to the importance of access improvements, including a lift and other relevant adaptations.
70. The cost to make the buildings fully accessible, particularly to enable access to the residential areas on the first and second floors would be considerable, assuming that the building was suitable for adaptation. A decision will need to be taken at a future date as to whether this represents a good use of public funds.

Statutory Process

71. The process for the closure of a residential provision is defined by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

72. General public law principles require a period of informal/pre-consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks. This first stage consultation has now been completed and the results cited above and in Appendix C.
73. The next stage comprises the publication of a Statutory Notice and details of the full proposals, as defined by Schedule 3 of the Regulations. In brief this states that:
- a) The proposals must be published on a website.
 - b) The Local Authority must publish a notification of the proposals (including the address of the website where the proposals are published) in a local newspaper.
 - c) The publication of the proposals on the website must contain a statement setting out how copies of the proposals may be obtained, details of how a person may object or comment to the proposals, and a date by which said objections or comments must be sent.
 - d) Within one week of the publication of the proposals, there is a requirement to send a copy of the proposals and the statement about how objections may be made and how the proposals may be obtained to:
 - The governing body.
 - The parents of every registered pupil at the school.
 - Any other body or person that the proposer thinks appropriate
 - e) Within one week of receiving a request for a copy of the proposals the Local Authority must send a copy to the person requesting it.
74. The four-week representation period for further comment or objection to the proposals commences on the publication of the Statutory Notice.
75. The Local Authority is required to take a decision on the implementation of the proposals within two months of the end of the representation period.

Conclusions

76. The first stage of consultation on the proposals for removal of the residential facilities at the Maplewell Hall Special School has resulted in a significant response. Many of the responses received have emphasised the value of the residential provision to improving educational outcomes for pupils having overnight stays, this benefit is readily recognised by the Council. Nevertheless the over-riding majority of respondents make reference to the social care benefits of the residential provision, for example enabling the better development of social and independence skills for pupils, and assisting with respite care for parents.

77. The above benefits also form the key reasons put forward by local MP's to keep the residential provision open outlined in their response to the consultation (Appendix B refers).
78. Careful consideration has been given to all responses to the consultation, however they do not constitute a material change to the reasons put forward for the proposed closure. This is a position not easily reached but recognises: that there are significant funding pressures on the HNB; that the funding provided should not be used to fund children's social care needs including respite care or short breaks; and that there are no pupils placed at Maplewell Hall who are assessed as having a need for educational residential provision stated in their EHCP. No other school in the County receives funding for residential purposes including those educating children with profound and multiple difficulties.
79. There is a value attached to the afterschool activities that precede overnight stays for pupils, and it is important that these activities should continue. The audit work now in progress will help identify the true costs for this provision and help inform further discussions with the school about the continuance of these activities.
80. The consideration of the petition by the County Council in December and the subsequent the publication of the Statutory Notice early in the new year, followed by a period of representation providing the opportunity for further comment and objections to be raised, will enable further consideration to be given to the proposals. This is in keeping with the Council's constitutional and statutory responsibilities and will help inform the decision to be taken by the Cabinet in March.

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

81. The underlying purpose of the proposals is to ensure a more equitable use of the HNB budget to meet priorities for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
82. Consultation with those affected by the proposed closure of the residential provision has helped to identify where additional support might be needed to ensure continued equality of opportunity for those affected.
83. In keeping with the Public Sector Equality Duty, to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, a revised Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment for the proposed change has been completed to help address any necessary support for pupils/parents arising from the as a consequence of the closure of the residential facility. The families of pupils that currently access the residential facilities will be offered an early help or social care assessment which will help identify their needs and how they can be met, Support could take the form of additional help within the home, play and leisure short breaks or in the most

complex situations overnight short break provision. Overnight short breaks can only be accessed via an assessment of need by the Disabled Children Service.

84. In addition the school will be encouraged to continue to develop their offer in respect of extra-curricular activities to enhance learning and development, social inclusion and independence skills.

Risk Assessment

85. The removal of the residential provision will not present any significant risk to the sustainability of the Maplewell Hall Special School.
86. Any risks to the Council arising from the proposals will be kept under review by officers within the C&FS and where required, will be reported to the Departmental Management Team, and Corporate Schools Group (which maintains oversight of all school organisation matters) to help determine actions to mitigate.

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 15th September 2017 – Proposals to consult on removal (closure) of residential facilities at Maplewell Hall Special School.

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4863&Ver=4>

Appendices

Appendix A Minutes of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13th November 2017

Appendix B Letter from the Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP and Edward Agar MP

Appendix C Summary of results of consultation

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2017**

**MINUTE – PROPOSALS TO CONSULT ON REMOVAL (CLOSURE) OF
RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AT MAPLEWELL HALL SPECIAL SCHOOL**

The Committee considered the following documents which had been submitted in relation to this agenda item:-

- a report of the Director of Children and Family Services, marked 'Agenda Item 10', concerning the proposals for removal (closure) of the residential facilities at Maplewell Hall School with effect from September 2018;
- A statement from the Lead Petitioner, Kayti Ryan;
- A statement on behalf of Maplewell Hall School from Kirsty North, Care and Intervention Team Leader; and
- The consultation document 'Have your say on the proposed closure of the residential facilities at Maplewell Hall School'.

A copy of the documents listed above is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the following people who attended to speak on this item:

- Kayti Ryan, the Lead Petitioner
- Kirsty North, Care and Intervention Team Leader at Maplewell Hall School.

In introducing the report the Director emphasised:-

- 37% of the school population used the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School; none of the children had a requirement for residential provision detailed in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP);
- The funding allocated to the school totalled £293,000 per annum to support the residential provision; and
- There was a need for equity and fairness in how the funding from the High Needs Block was allocated. Funding should be allocated according to the assessed need with priority being given to those with the highest need.

252 responses to the consultation had been received. These showed a clear disagreement with the proposals and provided a rich picture of why the provision was valued by children, young people and their families as it helped the children and young people to develop their independence and social skills and, through providing respite care, improved the quality of family life.

The Chairman invited Mrs Taylor CC, local Member to speak.

Mrs Taylor expressed concern that the report proposed closure of the residential facility when there was increased demand for provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). She added that it was important to support vulnerable children to be independent as this would reduce demand later in

life for Adult Social Care services. It was highlighted to the Committee that OFSTED had rated the educational provision as 'outstanding' in September 2016.

Mrs Taylor also expressed concern about the lack of detail in the report regarding:-

- The additional transport and revenue costs generated as a result of the potential closure of the residential facility;
- The accuracy of the report regarding the current usage of the residential facility.

Mrs Taylor felt that there had been limited discussion between the County Council and Maplewell Hall School about the residential provision; options should be considered that would keep the offer of a residential experience available for SEND children and young people.

Mrs Taylor suggested a full service review should be undertaken of the High Needs Block which recognised the variance in provision required to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and the benefit of having different provision across all special schools so all needs were catered for. Mrs Taylor asked for it to be placed on record that she did not support the proposal to close the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School.

The Chairman invited Kayti Ryan, Lead Petitioner and parent at Maplewell Hall School to speak.

Kayti Ryan presented the petition signed by 11,592 people in the following terms:-

"The petition opposes the closure of the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School."

In summary, Kayti informed the Committee that:-

- The petition aimed to stop the closure of the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School;
- The children learned valuable life skills, preparation for adulthood and independence – all of which could not be taught at home;
- Those children who accessed residential provision gained far more than those who did not;
- That residential care was not included in EHCPs as it had always been presented as a facility the school automatically offered to students.

The Chairman invited Kirsty North, Care and Intervention Team Leader at Maplewell Hall School to speak.

Kirsty emphasised to the Committee that it was important to consider the children holistically, to provide support which met all their needs. She added that short breaks could prevent family breakdown and such short breaks were difficult to access through normal social care channels. The provision catered for children from across the County; if it was removed it would generate cost, safety and transport implications. The familiar environment of the residential facility to the education provision was important to the needs of the children and young people who attended and helped with developing their social and life skills.

In the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Some Members were of the view that the issue was not clear cut as, although the residential provision for these children was not detailed in their EHCP, it provided an excellent opportunity for children and young people to develop independence and life skills;
- The benefit of the residential provision at Maplewell Hall School to children and young people was recognised. Members were assured that the value and quality of the provision was not in question;
- The EHCP was a holistic assessment, with input from professionals across education, health and social care. It considered all aspects of a young person's needs and family needs where appropriate. The assessment process was robust and inspected by OFSTED. It was reviewed on an annual basis and any parent who did not agree with the EHCP could appeal to an independent tribunal. Education provision needs were assessed by an Educational Psychologist. The residential element of this related to educational provision being required over a 24 hour period and no children in Leicestershire had been assessed with this need. However, if parents felt that they required respite care, as part of the social care element of the EHCP, they could request to be reassessed on this basis. This would not be provided by Maplewell Hall School as it was not registered to provide respite care;
- The after school provision began at school closure until 7.30pm. Some children stayed beyond this time, ate their evening meal, then carried out further 'after tea' activities, before going to bed. The criteria to determine who should benefit from this provision was set by the school. Should the decision be made to close the residential facility, the continuation of the after school provision would be a matter for the school to put in place; the County Council was supportive of working with the school on this;
- The Committee felt that the report lacked clarity regarding any additional transport costs that would be incurred if the residential provision was closed and costs for any children who might subsequently be assessed as requiring some form of residential or respite provision;
- The Committee understood that Maplewell Hall School received £293,000 for residential provision but was not clear of the actual cost of providing residential care and extra-curricular activities. It was also felt that discussions with the school should take place to understand whether a reduced offer could be put in place;
- Concern was expressed that, given the High Needs Block supported 3,600 children, there was a lack of equity and fairness in only 69 pupils receiving residential educational provision. The Committee was advised that the High Needs Block was significantly overspent with resources ringfenced by Government and likely to be capped. In light of the challenging resourcing position, and the growing demand for SEND services, difficult decisions had

to be made about the services that could be provided; it was important that services provided were based on assessment and sound criteria.

Mr Ould, Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Young People informed the Committee that an audit of the Maplewell Hall School had been commissioned, particularly as some parents had been asked to contribute between £9-15 per night for the residential provision for their children. He thanked the Committee for raising the issue of outcomes.

The Committee was reminded that at its meeting in November, the Cabinet would take the decision of whether to formally consult on the process of closure; they were not taking the decision to close the residential facility at Maplewell Hall School. The Committee was further advised that, as the petition on this matter had exceeded the 10,000 signature threshold, the Cabinet decision would be reported to the Council to enable it to discuss the matter. No action would be taken until after the Council meeting.

It was moved by Mr S. D. Sheahan CC and seconded by Mr G. Welsh CC:

“That the Cabinet be asked to defer this matter pending more detailed consideration of the issues that have been raised by this Committee”.

The motion was put and not carried with three Members voting in favour and six against.

The Chairman confirmed that the comments of the Committee would be passed to the Cabinet and summarised the key points as follows:-

- The Committee recognised the benefits of the residential provision at Maplewell Hall School; the value and quality of the provision was not in question;
- Little had been done to understand if a smaller offer could be made at reduced cost;
- There was uncertainty about the costs and alternatives available.

RESOLVED:-

That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 24 November 2017.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

26th October 2017

Dear Mr Sinnott,

Re: Maplewell Hall School Residential Facilities: Consultation Response

We write as the Members of Parliament for Charnwood and for Loughborough to respond to the consultation launched by Leicestershire County Council, regarding the proposed closure of residential facilities at Maplewell Hall School.

We both have constituents who use these facilities, and have been contacted by a number of local residents who have voiced their concerns about the proposed closure of them. You will be aware of a petition on this issue which now has almost 10,000 signatures, and also of representations made by local Councillors including Deborah Taylor, County Councillor for Bradgate Division.

Of course, we are both acutely aware of the challenging financial situation faced by Leicestershire County Council and, as you will know, have worked with LCC to campaign for a fairer deal for the county. However, LCC do have a choice about exactly how and where important savings are made, and so we feel the Council should be looking again at this proposal and instead finding a solution to keep the residential facility at Maplewell Hall up and running.

Knowing the fantastic work Maplewell does, we have very real concerns about the impact this decision would have.

Our concerns centre on the following issues:

Educational Outcomes

The most recent Ofsted Inspection Report for Maplewell Hall School's residential facilities rates the residential provision 'Outstanding'. The report states that '*young people make exceptional progress academically, socially and emotionally because of the residential experience.*' It is notable that 51% of students who attend the residential provision are responsible for 89.7% of the rewards for academic achievement, positive attitude, development of social skills and behaviour.

Clearly, the residential facilities enhance not only the students' overall experience at the school, but

/Cont'd

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also their academic achievement. The Ofsted Report is absolutely clear that academic progress is enhanced by the residential facility and its staff, detailing how regular reports on progress identify where residential staff can offer additional support or opportunities to help young people achieve, and the provision of a set time for homework club in the residential setting means that staff can consolidate the learning from the school day.

Social Development

Not only does the school enhance academic achievements, but the impact it has on a young person's social development cannot be understated. Many families have stated how the residential facility benefits their children, who already struggle with learning difficulties, to develop their social skills away from home and take part in activities that promote independence and increase self-confidence.

Maplewell Hall benefits from a dedicated Care and Intervention Staff team, whose major input is arguably during the evenings, at night and in the mornings. Further, the Ofsted Report of September 2016 states that *'the development of social skills is a real strength of the provision. The transference of these skills across varied settings including school, residential provision, home and community supports young people to develop.'*

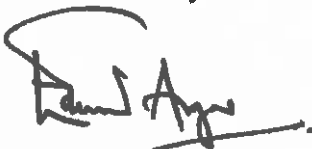
Mention has been made of the pupils ECHPs not covering residential provision. Has the Council done an analysis of how many of the pupil's ECHPs were produced when they were at primary school, where no such residential provision is offered, and have the plans been re-visited for their secondary education?

Transportation and other costs to affected families

As outlined in the paper that went to Cabinet on 15th September 2017, there will inevitably be 'further revenue costs' arising to provide individual support to families/ pupils as a consequence of the removal of these facilities. There appears to be no detailed assessment of what these might amount to, and the impact this would have on the projected savings. We would urge the County Council to fully investigate the impact of such costs, and take in to account how this may impact on the cost saving from closure of the residential facility.

Finally, as we understand it, there remain outstanding queries specifically regarding usage of the residential facility, with such information not yet clarified we would urge Cabinet to wait until they have all necessary information before taking a decision.

Leicestershire County Council have a strong record making important savings while continuing to deliver vital public services, and I would urge the Council to work with Maplewell Hall School, parents and the wider community to find a way to keep the residential facility open, and to reject proposals to close this important and much-valued provision.

James Argar


Edward Argar MP

Nicky Morgan


Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP

Maplewell Hall School

Consultation survey results

November 2017

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- Corporate Services
- Children & Family Services

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this report, Leicestershire County Council cannot be held responsible for any errors or omission relating to the data contained within the report.

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Key findings

- In total, 252 responses were received. The majority (215) completed the survey online, with the remainder returning a paper response (37).
- Responses to demographic questions indicate that the majority of respondents were aged between 25 and 54 and of White ethnicity. Results also indicate a higher proportion of females than males responded to the survey and a notable proportion of respondents identified themselves as a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under. The majority of respondents who provided a valid postcode were from the Borough of Charnwood.
- Most people who completed the survey were responding as members of the public (89) or parents/carers of a child attending the school (63).
- The majority of respondents (94%) indicated that they 'strongly disagree' with the proposal.
- When asked to provide comments for the answer to Q2 regarding agreement / disagreement with the proposal, many respondents highlighted positive benefits of the residential provision or concern about the impact of the proposal, the most frequently occurring themes being:
 - Benefit of or potential impact on independent living skills / life skills.
 - General positive comment re. benefit of provision
 - Benefit of or potential impact on social skills and opportunities to socialise
 - Benefit of or impact on family support / respite
- In response to Q3, 72% indicated that the proposal would have a 'very negative impact' and 14% indicated that the proposal would have a 'somewhat negative impact.' All but one of the 63 responses from parents or carers of children attending the school indicated that the proposal would have either a 'very' or 'somewhat' negative impact.
- When asked to provide comments for the answer to Q3 regarding impact, the most frequent recurring themes were:
 - Benefit of or impact on confidence / other skills (including independence)
 - Benefit of or potential impact on family support / respite
 - Benefit of or potential impact on social skills and opportunities to socialise
 - Concern re. general negative impact of proposal
- Question 4 asked respondents what could be done to support families and pupils and reduce any negative impacts. In response to this question, the majority of comments reflected the view that the residential provision should be kept open and not closed. Some specific suggestions were referenced amongst the responses, including:
 - Provide a comparable/residential alternative
 - Provide after-school activities
 - Reduce or change existing scope of provision
 - Communicate plans and/or talk to those affected
 - Generate income or charge
- Question 5 asked respondents if they had any further comments and the most often referenced theme in response to this question related to general opposition or disagreement with the proposal. A number of respondents also took the opportunity to reiterate the positive benefits of the residential provision.

Background

Maplewell Hall School, built in 1857 and located in Woodhouse Eaves, currently has capacity for 195 pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), in addition to a residential facility with a maximum nightly capacity of 24 pupils. The school is maintained by Leicestershire County Council.

The school caters predominantly for pupils with moderate learning difficulties. There are 183 pupils enrolled in the school, including 20 pupils with a designated Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Figures provided by the school indicate that the use of the residential facility is up to 24 students per night Monday to Thursday, with each pupil having on average 12-14 nights' attendance per school year.

The proposal is to close the residential facility from September 2018. This would enable a phased closure over several months, allowing sufficient time to work with any pupils/families affected by the closure to put alternative support in place if considered necessary after a social care assessment.

Discussions have commenced with the school about:

- The removal of funding from September 2018.
- Any necessary support for families/pupils as a consequence of this.
- The process to be followed if the proposal is to go ahead.

Overview of the process

The consultation ran from 18 September until 29 October, with background information and a questionnaire being available online (and hard copies on request/ available at events).

Two events, aimed at parents, were held at the school as a chance for the council to hear the views of those affected. Approximately 125 parents attended the two meetings at the school. A student council meeting also engaged 15 pupils in the process.

Communications and media activity

Our key audience for any communication were parents of children at the school. Background information was added to the council's 'Have your say' pages, and all other communication was sent direct to those affected (parents at the school) by the school themselves. Throughout the consultation, the council also took part in TV and radio interviews, and provided statements for print media. The key messages included encouraging people to give their views. The council's lead member for Children and family services did several interviews throughout this period.

The survey was published online and a printed (offline) version was also made available. A freepost return address was provided for completed surveys to encourage responses.

Questions

The survey asked for views from parents/carers and other members of the public on how the proposal may affect them, including to what extent they agree with the proposal, how the proposal would impact them and what could be done to support families and pupils and reduce any negative impacts.

The questionnaire also included a range of demographic questions, namely: gender, gender identity at birth, age, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, postcode, whether the respondents are parents or carers of a young person aged 17 or under (also by age of children), whether the respondents are parents or carers of a person aged 18 or over, whether the respondents are council employees. See Appendix 1 for the full questionnaire.

Analysis methodology

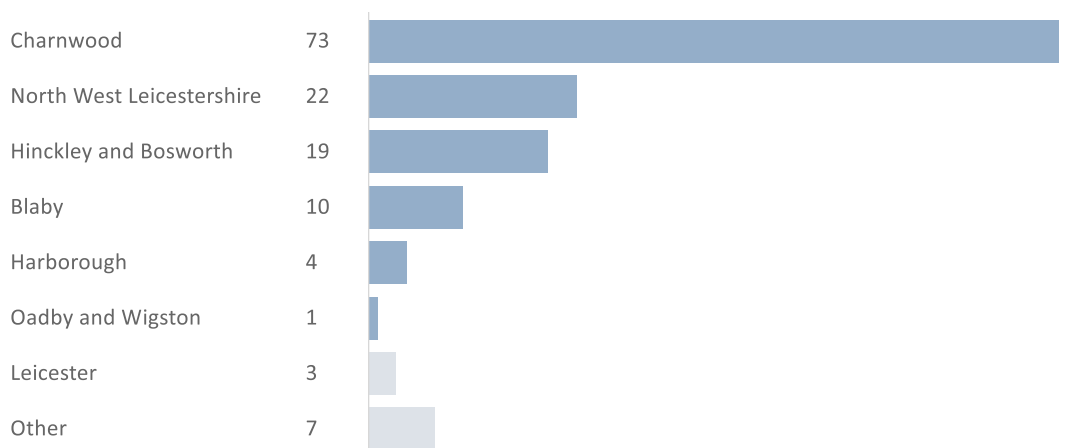
Graphs and tables have been used to assist explanation and analysis. Question results have been reported based on those who provided a valid response, i.e. taking out the 'don't know' responses and no replies.

Demographic analysis

The questionnaire included a range of demographic questions. The demographic profile of those responding to the survey is reported in Appendix 2. Responses indicate that the majority of respondents were aged between 25 and 54 and of White ethnicity. The tables in Appendix 2 also indicate a higher proportion of females than males responded to the survey. A notable proportion of respondents (123) also identified themselves as a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under. 139 respondents provided a valid postcode and as chart 1 shows, the majority of respondents (73) were from the Borough of Charnwood.

Chart 1 – District location of respondent

(based on 139 valid responses to Q9)



Analysis of open-ended comments

The survey contained four open-ended questions. 779 comments were coded from the responses to 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. Children and Families Services will be given all comments in full for further consideration.

Results

During the consultation period, 252 people responded to the survey. The majority (215) took part by completing an online survey, with the remainder returning a paper response (37).

Respondent profile

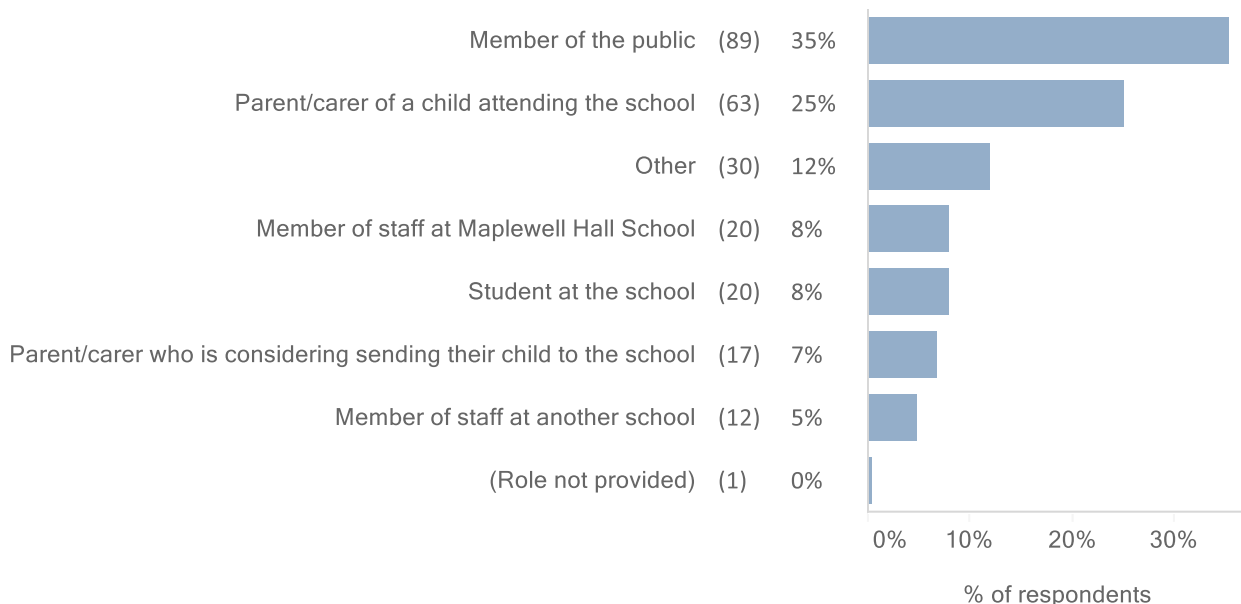
A full respondent profile can be found in Appendix 2.

Question 1 - Role

Respondents were asked in what capacity they were responding to the survey. Chart 2 below shows the breakdown. It shows that most people who completed the survey were responding as members of the public or parents/carers of a child attending the school. As Chart 2 illustrates, a number of responses were from members of staff at Maplewell Hall School and students. Other roles provided included other family members, family friends, ex-staff and parents of ex-students.

Chart 2 - Role in which responding (Q1)

(Base: 252)

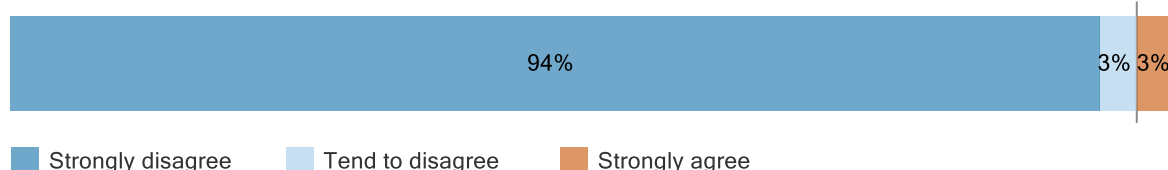


Question 2 - Extent of agreement / disagreement with the proposal

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposal to close the residential facilities at Maplewell Hall School. Chart 3 shows that 235 respondents (94%) selected 'strongly disagree' and a further 8 responses (3%) selected 'tend to disagree' in response to this question.

Chart 3 –Extent of agreement / disagreement with the proposal (Q2)

(Base: 251)



The results show 8 respondents indicated that they 'strongly agree' with the proposal. However the free text comments in response to the subsequent question (Q2a – why do you say this?) for 6 of the 8 respondents who selected 'strongly agree' indicate that caution should be taken when interpreting the 'strongly agree' responses. Extracts from the open comments for those who selected 'strongly agree' are provided below to illustrate (7 out of these 8 respondents replied to Q2a):

Extracts of responses to Q2a for the respondents who selected 'strongly agree' to Q2

"The benefits of the residential part of the school are far too easily overlooked and understated when attempting to justify funding. Those benefits of the residential side are far-reaching and cost effective at avoiding life crises later."

"It's incomprehensible that this valuable life line for students and parents/carers is potentially closing. As a member of staff at Maplewell I can see the direct impact that residential has on the academic and social progress of these students."

"The cost is too much for the benefit of so few."

"Residential at MH provides an essential facility for children with disabilities...."

"Whilst it is claimed no children have a need for residential care in their EHCP, this IS NOT THE CASE as my child's plan....includes, amongst other things, that the following MUST BE PROVIDED (due to communication/interaction difficulties)...."

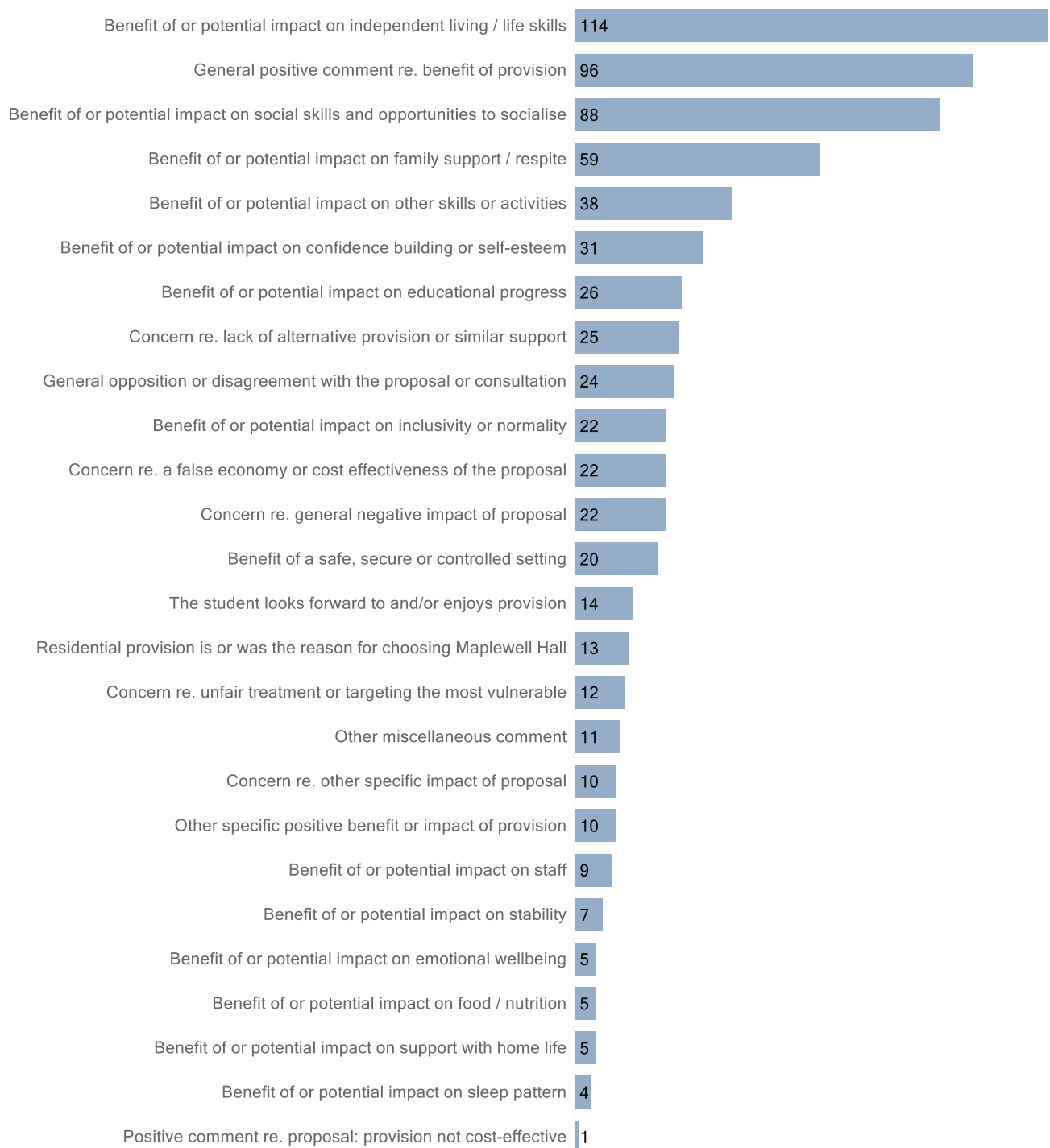
"Facilities like these are hard to come by when you have a child with special needs what else would they have? where else would they go. Residential helps with their independence and social skills which are a big impact on their everyday life..."

"...this is too important for our children and their future - Maplewell and all specialist provision schools must be unique and cater to different needs. There are things at other schools we don't have. No two kids needs are the same..."

Question 2a – Open comments

Respondents were asked to provide comments for their answer to Q2, 224 respondents provided a response to this question. Chart 4 shows the results for the 26 codes assigned to these responses. Many individual responses referenced several points and were therefore assigned more than one code. For example, phrases that make up the following response were assigned seven separate codes:

"My Daughter enjoys residential at maplewell. Residential is in most cases the only respite they and yourself get. The students feel safe and and are happy to stay away from home when other times won't. Which is why it is mostly the only time they stay away from home. They are taught life skills they interact with others learn how to interact social. It plays a big part in their lives . The school residential helped my daughter with her anxiety to be away from home.mental health and well being is more important than money which in this case proposing to close it will have a big impact on our children who attend. All LCC look at is money and not the well being and mentle health conditions that residentl stay helps with. Find cut backs somewhere else and keep maplewells residential open."

Chart 4 – Open comments (Q2a)

Many respondents highlighted positive benefits of the residential provision or concern about the impact of the proposal on specific benefits. Chart 4 shows that the most frequently referenced benefit relates to independent living skills or life skills, with 114 comments.

Reference to the general positive benefits or value of the residential provision was the second most referenced theme, made by 96 respondents. These comments did not necessarily reference a specific benefit but rather highlighted the general value and positive impact of the residential provision.

Indicative comments:

"...It gives them the ability to learn independent living..."

"...This is a necessity to the school and the children it prepares for life. They learn things that cannot be taught in the home, easily like caring for themselves and making simple journeys, such as using the bus..."

"What the children benefit from residence is life skills and the ability to be more independent. Taking this away takes away the time they spend learning to be independent and do things for themselves"

"...We learn lots of life skills and enjoy the educational side of things, we learn how to make beds, iron, work as a team, tie shoe laces, set the dinner table, good manners etc."

Benefits of residential provision for the development of social skills were referenced in 88 comments. This included the opportunity residential provision provides for socialising with friends that are geographically dispersed. Comments under this theme also include those which reference the challenge of social isolation for the students. This was also the most frequently referenced theme amongst responses received from students, with 12 out of the 20 survey responses from students highlighting the benefits of residential provision for the development of social skills.

Indicative comments:

"...Do you understand how hard it's as a parent to get your child to socialising, with children with the same interest and Quirks as them.... With the school offering residential stay makes it possible for the children to interact with their peers in more of a social environment..."

"...Residential setting at school give the children the opportunity to develop friendships and have new experiences outside of school hours instead of being isolated which is the reality for most children with special educational needs as they all live so far from each other."

"...AT HOME I CANT PLAY OUT BECAUSE I FIND IT HARD TO MAKE FRIENDS, IM STUCK IN THE HOUSE ALL EVENING, IN RESI I ENJOY PLAYING WITH FRIENDS."

59 respondents referenced the positive role that residential provision has in providing family support and respite. Many comments also referenced concern over the general lack of availability of respite elsewhere and highlighted the value not just for parents but for siblings.

Indicative comments:

"...Also for some of the families it offers a life line for parents and other siblings allowing parents time and a break from the constant demands and behaviour problems."

"Additionally it gives parents and siblings the opportunity for respite from children who often need a lot more support and attention."

Reference to other skills or activities represented another recurring theme amongst responses. Comments assigned to this theme included references to specific skills such as personal hygiene, swimming, cycling and opportunities to participate in other activities.

As chart 4 shows, other positive aspects of the provision that were highlighted include the staff, being in a safe or secure setting, and the impact on confidence.

Comments also reflected concerns, some expressing more general concern regarding the impact of the proposal whilst others made reference to specific concerns. Specific concerns raised included a lack of alternative support and the concern that removal of the provision would create further long term issues and costs.

Indicative comments:

"...Please do not close this service because there is a risk of future mental health issues and lack of independence which will mean even more money could be spent."

"It is a false economy - this is going to cost the tax payer far more than it saves in individual respite , in increases in direct payments , in costs of sheltered living because children haven't achieved independent living , and in benefits payments"

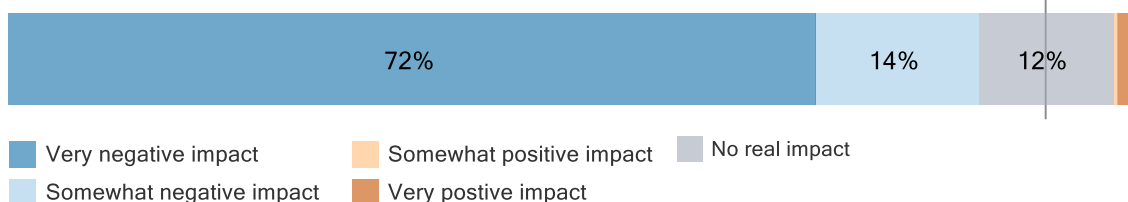
As indicated in chart 4, one comment was received which indicated support for the proposal.

Question 3 – Impact of the proposal

Respondents were asked what impact, if any, they thought that the proposal would have on them, their child and/or their family. Chart 5 shows that the majority of respondents (169) indicated that the proposal would have a ‘very negative impact’ and 34 (14%) indicated that the proposal would have a ‘somewhat negative impact.’

Chart 5 – Impact of the proposal (Q3)

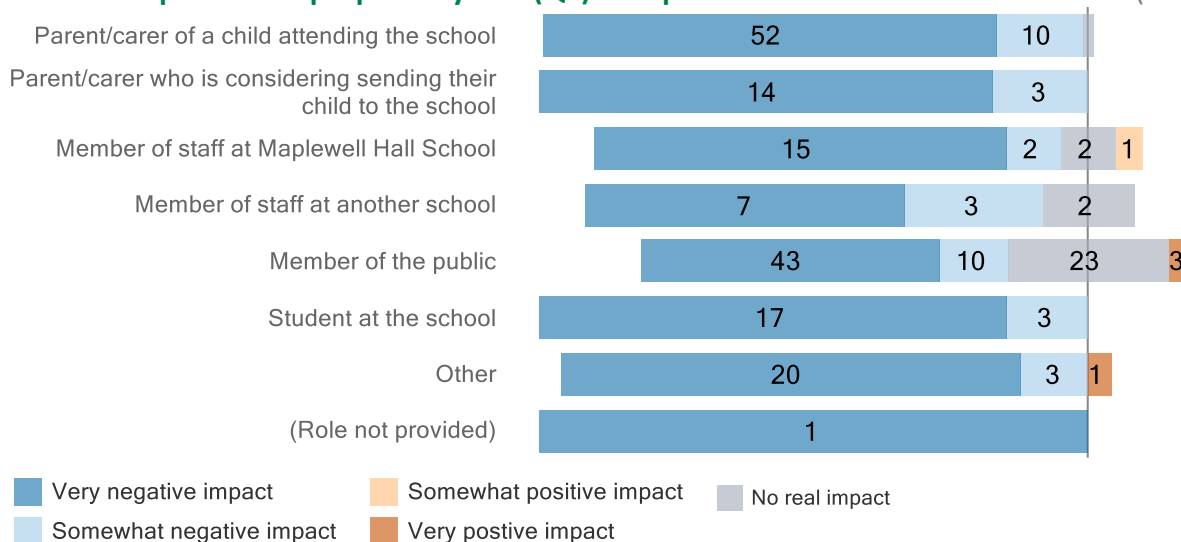
(Base: 236)



As chart 6 shows, analysis of responses by role indicates that the majority of those who indicated that the proposal would have ‘no real impact’ identified themselves as members of the public. Responses from parents or carers of children attending the school or who are considering sending their children to the school show that all but one response indicated that the proposal would have either a ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ negative impact. All responses from students indicate that the proposal would have either a ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ negative impact.

Chart 6 – Impact of the proposal by role (Q3) – response counts

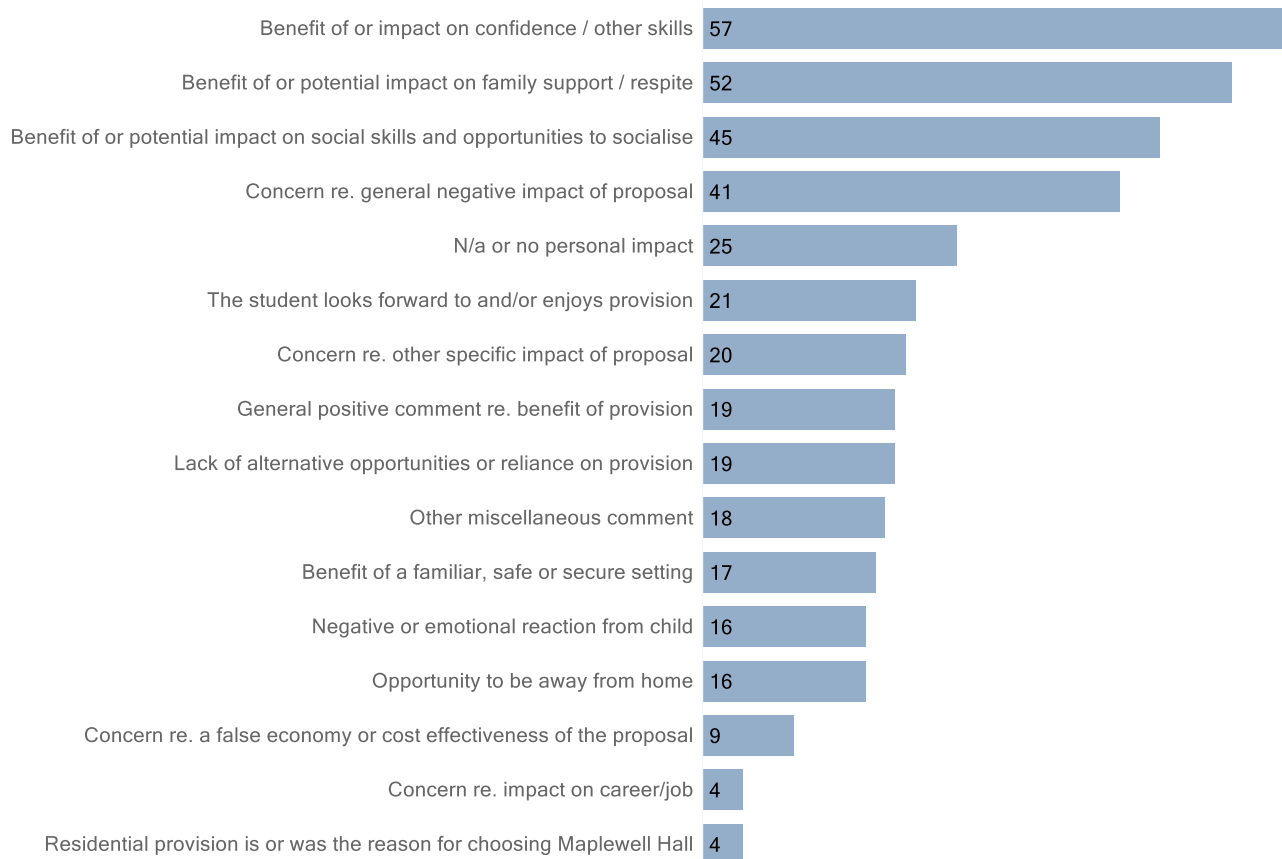
(Base: 236)



Question 3a – Open comments

Respondents were asked to provide comments for their answer to Q3, to which 187 respondents provided a comment. As chart 7 shows, some of the recurring themes mirror those from responses to the previous open comment question (Q2a).

Chart 7 – Open comments (Q3a)



Reference to confidence or other personal skills, particularly independence, received the most citations. Over half of the comments assigned to this theme were from parents or carers of a child attending the school or considering sending their child to the school. Confidence was often referenced alongside independence or independent living within the same comment.

Indicative comments:

“The skills learnt in a residential setting away from home develop independence, resilience, confidence and the ability to cope.”

“...Without the residential facilities my sibling would become more dependant on others and lose confidence in himself and his abilities.”

Family support or respite was the second most frequently referenced theme in response to this question, with many comments reflecting concern over the potential lack of respite.

Indicative comments:

"It would effect his family. Including the relationships his siblings have with their friends. It's a good opportunity for the siblings to have their friends over. Residential care is not used as a holiday home. It's also there to help the families live a calm ordinary life fir just a day a week."

"...The family will also miss the respite they get and I think this will add even more pressure to the family."

Many respondents referenced social skills in their comments, either as a specific benefit of the provision or a potential negative impact of the proposal. As in the references to this same theme for the previous question (Q2a), this included the opportunity residential provision provides for socialising with friends that are geographically dispersed.

Indicative comments:

"My son would not be able to socialise with his peers. All of his friends live far away from each other and as they struggle with leaving their home settings they would not be able to be together. They wouldn't have the opportunities of the activities that they participate in either. There is not the facilities or understanding for these children..."

"I had planned for my son to use this facility to improve his social skills and learn how to form friendships without me. I do not know how else this could be achieved."

General expressions of the negative impact of the proposal were noted amongst 41 comments. Other recurring themes amongst the responses to this question include concern regarding the lack of alternative opportunities or reliance on the provision, appreciation of the opportunity for students to be away from home and an expressed or potential negative reaction from the child.

Question 4 - Support for families and pupils and reducing negative impacts

Respondents were asked what could be done to support families and pupils and reduce any negative impacts. This question received 220 responses and as chart 8 illustrates, the majority (159) reflected the view that the residential provision should be kept open and not closed. Some specific suggestions were referenced amongst the responses, including the provision of a

Indicative comments:

"Don't close the residential provision"

"Do not close Maplewell's residential facility"

"Rethink your decision"

comparable alternative, the need to communicate with those affected, generate income or charge for the provision, the provision of after-school activities and the suggestion to reduce or change the existing scope of the provision.

Indicative comments:

"Make sure parents / carers and pupils are fully informed and consulted throughout the process. Provide information to families about other possible activities available for pupils with special educational needs in the local area."

"Provide residential respite for all pupils at a different site all together so they can socialise together the same as what is being stolen from them"

"...Have the Council looked at a reduction or ways to reduce costs of the service, have you considered whether parents and/or the school are willing to contribute additional sums of money on a regular payment plan..."

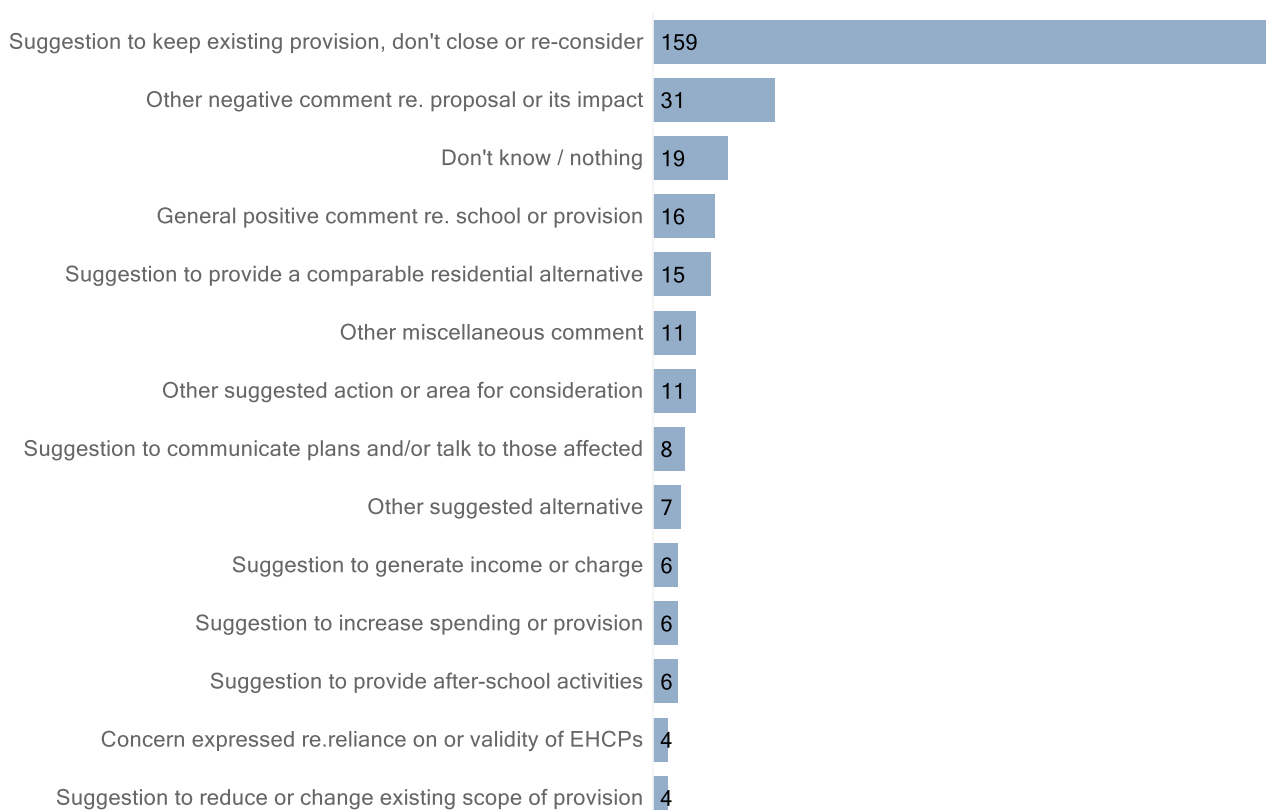
"Offer evening social sessions for children to mix with others"

"Keep it open on a smaller scale."

As chart 8 indicates, 4 comments also raised concern regarding reliance on EHCPs.

Indicative comment:

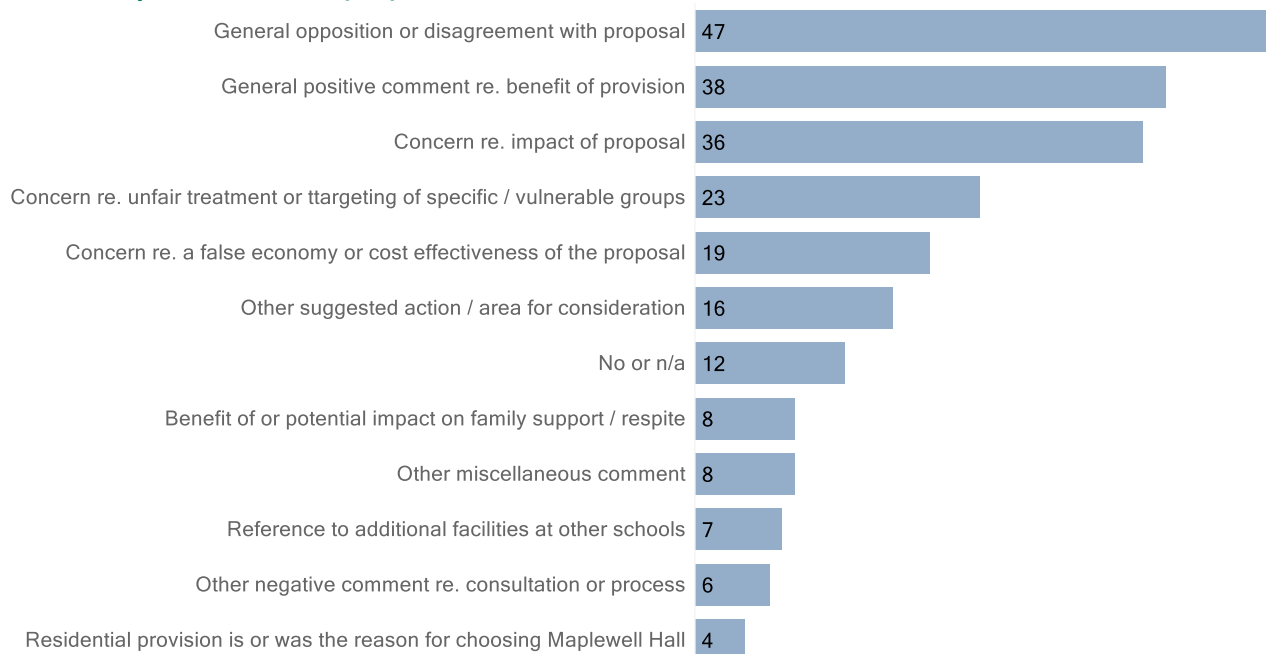
"...It may not be specifically mentioned in children's EHCP but it was the reason we chose the school and we would have mentioned for inclusion if we'd known the plan"

Chart 8 – Open comments (Q4)

Question 5 – Other comments

Respondents were asked if they had any other comments, which received 148 replies. Chart 9 shows the codes assigned to these comments.

Chart 9 – Open comments (Q5)



As chart 9 shows, the most frequently referenced theme in response to this question related to general opposition or disagreement with the proposal.

Indicative comments:

"Please don't close residential as I wouldn't be able to spend time with my friends and learn how to get along with people outside of school."

"Please please try and find an alternative to save money than closing a facility that is clearly needed and that people feel very strongly about."

"I think it's an outrage that this facility be closed purely because of funding without the consideration of those affected students with complex and crippling mental and learning difficulties"

A number of respondents also took the opportunity to reiterate the positive benefits of the residential provision and some common themes also featured in responses to Q2a, for example concern regarding unfair treatment or targeting of specific or vulnerable groups and concerns regarding cost effectiveness.

Indicative comments:

"Before I did residential I didn't know how to make my bed, cook simple meals and or hot drinks. The staff have supported me through some difficult times where it helped to be away from home."

"This is a extremely great school which will be highly recommended for children with additional needs. It's in a great setting and location. The teachers, ta's and staff are very knowledgeable in how the children can cope with certain and various settings. They have made a huge impact on us as a family."

"I know that budgets are being cut everywhere and finding money is becoming increasingly difficult but please don't let the weaker members of society suffer. Special needs children already miss out on so much and this gives them a chance to experience a normal life in a totally secure environment"

Concerns were also raised within the responses to this question, particularly concerns regarding the negative impact of the proposal.

Indicative comments:

"Austerity will pass but take this unique and outstanding residential provision away and it's gone forever - along with that chance for our kids to develop better futures. Surely there is a better way to save money than take it from those who were born with so many challenges in just living each day. The last word has to be from my son - "Please don't let them, I will cry""

"Some children will not get the required support outside of school from social care as currently the school picks the issues up where pupils are at risk."

Appendix 1: Questionnaire



Have your say on the proposed closure of residential facilities at Maplewell Hall School

Maplewell Hall School, built in 1857 and located in Woodhouse Eaves, currently has capacity for 195 pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), in addition to a maximum nightly capacity of 24 pupils residential facility. The school is maintained by Leicestershire County Council.

Leicestershire County Council, working with the governing body of Maplewell Hall School, is proposing to close the residential facility from September 2018. The proposal is for a phased closure over several months, allowing sufficient time to work with any pupils/families affected by the closure to put alternative support in place if considered necessary after a social care assessment.

Tell us how this might affect you. We are seeking views from parents/carers and other members of the public.

Please read the supporting information provided before completing the questionnaire.

Thank you for your assistance. Your views are important to us.

Please note: Your responses to the main part of the survey (Q1 to Q5, 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 what role are you responding to this consultation? Please select one option only.

- ☐ Parent/carer of a child attending the school
- ☐ Parent/carer who is considering sending their child to the school
- ☐ Member of the public
- ☐ Member of staff at Maplewell Hall School
- ☐ Member of staff at another school
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

Please specify 'other'

Q2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close the residential facilities at Maplewell Hall School?

Strongly agree

☐

Tend to agree

☐

Neither agree
nor disagree

☐

Tend to disagree

☐

Strongly
disagree

☐

Don't know

☐

Why do you say this?

Q3 What impact, if any, do you think the proposal would have on you, your child and/or your family?

☐ Very negative impact

☐ Somewhat negative impact

☐ No real impact

☐ Somewhat positive impact

☐ Very positive impact

☐ Don't know

Why do you say this?

Q4 What could we do to support families and pupils and reduce any negative impacts?

Q5 Do you have any other comments?

Please complete the 'About you' section if you said you are a 'Parent/carer of a child attending the school', 'Parent/carer who is considering sending their child to the school', or 'Member of the public' in Q1. Otherwise, please skip to the end of the 'About you' section.

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.

Q6 What is your gender identity?

- ☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Other (e.g. pangender, non-binary etc.)

Q7 Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Q8 What was your age on your last birthday? (Please enter your age in numbers not words)

Q9 What is your full postcode?

This will allow us to see how far you live from the school. It will not identify your house.

Q10 Are you a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Q11 If yes, what are the ages of the children in your care? Please tick all applicable

- ☐ 0-4 ☐ 11-15
☐ 5-10 ☐ 16-17

Q12 Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or over?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Q13 Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Q14 What is your ethnic group? Please tick one box only.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ White | ☐ Black or Black British |
| ☐ Mixed | ☐ Other ethnic group |
| ☐ Asian or Asian British | |

Q15 What is your religion?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ No religion | ☐ Jewish |
| ☐ Christian (all denominations) | ☐ Muslim |
| ☐ Buddhist | ☐ Sikh |
| ☐ Hindu | ☐ Any other religion |

Q16 Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Q17 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 | ☐ Lesbian |
| ☐ Gay | ☐ Other |
| ☐ Heterosexual / straight | |

Thank you for your assistance. Your views are important to us.

When the consultation closes on the 29 October 2017, a report detailing the outcomes of the consultation will go back to Leicestershire County Council's cabinet for their consideration. If the cabinet decide to progress with the proposal, the formal stage, including a statutory notice and a further four weeks of formal consultation, would start in early spring 2018.

Please return your completed survey to: Maplewell Hall School Consultation, Room 300B, Leicestershire County Council, Have Your Say, FREEPOST NAT 18685, Leicester, LE3 8XR

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

Survey Responses			
Age	156	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Under 15	5	3	2
15-24	6	4	2
25-34	24	15	10
35-44	65	42	26
45-54	43	28	17
55-64	11	7	4
65 and over	2	1	1
No reply	34	38	

Survey Responses			
Gender identity*	166	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Male	40	24	16
Female	126	75	50
Other (e.g. pangender, nonbinary etc.)	0	0	0
No reply	86	34	

Survey Responses			
Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?	165	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Yes	162	97	64
No	3	2	1
No reply	87	35	

*NR = No reply

Survey Responses

Are you a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under?	167	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Yes	123	74	49
No	44	26	17
No reply	85	34	

Survey Responses

If yes, what are the ages of the children in your care?	122	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
0-4	20	12	8
5-10	60	36	24
11-15	82	49	33
16-17	28	17	11
No reply	252		

Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or over?	164	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Yes	20	12	8
No	144	86	57
No reply	88	35	

Survey Responses

Do you have a long-standing illness or disability?*	163	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Yes	27	16	11
No	136	81	54
No reply	89	35	

*NR = No reply

Survey Responses

Ethnicity	163	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
White	157	94	62
Mixed	3	2	1
Asian or Asian British	2	1	1
Black or Black British	0	-	-
Other ethnic group	1	1	0.4
No reply	89	35	

Survey Responses

Sexual orientation	147	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Bisexual	4	2	2
Gay	1	1	0.4
Heterosexual/straight	136	81	54
Lesbian	2	1	1
Other	4	2	2
No reply	105	42	

*NR = No reply

Survey Responses

What is your religion?	160	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
No religion	75	45	30
Christian (All denominations)	82	49	33
Buddhist	1	1	0.4
Hindu	0	-	-
Jewish	0	-	-
Muslim	2	1	1
Sikh	0	-	-
Any other religion or belief	0	-	-
No reply	92	37	

Survey Responses

Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council?	164	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Yes	10	6	4
No	154	92	61
No reply	88	35	

*NR = No reply

District (all responses)	139	Survey Responses	
		% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Blaby	10	4	7
Charnwood	73	29	53
Harborough	4	2	3
Hinckley & Bosworth	19	8	14
Melton	0	-	-
North West Leicestershire	22	9	16
Oadby & Wigston	1	0.4	1
Missing/Invalid Postcode	113	45	
Leicester	3	1	2
Other	7	2.78	

*District of responses from parent/carer of
a child attending or who is considering
sending their child to the school:*

		Survey Responses	
		% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*
Blaby	6	9	8
Charnwood	30	43	38
Harborough	2	3	3
Hinckley & Bosworth	12	17	15
Melton	0	-	-
North West Leicestershire	16	23	20
Oadby & Wigston	1	1	1
Missing/Invalid Postcode	11	14	
Leicester	1	1	1
Other	1	1	1

*NR = No reply

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 ਫੋਨ 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 pomożemy.

Strategic Business Intelligence Team
Strategy and Business Intelligence Branch

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CABINET – 24th NOVEMBER 2017

**REVISED LEICESTERSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC
PLAN 2016 –2019**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES**

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Cabinet the updated Leicestershire Youth Justice Strategic Plan covering the period 2016 – 2019.

Recommendation

2. That the County Council be recommended to:
 - (a) Agree the updated Leicestershire youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019 as set out in the Appendix to this report;
 - (b) Authorise the Director of Children and Family Services to make minor amendments to the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016-2019 as are considered necessary to ensure it remains current and conforms to the requirements of the Youth Justice Board.

Reason for Recommendations

3. The County Council has a statutory duty under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. Following guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in 2015, subsequent plans will cover a three year period. Since that time the YJB have advised that the 3 year Youth Justice Plans need to be updated each year prior to re-submission to them.
4. Following its approval, the YJB requested that the Youth Offending Service (YOS) review the Plan after its first year of implementation and if necessary, update it to reflect changes in priorities and budget position.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. The updated 3 year Plan has been considered by the Youth Offending Service Management Board. Whilst there are no significant changes to the Plan, a copy of the report has been circulated to the Scrutiny Commissioners for their information.
6. Subject to approval by the Cabinet, the Plan will be submitted to the County Council for approval at its meeting on 6 December 2017.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

7. The three year Youth Justice Plan 2016-2019 was originally approved by the County Council at its meeting in June 2016, following a period of consultation with stakeholders and its consideration by this Youth Offending Service Management Board, the Scrutiny Commission and the Cabinet.
8. The now updated Plan was approved by the Youth Offending Management Board at its meeting on 22 September 2017.

Resource Implications

9. Sections 4 and 6 of the draft Plan set out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service (YOS). The County Council remains the major funding partner via the Children and Families Service.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

10. None.

Officers to Contact

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Chris Bolas – Service Manager Youth Justice and Community Safety
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PART B

Background

11. The Youth Offending Service (YOS) moved from its existing one year plan to one which covered a three year period on the recommendation of the YJB. It was hoped the move would reduce the burden on YOSs nationally requiring them to produce a new plan only every three years. The new Plan therefore details the Services priorities for 2016 to 2019.
12. Following its approval by the Council in June 2016, the YJB requested that the YOS review the Plan after its first year of implementation and if necessary update it to reflect changes in priorities and budget position. It is therefore necessary for the updated Plan to be approved by the County Council.

Amendments to the 2016 – 2019 Youth Justice Strategic Plan

13. The Plan largely remains the same other than a small number of amendments in order for it to reflect the change in the Service's budget position and the its additional priorities. A revised version of the 2016 – 2019 Youth Justice Plan is attached as an Appendix to this report. The main changes are:
 - The Resources section contains an updated financial position (see page 7). The amended YOS budget of £2.2 million is a reduction from £2.7 million shown in the 2016 – 2019 Youth Justice Plan. The reduction of £500,000 was as a result of the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), and reductions from the YJB, the Police, and the National Probation Service. The Services' transformation plan was implemented during 2016/17.
 - The Service Development section has additional information concerning the work being undertaken on Desistance and on Education and Employment and Training (ETE). The new Desistance approach focuses on a more holistic approach to working with young people rather than the current deficit model, and as a result of the recent HMIP (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation) thematic on the subject, it is going to become the corner stone of future inspections. ETE has been added due to a further down turn in performance (see page12).
 - Appendix B to the Plan now contains an updated performance table to include 2016/17 performance set against the National Indicators (see page 17).
 - The work of the Youth Offending Service has been set against reduced funding from the YJB, partner agencies, and through the Council's MTFS, as outlined. Reductions in staff have been

balanced across a number of functions, to preserve the Services' work linked to preventative work with young people on the cusp of offending. Performance against national indicators remains good compared to regional and national trends.

Potential for Further Amendments

14. As the YJB may request the YOS to undertake further reviews of the Plan before it is refreshed in 2019, it is considered sensible for the Director of Children and Family Services to be authorised to make such minor changes to the Plan in future as are necessary to ensure this remains current and conforms to any future YJB requirements.

Background Papers

Report to Council – 29 June 2016 - Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=4552&Ver=4>

Appendix

Updated Leicestershire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019

Equality and Human Rights Implications

15. An equality and human rights impact assessment has been completed and there are no discernible equality and human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Risk Assessment

16. A risk management plan has been incorporated into the Plan which can be found on page 17.



CABINET – 24 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**ANNUAL DELIVERY REPORT AND PERFORMANCE COMPENDIUM
2017**

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Annual Delivery Report and Performance Compendium for 2017.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that:

- (a) The overall progress during 2016/17 in delivering on the Council's Strategic Priorities, securing transformation and mitigating the impact of national funding reductions, as set out in the draft Annual Delivery Report, be noted;
- (b) That the current comparative funding and performance position and latest service data set out in the draft Performance Compendium be noted;
- (c) That it be noted that the national funding system is:-
 - (i) causing serious financial challenges for the Council, with major implications for the provision of services to the people of Leicestershire;
 - (ii) placing increasing pressure on the delivery and quality of services which require enhanced performance monitoring, contract and risk management;

and that the Council continues to press its case for a fairer funding settlement;

- (d) The Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader, be authorised to make any amendments to the draft Annual Delivery Report and draft Performance Compendium prior to its submission to the County Council on 6 December 2017 for approval.

Reason for Recommendations

3. It is best practice in performance management, implicit in the LGA Sector-Led approach to local authority performance and part of the Council's Internal Governance Framework, to undertake a review of overall progress at the end of the year and to benchmark performance against comparable authorities. It is also good practice to produce an annual performance report and ensure that it is scrutinised, transparent, and made publicly available.
4. The Council is poorly funded in comparison with other local authorities and this will affect future delivery and performance levels.
5. The draft Report and Compendium may be modified to reflect comments made by the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Commission as well as to include any final national comparative data which becomes available prior to its consideration by full Council.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

6. The Annual Delivery Report and Performance Compendium 2017 will be considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 15 November and its comments will be reported to the Cabinet.
7. The Annual Delivery Report is scheduled for consideration by the County Council at its meeting on 6 December.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

8. The Annual Delivery Report and Performance Compendium 2017 forms part of the County Council's Policy Framework. The information outlined in the report provides performance data which will help the Council and its partners to ensure services continue to meet standards, provide value for money and that outcomes are being achieved for local people.

Resource Implications

9. The report has no direct resource implications.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officers to Contact

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PART B

Background

10. The draft Annual Delivery Report and draft Performance Compendium (appended to this report) covers County Council delivery over the last 12 months or so. It draws largely on 2016/17 comparative data although older data is included where more up to date information is not available. In some cases the data is more recent, such as the summer 2017 school examination results.
11. The report is divided into two parts – the first part is narrative, describing delivery, progress with implementing agreed plans and strategies, and achievements over the last 12 months. It largely focuses on performance against County Council priorities as set out in the Council's Strategic Plan to 2018 and other main service strategies.
12. The second part, the 'performance compendium', has been enhanced this year and contains information on:-
 - Current inequality in funding and the Council's Fair Funding proposals;
 - Current savings plans, future transformation requirements, service pressures and corporate risks;
 - Comparative performance, cost and service benchmarking 2015/16 including lower comparative performing areas;
 - 2016/17 end of year performance figures and a summary of progress towards the 2014/18 Strategic Plan targets.
13. Comparative data is sourced from a range of acknowledged data sources including the Local Government Association (LG Inform) national data system, Public Health and Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework data, OFSTED and Department for Education data sets, national highways and waste surveys, statutory returns, and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) data. There is some comparative data still to be published - notably some attainment and children's social care data, which are due to be published by December 2017. The overall Council benchmarking position for 2016/17 will be updated at that point.
14. The report is presented as a draft document and will continue to be developed to incorporate points made by the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Commission as well as the inclusion of any final national comparative data which becomes available prior to its consideration by the County Council on 6 December. The final Annual Report will be properly formatted and published online via the County Council website (<http://www.leics.gov.uk>).

Delivery Narrative Summary

15. Overall analysis of the narrative shows some strong examples of transformation and delivery across the theme areas. There are good plans, financial management and governance in place supporting delivery and improvement.

Performance Data Analysis

16. Initial analysis of 2016/17 end of year data shows that out of 156 metrics (excluding schools and crime), 80 service metrics improved (51%), 28 saw no real change (18%), and 38 (24%) are getting worse. For 10 service metrics the 'direction of travel' cannot be determined, usually due to changes in indicator definitions or due to the addition of new indicators.
17. Of those 156 metrics:-
 - 7 out of 11 relating to service funding have worsened.
 - 11 out of 16 economy metrics have improved.
 - 4 out of 9 metrics relating to transport have improved.
 - The Adult Social Care and Better Care Fund metrics have seen 15 out of 25 improve and 7 worsen.
 - Public Health and Wellbeing has seen 14 metrics improve and 6 worsen.
 - Children and Family Services has seen 19 metrics improve and 5 worsen.
 - Crime has seen all indicators worsen.
 - Detailed schools analysis is not yet available but generally has seen improvement in 9 out of 17 metrics.
 - Environment and waste has seen 7 metrics improve and 2 worsen.
18. Of the current comparative analysis out of 122 indicators, 31 are top quartile, 43 second quartile, 27 third quartile and 21 fourth quartile.
19. There have been some notable improvements in the following areas of performance:-

Economic and Transport

- Gross Value Added to the local economy, broadband, tourism and heritage visits; NVQ Level 2 and 4 and reduced NEETs (not in education, employment or training); housing site supply; road casualty reduction and Killed and Serious Injury reduction.

Health and Care

- Reduced admissions to care (18-64 years) and admissions due to falls. Ease at which information on the Council's website can be found. Reablement, personalisation of services and support via cash payments. Improved dementia diagnosis and learning disability settled accommodation. Improvement in care quality/satisfaction. Reduction in health inequalities. Reduction in cancer mortality. Smoking prevalence. Increased chlamydia diagnoses and reduction in under 18 conceptions. Mental health indicators. CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).

Children, Families and Safer Communities

- Early years provision and good level of development. Child safeguarding, placement stability, Looked After Child dental checks and immunisations. Improved care leavers in suitable accommodation and employment education or training. Improved adoption timeliness and a reduction in juveniles given custodial sentence.

Environment and Waste

- Less household waste generated, CO₂ from street lights/signs and business miles.

20. Areas of reduced performance include:-

- New dwellings delivery and new social landlord dwellings, vehicle speeds and road transport CO₂.
- Admissions of older people to care, hospital admissions, delayed transfers of care, carers satisfaction, female life expectancy, drug treatment completion (opiates), child obesity rates.
- LAC health checks, anti-social behaviour, and crime dealt with. Crime rates.
- Waste sent to landfill.
- Library visits.
- Sickness absence.

Improvement Plans Delivery

21. The Council needs to maintain a continued delivery focus in a number of areas and take forward a number of agreed strategies and improvement plans. There is also some time lag in the performance data and from actual delivery on the ground. Areas for continued focus include:-

- The Fair Funding Campaign, to seek more sustainable funding for local services. Analysis shows that Leicestershire, due to unfair funding, is now the lowest spender in a number of areas, with enhanced risks as a result of the time lag in some service performance data.
- Implementing a new targeted Single Outcomes Framework, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Transformation Programme and supporting Commissioning Plans;
- Ensuring a stronger commercial focus and more digital delivery of services;
- Continuing to enhance business intelligence, performance and contract quality monitoring, and feedback processes so that any service quality issues are detected and addressed;
- Continuing partnership working with the Police and Crime Commissioner to pursue improvements in crime reduction, in particular vehicle crime and burglary;
- Championing educational quality and improved outcomes in targeted areas;
- Delivering improvements through the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan; and
- Action plans to support workforce health and wellbeing and reduce staff sickness absence.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

22. There are no equality and human rights implications directly arising from this report. The draft Annual Delivery Report and draft Performance Compendium incorporate the progress of the County Council against key equalities commitments and indicators.

Background Papers

Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2014-18

Ofsted Inspection of Leicestershire Children's Social Care – February 2017

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/leicestershire>

Appendices

Appendix A - Draft Leicestershire County Council Annual Delivery Report 2017

Appendix B - Draft Performance Compendium 2017

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CABINET – 24 NOVEMBER 2017

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC
PLAN 2018 - 22**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the consultation on the revised Strategic Plan and seek approval for the Plan, covering the years 2018 – 22, to be submitted to the County Council for consideration.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that:
 - a) The outcome of consultation on the revised Strategic Plan be noted;
 - b) the draft Strategic Plan 2018 – 22 attached as Appendix A to this report be approved for submission to the County Council at its meeting on 6 December 2017.

Reason for Recommendations

3. To enable the revised Strategic Plan to be considered by the Council at its meeting on 6 December 2017. The Plan sets out an approach which will put outcomes for people first, support integration across the Council's services and make better use of the total resources available to the Council.

Timetable for Decisions (Including Scrutiny)

4. The Scrutiny Commission will consider the draft County Council Strategic Plan at its meeting on 15th November 2017 and its comments will be reported to the Cabinet.
5. As the Strategic Plan is part of the Authority's Policy Framework (as defined in the Constitution) the revised Plan will need to be approved by the full Council. It is intended that it will be submitted to the County Council meeting on 6th December 2017.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

6. In April 2016, the Cabinet approved a refresh of the Strategic Plan including the development of a Single Outcomes Framework. At the same meeting, the Cabinet approved a new approach to the Transformation Programme and commissioning to support the delivery of savings within the MTFS. The current Strategic Plan, covering the period 2014-2018, was approved by the County Council in May 2014.
7. On 23rd June 2017 the Cabinet approved five priority outcomes for inclusion in its revised Strategic Plan and a six week stakeholder engagement process.
8. The Scrutiny Commission considered the draft Strategic Plan, including the single outcomes framework, at its meeting on 19th July.
9. The Strategic Plan is underpinned by a number of other key policies and strategies to form the strategic policy of the Council including the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Transformation Programme.

Resource Implications

10. The need for any additional resources to implement an outcomes-based approach will be considered in finalising the Strategic Plan. It is anticipated, however, that the implementation of the Single Outcomes Framework will enable more effective deployment and targeting of the Council's existing resources.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert procedure

11. None.

Officer to contact

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Donna Worship, Policy Manager
 Chief Executive's Department
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PART B

Background

12. The Strategic Plan outlines the Council's long-term vision for the organisation and the people and place of Leicestershire. It provides a simple and clear summary of the Council's direction over the next four years.
13. The Council's Strategic Plan is underpinned by other key policies and strategies including the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council's Transformation Programme.
14. Since the Council approved the current Strategic Plan for 2014 – 18 in May 2014 there have been further annual iterations of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which have sought to set savings targets to help address the additional financial pressures placed on the Council.

An Outcomes-Based Approach

15. In developing the new Strategic Plan, it was decided to adopt an outcomes based approach. This involved the development of an overarching single outcomes framework which will set the strategic context for outcome based commissioning strategies. It will ensure that they are designed to deliver the Council's priority outcomes.
16. The five proposed strategic outcomes in the Plan are:

Strong Economy

Leicestershire's economy is growing and resilient so that people and businesses can fulfil their potential.

Wellbeing and Opportunity

The people of Leicestershire have the opportunities and support they need to take control of their health and wellbeing.

Keeping People Safe

People in Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm.

Great Communities

Leicestershire communities are thriving and integrated places where people help and support each other and take pride in their local area.

Affordable and Quality Homes

Leicestershire has a choice of quality homes that people can afford.

17. The Plan and Single Outcomes Framework set out the long-term vision for Leicestershire as a great place which offers good quality of life for residents, communities and businesses. It will enable the Council to have a joined up approach to delivery in the medium and short term. The priority outcomes will also

provide a basis for discussions with partners to identify common aims and highlight opportunities for collaboration.

18. An outcomes framework has the potential to strengthen the Council's leadership role by having a clear vision for the place and its people. This will enable the Council to lead with authority and clarity of purpose both when commissioning services and when shaping future strategy with partners.

19. Outcomes-based policy and commissioning provides:

- a) A focus on the difference the Council can make to citizens, communities and businesses and not just on short-term outputs or processes.
- b) A long-term vision, and medium and short-term actions.
- c) Activity and spend focused on achieving real and lasting benefit for Leicestershire people.
- d) Better integration across and between Council departments and partner organisations by directing effort towards shared outcomes.
- e) Commissioning and decommissioning aligned to a shared outcomes/vision and to national frameworks.
- f) The potential to measure the extent to which the Authority's money (and others in the public sector) is being spent on shared outcomes.
- g) The potential to widen the approach to other partners and therefore increase the size and scope of the available resource.

Developing the draft Strategic Plan and Single Outcomes Framework

20. The vision and outcomes framework have been developed through extensive engagement across the Council and reviews of evidence, insight and existing policy commitments.

21. The five priority outcomes which are felt to reflect the priorities of residents, businesses and communities in Leicestershire have been identified using a range of evidence and population data as well as qualitative evidence from service users and residents surveys. A desk based review of existing partnership commitments and national statutory requirements and measures established a framework of the Council's duties. The Council's commissioning strategies have been used to aid discussions across the organisation to agree the strategic outcomes and develop the supporting outcomes. These commissioning strategies have also been subject to extensive engagement and public consultation. Input from Members, Chief Officers and senior managers from across the Council and key stakeholder organisations have further shaped the Plan.

22. This has enabled a shared vision to be developed across the Council and for departments to take a joined up approach to responding to the challenges and

opportunities it faces. Affordability has been a key concern; at a time of increasing demand and reducing resources, a clear strategic direction, underpinned by evidence and a desire to work collaboratively, is essential in supporting decisions to be made regarding where to focus effort and to drive decisions about where investment of resources can be increased or reduced.

23. The draft Strategic Plan describes the organisation's approach to ensuring that strategic outcomes are reflected in front line delivery. It is deliberately aspirational and seeks to outline the end results that the Council wants to see for the people of Leicestershire. By beginning the end goal we open up an opportunity to reconsider the best means to deliver results. Rather than describing what the Council will do and the services it delivers, the single outcomes framework aims to stimulate innovation and collaboration and will allow it to identify synergies across traditional service boundaries and between partners.
24. It is recognised that the Council alone cannot deliver all the change that will be needed to realise the strategic outcomes. The Council will seek to collaborate with partners to coordinate and integrate its plans with others as this will have maximum impact in addressing the most pressing problems that the county faces. Through the supporting outcomes the Council is seeking to understand its own contribution by highlighting the issues where it is the lead organisation or has significant influence to drive positive change.
25. The Strategic Plan sets the framework for the work of the Council but is not a detailed description of the services that it will provide as this information will be captured in individual departmental commissioning intentions and service plans.

Stakeholder engagement

26. The draft Single Outcomes Framework was the subject of a six week engagement exercise which took place from 26th June to 4th August 2017. The engagement was targeted at key stakeholder organisations such as the NHS, police and local councils (45 consultees) and partnerships such as the Health and Wellbeing Board (13 consultees), details are included in the engagement report at Appendix B.
27. A discussion document including consultation questions was sent to key organisational stakeholders. The discussion document was also either mailed or presented to all of the partnerships included in the stakeholder list included in Appendix B and comments invited. The questionnaire consisted of a range of open-ended questions which were used to guide the structure and content of responses with the opportunity for stakeholders to provide additional feedback should they wish. All the documents (draft Single Outcomes Framework and questionnaire) were available in different formats and languages upon request.
28. Targeted notifications were sent to all County Councillors and Leicestershire MPs and a presentation was provided to the County Council's Scrutiny Commission as part of the engagement process on 19th July 2017.

Stakeholder responses

29. Twenty responses to the discussion document were received as open text. Most of the submissions broadly responded to the questions in the questionnaire but were not limited to addressing the questions alone. The responses represented 8 partnerships and 12 organisations. A detailed report on the consultation response is attached as Appendix A and a summary is given below.
30. The Scrutiny Commission was broadly supportive of the outcomes in the Plan but raised a number of concerns, most of which were reflected in the responses to the consultation. In particular, the Commission was concerned that the Plan was too aspirational and lacked detail in terms of how it would be delivered and how performance would be monitored. There was also concern regarding the inclusion of a priority around quality and affordable housing, as the County Council had limited influence and the Plan, as drafted, did not describe the Council's role in this area.
31. The consultation responses demonstrated support for the Vision statement and principles, although some detailed changes to the vision were suggested. Those organisations that responded felt that there was good alignment with the vision of their own organisations.
32. The responses broadly supported the outcomes-based approach. Responses concerning the alignment of the five themes with the authorities other strategies varied due to the differing statutory responsibilities of the respondents.
33. Several respondents considered that the outcomes were very high level and lacked detail and there were calls for the framework to be more focussed on what is special to Leicestershire.
34. There was a very high level of support for working in partnership and enthusiasm for continued involvement in the development of delivery mechanisms for the framework. Some respondents called for the approach to be more 'ambitious' and for the development of a shared outcomes framework for all the strategic organisations in the area with a clear indication of roles, responsibilities and levels of accountability (e.g. lead, support, influencer or advocate).
35. There were calls for additional strategic outcomes on the environment and education to be added to the framework or for them to be given more priority. The Scrutiny Commission also expressed concern that environmental issues were not adequately represented.
36. Several respondents suggested that additional emphasis should be given within the priorities to meeting the need of the most vulnerable, good emotional and mental health, crime and vulnerability, transport infrastructure as an enabler and the importance of homes being in the right place. These issues have all been addressed in the revised Plan.

Revised draft of the Strategic Plan

37. In response to the feedback from the engagement process a number of changes have been incorporated into the draft Strategic Plan.
38. In summary, these changes are:
 - a) The vision has been shortened into a summary statement with explanatory text.
 - b) Additional detail has been added to the 'Achieving the Vision' section to cover partnership working and the delivery mechanisms against each theme and the Council's transition to an outcomes-based business model.
 - c) The inclusion of an outline performance framework which will allow the Council to benchmark performance against other local authority areas.
 - d) The inclusion of equality and environment into a single principle has been strengthened by reflecting the importance of these two objectives to the Council's corporate social responsibility.
 - e) A set of priorities have been established within the 'Our Approach' section which cover objectives which cut across all outcomes e.g. fair funding, prevention, commercialism etc.
 - f) The importance of market towns and rural issues, transport as an enabler and inward investment have been reflected in the Strong Economy outcome section and performance framework.
 - g) Good mental health support, physical activity, working age adults and more emphasis on educational attainment have all been included in the Wellbeing and Opportunity outcome section and performance framework.
 - h) The importance of transport infrastructure, homes being in the right place and having a positive impact on health and wellbeing have been reflected in the Quality and Affordable Homes outcome section and performance framework.
 - i) The protection of the environment is incorporated in each of the outcomes and also as a cross cutting principle to emphasise its importance in quality of life.
 - j) The importance of education and skills has been included in the Strong Economy and Wellbeing and Opportunity outcome sections and is reflected in the performance framework.

Proposed Strategic Plan 2018 - 22

39. The Council's vision statement, included in the Strategic Plan, is: "Working together for the benefit of everyone."
40. It states that 'The Council is here to make a positive difference to the lives of Leicestershire people, creating a strong economy that enables the best life chances for all. People are well and safe, living as part of great communities where they can enjoy life with maximum independence in quality homes that are affordable.'
41. The five proposed strategic outcomes, which support the vision in the Plan, are:

Strong Economy

Leicestershire's economy is growing and resilient so that people and businesses can fulfil their potential.

Wellbeing and Opportunity

The people of Leicestershire have the opportunities and support they need to take control of their health and wellbeing.

Keeping People Safe

People in Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm.

Great Communities

Leicestershire communities are thriving and integrated places where people help and support each other and take pride in their local area.

Affordable and Quality Homes

Leicestershire has a choice of quality homes that people can afford.

42. In addition, the Strategic Plan states that 'The Council wants to remain a sustainable and successful organisation leading modern, highly effective services. It will nurture strong, transparent, and trusting relationships with partners, customers and communities to improve people's lives - now and in the future.' This is the vision for how the organisation operates to deliver the outcomes.
43. The Plan also includes the following principles which will shape the Council's approach and define how it works as an organisation to achieve the vision.
 - **Good Value:** We make the best use of all the resources available to get the best return for Leicestershire.
 - **Informed:** We make good decisions, based on evidence, and try new things to drive innovation in public service.
 - **High expectations:** We have outstanding staff who aim high to make a real difference – focusing on the outcomes for people not just the delivery.
 - **Collaborative:** We work together with partners, communities and residents to share responsibility, build our strengths and find solutions.
 - **Open:** We listen to and empower local people; keep them informed and involve them in our plans.
 - **Responsible:** We contribute positively to the environment and we are committed to equality.

Delivery of the Strategic Plan and Single Outcomes Framework

44. The refresh of the County Council's Strategic Plan provides an opportunity to renew focus on the Council's strategic priority outcomes and to align investment, productivity and performance to delivering these outcomes.

45. This new approach will mean a change in the way the Council works and how each part of the Council can contribute to the delivery of the outcomes. Underpinned by evidence, this approach will help the Council to know 'what works' and replicate this across all services.
46. A focus on outcomes is not an entirely new concept for the County Council. Existing outcome-based arrangements are in place, such as those for the Enabling Growth Plan which is overseen by a corporate Enabling Growth Board. These arrangements have allowed the Council to move towards outcome-based decision making without changes to financial or organisational models. Outcome-based commissioning already exists in social care and national outcome-based indicator performance frameworks exist in adult social care and public health.
47. The County Council is already an active and influential organisation in partnerships covering the Midlands, Leicester and Leicestershire (sometimes with Rutland), and across the county. The main strategic partnerships which the Council is a member of are included in the summary diagram in the Strategic Plan under each outcome on page 11.
48. The Strategic Plan reflects the contribution that the Council makes in meeting its partnership commitments as set out in the strategies listed in the diagram e.g. the Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is reflected across the outcome themes but mainly in the wellbeing and opportunity outcome. The partnership strategies cover areas where the Council may have some influence but little control such as the delivery of urgent care or responding to crime – these require contributions from other partners.

A refreshed Transformation Programme

49. The refresh of the County Council's Strategic Plan provides an opportunity to utilise a renewed focus on the Council's strategic priority outcomes to align its service investment, productivity and performance alongside these outcomes.
50. A new portfolio of transformation will also allow for more effective support and challenge to enable service commissioning changes within departments. To do this, medium term commissioning strategies will be developed against the five priority themes. Detailed annual delivery plans will direct the work of service areas with a supporting performance management framework in place to help understand and monitor progress and to measure the impact on the strategic outcomes.
51. A refresh of the County Council's transformation effort will therefore also be necessary - to continue the pursuit of service delivery and efficiency savings, but also to ensure the aligned investment of effort and resources towards ensuring 'a sustainable and successful organisation leading modern, highly effective services'.
52. Work is underway to determine the full scope of transformation activity which will see the organisation move from its current operating model to that necessary under the vision. This scoping work encompasses existing and

future planned activity under the organisations various strategies, including the Medium Term Financial Strategy, People Strategy, Data & Business Intelligence Strategy and emerging plans for IT & Digital, Commercial activity and Communities, amongst others.

53. Work will be guided through effective engagement and communication, working closely with customers and communities. The Council's equality and environment strategies explain the approach to the Authorities social responsibilities which are part of everything it does.
54. The Council will build on its existing performance reporting to develop a robust performance management framework supported by the datasets and tools set out within the business intelligence strategy. This will allow it to monitor progress against the outcomes for the population of Leicestershire, the effectiveness of the programmes of work and how it has performed as an organisation in deploying its resources to achieve the change it wants to see. This will include benchmarking the Council against other comparable areas and analysing integrated data, where relevant, with its partners. An outline performance framework is included in the draft Strategic Plan from page 15.

Background papers

Report to the Cabinet on 23 June 2016 "County Council Strategic Plan and Single Outcomes Framework" - <http://ow.ly/Hbm030fNq1w>

Report to the Cabinet on 19 April 2016 "Review of the County Council's Strategic Plan – Embedding a new approach to transformation and commissioning" - <http://ow.ly/9Efy30cp11s>

County Council Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018 - <http://ow.ly/ZQG4Y>

Equality and Human Rights Implications

55. A screening assessment of the Single Outcomes Framework has been completed and concluded that a full impact assessment is not required. The Strategic Plan will continue to include specific priorities aimed at ensuring that the council maintains its excellent performance in equality and diversity practice and ensuring the delivery of the best outcomes for people with protected characteristics.

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Strategic Plan 2018 – 22

Appendix B - Consultation report

Appendix C - Equality and Human Rights Impacts Screening Assessment



CABINET – 24TH NOVEMBER 2017

**LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN
CONSULTATION DRAFT**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of work undertaken since the Strategic Growth Statement was published in August 2016 and to seek approval to undertake public consultation on the draft Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) for Leicester and Leicestershire which has been developed by the County Council, Leicester City Council, the seven Leicestershire district councils and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership.
2. The Strategic Growth Statement formed the first part of a three-stage process to prepare a Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire. Over this last year work has been ongoing on the second stage of this process, to prepare a draft Strategic Growth Plan for consultation. A copy of the draft is appended to this report.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that -
 - (a) The collaborative work undertaken to develop the draft Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire, including its 'endorsement' by the Members' Advisory Group (MAG), be noted and welcomed;
 - (b) The proposed consultation and engagement exercise on the draft Strategic Growth Plan and the timetable for that consultation as set out in the report be approved;
 - (c) Further reports be submitted to the Cabinet in 2018 advising on the Leicestershire County Council response which will be forwarded to the MAG, setting out the consultation responses received, and seeking approval for the final version of the Strategic Growth Plan.

Reasons for Recommendation

4. To recognise the ongoing co-operation and collective work between the local authorities and the LLEP that has taken place over the past year to enable the preparation of the draft Strategic Growth Plan (and, prior to that, to produce the Strategic Growth Statement). This has included the Members' Advisory Group, comprised of representatives from each partner authority, which has commended the draft SGP for consultation.
5. To enable all residents and other stakeholders to comment on the proposals contained within the draft SGP, before the final document is submitted for approval.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

6. The Consultation Draft Strategic Growth Plan was considered and endorsed by Member Advisory Group (MAG) on 6 November 2017.
7. The Scrutiny Commission will consider the Consultation Draft Strategic Growth Plan on 24 January 2018; and its comments will be submitted as part of the consultation process.
8. The draft SGP is being submitted to all partner local authorities during November and December 2017 and approval is being sought for the proposed consultation and engagement exercise and related timetable.
9. The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Board will receive a report on the proposed consultation arrangements for information.
10. It is intended that consultation will be held in early 2018. The consultation responses will then inform the final version of the Strategic Growth Plan which will be submitted to the Cabinet and other partners for approval. Subject to approval it is expected that the final SGP will be published in Summer/Autumn 2018.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

11. In June 2016 the Cabinet approved the Strategic Growth Statement for consultation. This formed the first part in the development of the SGP. The Statement set out the rationale and proposed process for preparation of the SGP, identified the defining characteristics of the local area and challenges faced by local authorities, outlined the evidence base and spatial options to be considered in formulating an SGP, and set out initial objectives and ambitions for the future.

Resource Implications

12. There are no resource implications arising from this report. Officer time and funding for consultancy work have been contributed by all partners. The cost of future communications work will need to be funded by partners.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

13. A copy of this report will be circulated to all members under the Members News in Brief Service.

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PART B

Context

14. Until 2010, the strategic planning framework for Leicester and Leicestershire was set out in the East Midlands Regional Plan (2009), the regional spatial strategy for the East Midlands. In 2010, however, regional spatial strategies were abolished by Government and local planning authorities were encouraged to consider strategic planning within the context of the '*duty to co-operate*' required by the Localism Act 2011.
15. In Leicester and Leicestershire, recognising that the strategy of the East Midlands Regional Plan would be implemented through proposals in the current round of Local Plans, the local planning authorities decided that strategic planning for the longer term would be more effective if undertaken across the City and County as a whole. In view of the important role of the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) in the delivery of infrastructure and economic growth, it became an additional partner in the process.
16. The Strategic Growth Plan has therefore been prepared jointly by the ten partner organisations in Leicester and Leicestershire, i.e. all eight of the local planning authorities, the County Council as the highway authority, the City Council as a unitary authority with combined planning and highways responsibilities, and the local enterprise partnership. Leicester and Leicestershire is fortunate in that the Housing Market Area, the Functional Economic Market Area, and the area covered by the LLEP have the same geographical boundaries, making it easier to plan for the future. Although it is necessary to collaborate with authorities outside Leicester and Leicestershire, the intention is that provision for housing and economic development needs will be met from within the area.
17. The development of the SGP is being overseen by the MAG, comprising representatives from each of the local authorities, together with the LLEP whose representative attends as an observer. The MAG is supported by a Strategic Planning Group, made up of senior officers from the local authorities. The MAG is responsible for assisting in the proper execution of the statutory Duty to Cooperate, by which local planning authorities and other key stakeholders, including the County Council, are required to co-operate on strategic planning issues, including employment and housing land provision, affecting local plans. A key element is overseeing the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan.
18. The need for an SGP was explained in the Cabinet report of June 2016. In summary it will -
 - (a) Support partners to plan effectively for the future, giving Local Plans a consistent framework and helping to make decisions on infrastructure and secure Government funding.

(b) Give some control over accommodating and supporting future growth and help to protect and enhance environmental assets.

(c) Provide confidence to the market, the Government, local businesses and residents that the local councils and the LLEP are working together to improve the area.

19. There are also risks in not having a Strategic Growth Plan - the inevitable development would be unplanned and lack infrastructure, local councils could not protect key assets, development/ investment would go elsewhere, the 'duty to co-operate' would not be met, and decisions may be taken away from local people
20. The Strategic Growth Statement was the first stage in the preparation of the Plan. This was the subject of public consultation in August/September 2016. Consultation responses were reported to MAG in early 2017.

Draft Strategic Growth Plan

21. The Draft Plan sets out a strategy for the growth and development of Leicester and Leicestershire in the period to 2050, allowing partners to consider the longer term needs of the area and opportunities which might extend beyond the conventional timeframe of a Local Plan. The MAG has considered the distribution of housing and employment land over a shorter time frame (2011-2031 and 2011-2036) in order for a more detailed framework for the preparation of Local Plans to be in place.
22. Since work started on the Strategic Growth Plan, other organisations have progressed their own work at different speeds (e.g. Network Rail, Highways England, the Midlands Connect Partnership) but there has been a constant dialogue to ensure an awareness of their emerging policies and proposals, and that projects considered to be vital to the future of Leicester and Leicestershire were incorporated in emerging plans, strategies and funding programmes.
23. As the Consultation Draft Plan has been developed, a number of events have been held for Members of the County Council to keep them advised of progress.
 - All Member briefing 7 February 2017 following the publication of the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) on 27 January 2017;
 - All Member briefings on 27 September 2017 and 1 November 2017

Proposed Consultation process

24. The detail and the extent of consultation that is to take place will vary between the partner organisations, to provide flexibility for each to reflect their own

practices. In practice, however, there needs to be an 'agreed consultation standard' which each local authority will adopt.

25. The following will provide the basis of the public consultation:

- The Consultation Draft Plan.
- A short, simple consultation leaflet. It is anticipated that this would constitute an A3 sheet of paper folded in such a way that the reasons for preparing the plan are set out on the front page, the strategy diagram with explanatory notations are set out on the centre spread and the final page should provide details of proposed housing numbers and ways in which consultation responses can be submitted.
- Copies of all supporting documentation.
- A standard presentation, with notes, to be used by individual organisations to ensure that a consistent message is conveyed.
- A consultation questionnaire.
- One or more joint press releases.

26. It is expected that all material relating to the consultation exercise will be held on the Strategic Growth Plan website (llstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk) Partner agencies will also advertise the link on their own websites. Arrangements will also be made for comments to be submitted by post.

27. It is expected that consultation will begin during week commencing 8 January 2018 for a period of twelve weeks.

28. All consultation responses will be reviewed and reported, in the first instance, to the MAG. At the same time, consideration will be given to whether amendments to the Draft Plan will need to be made.

29. It is expected that the final version of the Strategic Growth Plan will be presented to the MAG for consideration in summer/early autumn 2018 and subject to it being supported would then be submitted to the partner authorities for approval (in the case of the County Council this would be by means of a further report to the Cabinet).

Equality and Human Rights Implications

30. The Strategic Growth Plan, and the Local Plans which are subsequently formulated within its framework, have significant implications for disadvantaged people living in Leicestershire. By seeking to ensure economic growth is secured and an appropriate provision of affordable homes is made, the County Council can contribute to the needs of disadvantaged groups.

31. An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) has been undertaken and will be revisited at the next key stage in the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan. The outcomes of the most recent assessment will be available to view as part of the consultation process.

Environmental Implications

32. A Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment has been undertaken; this will be revisited at the next key stage in the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan. The outcomes will be available to view as part of the consultation process.

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet – 17 June 2016 – Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan – Strategic Growth Statement

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4603&Ver=4>

Appendix

Consultation Draft Strategic Growth Plan

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CABINET – 24 NOVEMBER 2017

**LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES: JOINT
STATEMENT OF CO-OPERATION**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval of a revised Joint Statement of Co-operation relating to Objectively Assessed Need for Housing which confirms the commitment of partner organisations to collaborative working across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the revised Joint Statement of Co-operation relating to Objectively Assessed Need for Housing (November 2017) attached as an Appendix to this report, be approved.

Reason for Recommendation

3. To ensure that all partners demonstrate commitment to providing for their objectively assessed housing needs and, if they are unable to be accommodated within the local authority area within which they arise, that a collaborative approach is taken to resolving the provision of unmet housing need.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The revised (November 2017) Joint Statement of Co-operation was considered by the Members' Advisory Group (which consists of member representatives from the nine local authorities, i.e. Leicester City Council, the County Council and the 7 District Councils') on 6 November 2017 and it was agreed that it could be published and proceed through the governance arrangements of partners. All partner organisations are being recommended to approve the revised Joint Statement of Co-operation.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. In June 2016 the Cabinet approved the Strategic Growth Statement for consultation. The Strategic Growth Statement formed the first stage of a three-stage approach for the preparation of the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan.

6. The initial Joint Statement of Co-operation was considered by the Members' Advisory Group (MAG), on 26 January 2017 and thereafter by all partners through their individual governance arrangements..
7. The County Council's Scrutiny Commission considered the Joint Statement on 8 March 2017 and the Cabinet later approved this at its meeting on 10 March 2017.

Resource Implications

8. There are no resource implications arising from this report. Officer time and funding for the Strategic Growth Plan have been contributed to by all partners.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

9. A copy of this report will be circulated to all members under the Members News in Brief Service.

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PART B

Context

10. One of the key pieces of evidence to inform the Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) for Leicester and Leicestershire is the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA). This was commissioned early in 2016 and was completed in January 2017.
11. The HEDNA provides information on the quantity of housing and employment land needed from 2011 to 2031 and 2011 to 2036, the type, tenure and size of new dwellings needed, and the quantity and type of employment land needed. It identifies the 'Objectively Assessed Need' for housing and employment land across the region.
12. A Joint Statement of Co-operation relating to Objectively Assessed Need for housing was published at the same time as the HEDNA on 27 January 2017. The Joint Statement demonstrates how the local authorities intended to address the matter of spatial distribution in the event that one or more authorities declare an unmet need.
13. The MAG considered the HEDNA and the Joint Statement of Co-operation at its meeting on 26 January 2017 and agreed that both documents could be published and that agreement to the Joint Statement of Co-operation could be sought through the governance arrangements of all partners.
14. The Cabinet and all other partners approved the Joint Statement in early 2017.

Changed circumstances

15. In February and March 2017 respectively, both Leicester City Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Councils declared that they had unmet needs. This position was formally recorded in letters sent to all partner organisations at that time.
16. Since then the position of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has been updated and on 31 October 2017 the Council determined, based on evidence, that it did not have an unmet need for the period 2011-31, but would have for the period 2011-36. This position has been formally recorded in a letter dated 2 November 2017 to all partners.
17. Given these changed circumstances, there is a need to update the Joint Statement of Co-operation. Once agreed, it will be used by the partner authorities when progressing their Local Plans in advance of the Strategic Growth Plan. This includes Melton Borough Council whose Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination; Harborough District Council whose Local Plan is currently the subject of public consultation; Oadby and Wigston Borough Council whose Plan will commence public

consultation in November 2017; and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council whose Local Plan is scheduled to begin consultation early in the new year.

The revised Joint Statement of Co-operation

18. The Joint Statement of Co-operation relates to the eight local planning authorities (Leicester City Council and the seven district councils) and two highway authorities (Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council). The purpose of the Joint Statement is to support those authorities seeking to produce a Local Plan in advance of the Strategic Growth Plan, and to set out how these authorities will collaborate further to ensure that the necessary joint evidence is in place to support subsequent Local Plans. It provides evidence of effective co-operation on planning for issues with cross-boundary impacts; the 'Duty to Co-operate'.
19. The Statement of Co-operation refers to the need for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plans meet the full Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for market and affordable housing in the Housing Market Area (HMA) as far as is consistent with the policies set out in the NPPF (paragraph 47, "boosting significantly the supply of housing land" by meeting OAN, identifying deliverable sites, how they will be delivered and at what density). It then refers to the need to understand the capacity to accommodate additional housing through Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAAs) to establish realistic assumptions about availability, suitability and likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the Local Plan period.
20. Table 1 in the Appendix to this report contains outputs from the HEDNA and SHLAAs and provides a summary of the agreed OAN for housing and the theoretical capacity for the HMA and each local authority. This shows an OAN of 96,580 dwellings for the period 2011 to 2031 for the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA, an OAN of 117,900 dwellings for the period 2011 to 2036 for the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA, and a theoretical total capacity of 207,069 dwellings for the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA. The theoretical capacity is determined by each local authority through its Local Plans process.
21. There is little variation to this table from the original Joint Statement of Co-operation. The theoretical total capacity has been updated and the HMA total increases by 161 dwellings from 206,908 dwellings in the original Joint Statement of Co-operation to 207,069 dwellings in the revised Joint Statement appended.
22. Similarly, the text has been updated in the revised Joint Statement to reflect the changed circumstances. Key changes are in paragraph 2.9 of the Appendix, where reference is made to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council having determined that it will be able to accommodate its needs in the period 2011-2031, but not in respect of the period 2011-36.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

23. There are no equality and human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report. An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) will be undertaken at key stages in the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan.

Environmental Implications

24. A Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment is to be undertaken, and will inform the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan.

Background Papers

16 June 2016: Cabinet Report: Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan – Strategic Growth Statement

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s119790/FINAL%20Strategic%20Growth%20Statment.pdf>

10 March 2017: Cabinet Report: Joint Statement of Co-operation Relating to Objectively Assessed Need for Housing

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s127068/FINAL%2017.02.20%20170215%20Joint%20Statement%20of%20Co-operation.pdf>

Appendix

Revised Joint Statement of Co-operation Relating to Objectively Assessed Need for Housing (November 2017)

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CABINET – 24 NOVEMBER 2017

**HARBOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2011 TO 2031 PROPOSED
SUBMISSION
CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval for the County Council's response to the Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 Proposed Submission prepared by Harborough District Council (HDC).

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that;
 - a) The detailed comments on the Harborough Local Plan Proposed Submission document as set out in the Appendix to this report be submitted to Harborough District Council as the views of the County Council;
 - b) The key comments set out in paragraphs 22 to 42 of the report be specifically drawn to the attention of Harborough District Council.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. To ensure that the County Council provides appropriate input at this key stage in the Local Plan process, so that issues of importance for the County Council are clearly expressed and the authority influences the content of the Local Plan.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. Consultation on the Proposed Submission took place from 22 September to 17 November 2017. As agreed with HDC, officers' comments will be submitted before the close of the consultation to ensure key service areas comments are duly made and following consideration by the Cabinet any further comments will be submitted to HDC.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. In formulating the County Council's response, particular consideration has been given to the Local Plan's:
 - Consistency with the provisions of the County's Waste Development Documents and Mineral Development Documents;
 - Consistency with the County Council's Strategic Plan 2014 to 2018 and Enabling Growth Plan (March 2015);
 - Consistency with the Leicester and Leicestershire's Enterprise Partnership's (LLEP) Strategic Economic Plan (2014);
 - Impact on the County Council's ability to implement any service or infrastructure it provides,
 - Impact on the County Council's interests as land and property owner; and,
 - Impact on the County Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Leicestershire.
6. In making comments the County Council has had regard to the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Policy Guidance, the sub-regional economic priorities set out in the Strategic Economic Plan, and the work currently taking place with the City Council, district councils and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) on the Strategic Growth Plan.

Resource Implications

7. There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

8. A copy of the report has been sent to County Councillors representing Electoral Divisions in Harborough District:

Mr. B. L. Pain CC
 Mr. W. Liquorish CC
 Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC
 Mr. S. J. Galton CC
 Mrs. R. Page CC
 Dr. S. Hill CC
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PART B

Background to the Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 Proposed Submission

National Context

9. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012, sets out national objectives for the planning system and how it should operate. It is accompanied by National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) on a range of topics including the importance of local plans and guidance on Community Infrastructure Levy. Local Plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with the NPPF and NPPG, and be prepared in the context of “the duty to do-operate” which applies to all local authorities and a number of other agencies. It provides a mechanism for addressing strategic issues that go beyond individual local authority boundaries.
10. Work is underway on the preparation of a Strategic Growth Plan to 2050 for Leicester and Leicestershire which will greatly assist joint working with the City Council, the Leicestershire districts and the LLEP on strategic planning matters. It is expected that consultation on the draft Strategic Growth Plan will take place in early 2018, prior to publication of the final version later in 2018. A separate report on progress with the Strategic Growth Plan is also being considered by the Cabinet at this meeting.
11. The local planning authorities and the County Council work closely with the LLEP to ensure planning policies and proposals are aligned with sub-regional economic priorities set out in the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).

Harborough Local Plan

12. In October 2015, HDC undertook consultation on nine options, which formed its Options consultation on a new Local Plan for Harborough. Detailed officer comments from key service areas at the County Council were submitted to HDC as part of the original consultation.
13. After considering the comments received on the Options consultation and undertaking evidence studies, HDC has developed a Local Plan to meet Harborough District’s needs up to 2031. The consultation on the Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 Proposed Submission document seeks views on the ‘soundness’ of the Local Plan.

Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 Proposed Submission

14. The Local Plan contains policies and proposals for the future development and protection of the district up to 2031, and has been prepared with the knowledge that the next round of Local Plan making beyond this timeframe will be prepared within the context of the emerging Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire and the accompanying emerging Strategic Transport Plan.

15. Provision is made for 12,800 dwellings in the plan period, and a significant amount of dwellings have been already completed or committed (8,140 dwellings), leaving housing land to be found for 4,660 dwellings. This includes a 20 per cent buffer to allow for factors such as further housing requirements arising from potential expansion of employment at Magna Park and to help Leicester City and other local planning authorities within Leicestershire to meet unmet housing need.
16. The Local Plan includes two Strategic Development Areas (SDAs); East of Lutterworth SDA (2,750 dwellings and 23 ha of employment land), and Scraftoft North SDA (1,200 dwellings). Both will involve the creation of new communities with neighbourhood centres, primary schools etc. The Scraftoft North SDA will involve the relocation of the existing golf course to land at Houghton on the Hill.
17. Other major housing allocations are directed towards Market Harborough and Fleckney.
18. New employment provision is mostly directed towards Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Fleckney, and the Kibworths.
19. Up to 700,000sqm of strategic distribution (B8 use over 9,000sqm) for non-rail-served strategic storage and distribution is identified as an extension to, or on the site adjoining Magna Park.

Key Comments

20. The comments include a consideration of the effects of the proposals on County Council landholdings and property assets in Harborough District.
21. Key comments are summarised below, and detailed comments are included in the Appendix.

Transport

22. Leicestershire County Council, in its role as Local Highway Authority (LHA), has been working closely with Harborough District Council as part of the Local Plan making process. As such, the LHA is content that the draft submission document is appropriately evidenced and also appropriately deals with transportation considerations at this stage in the planning process.
23. Subject to Harborough District Council's continued commitment to the policies and delivery approaches set out within the document, the LHA supports the submission of the Local Plan and looks forward to working with Harborough District Council in its delivery.

Education

24. Policies F1, MH2 and MH3 include no reference to securing suitable contributions for educational facilities. It may be that the intention is that these are covered by Policy IN1 – Infrastructure Provision, however whilst this policy

refers to the Leicestershire Planning Obligations Policy (LPOP), it only does so in terms of waste, it does not refer to education.

25. Policies L1 and SC1 refer to delivery of Primary Schools 'soon after 300 dwellings'. The County Council would normally, and has with Harborough District Council, requested that the intended provision be available for opening in the September prior to the occupation of 300 dwellings.

Ecology

26. It is acknowledged that the de-declaration of the Scraftoft Local Nature Reserve is also currently being consulted on, and that its de-declaration would enable land to come forward for development as part of the Scraftoft North Strategic Development Area (SDA). The County ecologist has and continues to be actively involved, working through an approach which ensures the retention and management of areas of ecological value whilst enabling the release of some land for future development. This may involve the designation of a Local Wildlife Site.

Waste Management

27. The Local Plan needs to recognise that Waste Management considers proposed developments on a case-by-case basis and, when it is identified that a proposed development will have a detrimental effect on the local civic amenity infrastructure, appropriate projects to increase the capacity to offset the impact have to be initiated. Contributions to fund these projects are requested in accordance with Leicestershire's Planning Obligations Policy and the Community Infrastructure Legislation Regulations.

Economic Growth

28. The County Council supports the new employment land allocated in association with the Lutterworth SDA.
29. The proposed portfolio of B use employment land in the Local Plan, which will provide the opportunity to deliver a range of jobs and economic prosperity in the District and wider area, is supported.
30. The County Council supports the approach taken to strategic storage and distribution (strategic B8 use) at Magna Park in the Local Plan, which has been informed by recent evidence commissioned by Harborough District Council. In particular, it supports additional strategic distribution proposals at Magna Park needing to meet the six criteria set out within the second part of Policy BE2.
31. The emphasis on the vitality and viability of the town centres is supported, and the regeneration emphasis on Lutterworth town centre although it is considered there is scope to strengthen this further.

Strategic Assets

32. Comments from Strategic Assets are made in relation to the County Council's role as landowner. Its main interests in Harborough District are:

- land at Misterton County Farms Estate which forms part of the East of Lutterworth SDA (for which a separate detailed collaborative response will be submitted on behalf of the landowner consortium), and;
- potential smaller scale sites within Market Harborough, Lutterworth and rural settlements throughout the District.

33. Query whether the settlement hierarchy requires further consideration, to enable settlements which are better serviced than others in the same tier of the hierarchy to be more clearly distinguished and potentially receive more development.

34. In general terms the distribution of housing across the settlement hierarchy is supported; however, considers that there needs to be more clarity regarding the future housing needs of key settlements and seeks more flexibility for future housing numbers for smaller settlements.

35. The allocation of the East of Lutterworth SDA as a preferred strategic housing allocation is, in particular, strongly supported. The Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) supported by the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) should therefore inform and provide strategic guidance to the development of later SPDs and Neighbourhood Plans. In considering the distribution of housing in the lower tiers of the hierarchy the Plan needs to demonstrate that those key centres and rural centres with neighbourhood plans will deliver housing numbers based on the current OAN rather than those contained within existing plans which were based on an earlier, much lower, OAN. Without this clarity the methodology could be open to criticism.

36. The integration of the social element of housing for older people and specific groups should be incorporated within the quantum and mix of affordable housing in order to mitigate any negative effect on site viability.

37. The County Council requests that planning consents at Airfield Business Park, Market Harborough (BE1.1a (ii)) and the land south of Lutterworth / Coventry Road, Lutterworth (BE1.1b (ii)) should be shown as existing commitments. Further, the consented site at Gaulby Road, Billesdon (a former highways depot), should also be shown as a commitment.

38. Whilst recognising the desire to concentrate strategic distribution at Magna Park, the proposal in Policy BE2.2 to allocate sites capable of delivering units of at least 9,000 sqm is seen as logical, as is the desire to stimulate economic growth by delivering sites that meet regional and sub-regional demand.

39. Policy BE3 on existing employment areas is supported; BE3.1 being seen as of particular relevance in ensuring that development meets the needs/demands of the wider sub-regional market in addition to local businesses in order to attract inward investment.

40. The allocation of both convenience and comparison retail floor space within the Lutterworth East SDA in Policy RT1 is supported, as is the additional provision within Lutterworth town centre which will complement the development of the new local centre and maintain a balance across the expanded community.
41. Policy L1- East of Lutterworth SDA is strongly supported. Being situated in the M1 corridor within one of the priority areas for economic growth in the Strategic Economic Plan it is clear that Lutterworth should be the focus of major strategic development within the District. The East of Lutterworth SDA is seen to meet best the criteria set out in Key Issues section of the plan and compliments the further development of Magna Park. Further, it is confirmed that the site, which is recognised as the most sustainable location for major development within the district, is available, being owned by a consortium of willing landowners, deliverable and capable of supporting a viable development.
42. Policy L2 – Land south of Lutterworth Road/Coventry Road. Outline planning consent has been granted and accordingly it should be regarded as an existing commitment for the purposes of the Local Plan.

Background Papers

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – March 2012

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018

http://www.leics.gov.uk/leics_strategic_plan.pdf

Report to the Cabinet – 16 March 2015 - Enabling Growth Plan -

[http://politics.leics.gov.uk/Published/C00000135/M00004360/AI00043150/\\$6EnablingGrowthPlan.docA.ps.pdf](http://politics.leics.gov.uk/Published/C00000135/M00004360/AI00043150/$6EnablingGrowthPlan.docA.ps.pdf)

Appendix

Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 Proposed Submission - Leicestershire County Council response

Equality and Human Rights Implications

43. There are no equality and human rights implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report. Through their policies, Local Plans have significant implications for disadvantaged people living in Leicestershire. By seeking to ensure economic growth is secured and an appropriate provision of affordable homes is made, the County Council can, through its representations, contribute to the needs of disadvantaged groups.

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CABINET – 24th November 2017

**INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES – OUTCOME OF
CONSULTATION AND RE-PROCUREMENT**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the proposed new model for integrated sexual health services across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) and to seek approval of the final service model and to proceed with partners to the procurement stage.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that:
 - a) The outcome of the public consultation on the proposed new model for integrated sexual health services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland be noted;
 - b) That the final model for integrated sexual health services detailed in paragraph 28 so far as it relates to Leicestershire, be approved;
 - c) That the Director of Public Health following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to enter into any contractual arrangements necessary to bring into effect the provision of an integrated sexual health service across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland with effect from 1 January 2019.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. Upper tier local authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide a comprehensive open access sexual health service. The current integrated service contract commissioned by the County Council and Leicester City and Rutland Councils ends on 31st December 2018.
4. The revised delivery model would offer a more consistent and targeted approach to meet the needs of each local authority population under one integrated service.
5. The continued joint procurement of services will enable the Council and its partners to achieve efficiency savings whilst continuing to co-ordinate services and improve outcomes and ensure high quality and sustainable service provision.

6. The consultation exercise showed good support for the proposed new model and enabled concerns to be addressed.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

7. A consultation exercise took place between 21 August 2017 and 16 October 2017 to seek views on the proposed new delivery model and make appropriate variations where required.
8. On 6th September 2017 the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee considered the proposals as part of the consultation process. The Committee supported the proposed new model and its comments are summarised in paragraph 26 below.
9. The existing contract ends on 31 December 2018. Subject to approval by the Cabinet, the process of procuring providers to deliver the new service model will begin as soon as practicable, with a view to the new contract being in place from 1st January 2019.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

10. The proposals are informed by the Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy (2016 – 2019) which was approved by the Cabinet in April 2016.
11. In June 2016 the Cabinet considered the outcome of an independent review of Early Help and Prevention (EHAP) Services and approved the EHAP Strategy arising from that review. The proposed new model for integrated sexual health services is within the scope of the review and Strategy.
12. On 23 June 2017 the Cabinet approved the consultation to be undertaken on the draft new model for the delivery of integrated sexual health services, based on the priorities of the Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy 2016/19 and agreed that a further report be presented on the outcome of the consultation along with the final service model for approval.

Resource Implications

13. The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2017/18 to 2020/21 (MTFS) was agreed by the County Council in February 2017 and sets out the overall saving of £3.04m for EHAP Services following the outcome of the independent review considered by the Cabinet in June 2016. The new model of integrated sexual health services will support the delivery of this saving.
14. For 2018/19, £2.8m of the County Council's Public Health budget allocation for sexual health services which will be included within the re-procurement exercise as follows:
 - Integrated Sexual Health Service - £2,736,416
 - C-card (free condom scheme for 13 – 24 year olds) - £30,000
 - HIV Co-ordination - £6,000
 - HIV prevention (People who are HIV positive and their families) - £19,792
 - HIV prevention (Men who have sex with men) - £41,620
 - HIV prevention (People of African descent) - £4,994
15. The new service contract is expected to achieve annual savings of £238,000 as part of EHAP savings for Leicestershire County Council. Areas where savings are expected to be achieved include the development of new tariff arrangements, the

introduction of self-sampling online sexually transmitted infection (STI) tests, transfer of the delivery of some services into the integrated sexual health service contract, and a potential re-location of the Leicester City Centre Hub.

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

17. This report has been circulated to all Members of the County Council via the Members' News in Brief Service.

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PART B

Background

18. The current Integrated Sexual Health Service (ISHS) contract is commissioned by Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council and Leicester City Council and delivers a range of services across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (LLR) including:

- contraceptive services
- psychosexual services(sexual health aspects)
- sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment
- a specific young people's service (i.e. for under 25 year olds)
- outreach and health promotion services
- professional training
- network management
- sexual health leadership role across LLR

19. The outcome of a joint review with partners across LLR regarding access and use of current sexual health services has formed the basis of the proposed new model.

Review of Current Service Model

20. The service is currently delivered from two main sexual health service clinic locations (St. Peters Health Centre, Leicester and Loughborough Health Centre) and a range of sessional clinic locations (4 in Leicestershire, 12 in Leicester City, 1 in Rutland). There are additional sessions specifically for under 25 year olds and outreach sessions for targeted groups such as; men who have sex with men, sex workers and military personnel. The current model also offers the following:

- Opportunistic chlamydia screening for 15-24 year olds via online self-sampling tests or from sexual health service sites.
- A condom distribution scheme for 13-25 year olds.
- Sexual health promotion and HIV prevention services for specific at-risk groups (Men who have sex with men, people with HIV, people of Black African heritage, sex workers)
- Professional training

21. Following a review of service usage at the sessional clinics in Leicestershire, more than half of all attendances were aged under 25 and the clinic in Melton had the lowest usage (14%) compared with other sessional clinics.

22. Currently, some elements of the integrated sexual health service, such as the condom distribution scheme and sexual health promotion and HIV prevention for at-risk groups, are separately commissioned and therefore have separate contracts. The re-procurement of integrated sexual health services provides an opportunity to consider whether these separately commissioned services can be integrated into the new service model.

Consultation

23. An 8 week consultation exercise took place across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland starting on 21 August to seek views on the proposed future service model which included:

- Availability of an online appointment booking service

- Methods of accessing face to face services
- Online ordering of self-test kits for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Use of vending machines to obtain specific sexual health products and suggestions for locations to place vending machines
- Availability of an online and telephone advice service
- Age restrictions for sessional clinics in the Leicestershire area
- Combining the sessional clinic and young people's clinic in Hinckley.
- Closure of the sessional clinic in Melton
- Changes to opening hours of sessional clinics
- Moving the delivery of sexual health promotion and HIV prevention work for all at-risk groups (such as people with HIV and people of Black African heritage) from a separate contract into the main sexual health contract

24. This consultation comprised of an electronic questionnaire (with paper versions and easy-read options available) and a number of drop-in sessions and focus groups aimed at staff groups, service user groups and young people. A formal report attached as Appendix A sets out the findings from the consultation which indicated the following:

- Support in relation to:
 - An online appointment booking service.
 - The availability of an online ordering service for self-test kits.
 - The availability of sexual health vending machines with pharmacies, sexual health services and universities being the preferred locations.
 - The availability of online support and advice
 - The availability of telephone support and advice.
 - The availability of both bookable fixed appointments and a 'turn up and wait' service when accessing face to face services.
- Concerns in relation to:
 - An age restriction at the sessional clinics in Coalville, Hinckley and Market Harborough.
 - Closure of the sessional clinic in Melton.
 - Changes to the opening hours of the sessional clinic in Coalville.
- Indifference in relation to:
 - Combining the Hinckley sessional clinic with the young people's 'Choices' clinic.
 - Moving the delivery of sexual health promotion and HIV prevention work for all at-risk groups (such as people with HIV and people of Black African heritage) from a separate contract into the main sexual health contract.

25. The concerns identified from the consultation were focused on accessibility of services locally. This was considered during the development of the proposed model and the effects will be mitigated by promoting the provision of sexual health services already available from primary care providers, by the provision of a domiciliary service for vulnerable individuals such as those with severe physical and/or learning disabilities and Looked After Children, and by increasing and promoting the availability of self-service options such as:

- Online access to self-sampling tests for STIs and HIV
- Vending access to self-sampling tests for STIs and HIV
- Expanding the age range for condom distribution
- Improving access to information and advice services.

Such alternative service options will help reduce the need for residents to access these services via a clinic.

26. In September 2017, the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee considered the proposed new service model as part of the consultation process. In supporting the proposed model, the Committee noted the following;

- The Service would continue to work with 'at risk' groups such as some ethnic minorities, to raise awareness of sexual health issues
- People under the age of 25 were the most frequent users of the sexual health clinics and as a consequence sessional clinics for young people had been established. People over the age of 25 were more likely to visit their GP. Nevertheless, the 'all age' sites were used by older people and work was undertaken to target all age groups.
- The new service model proposed to introduce vending machines in various locations (e.g. Loughborough University), which would dispense condoms and pregnancy testing kits free of charge. The vending machines had a discreet design and the products were not on display. A pilot scheme was underway which would include identifying the best locations for their installation. A similar scheme had already been implemented in Teeside and best practice was being learnt from that scheme.

Proposed New Service Model

27. The proposed new service model aims to ensure that service users are provided with the most time and cost efficient service based upon clinical need. The model will support delivery against the three main sexual health Public Health Outcome Framework measures which are as follows:

- Under 18 conceptions
- Chlamydia detection (15-24 year olds)
- People presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection

28. Details of the new model so far as it relates to Leicestershire residents, are set out below:

- The main clinics in suitable premises in Leicester City and Loughborough are to be retained with current services to continue.
- Sessional clinics in Coalville, Hinckley and Market Harborough are to be retained and delivered from suitable premises in those towns. These clinics will focus on under 25 year olds.
- The sessional clinic in Melton Mowbray will close due to low usage. The closest alternative sessional clinic will be in Oakham, Rutland.
- The current model of chlamydia screening available via online self-sampling tests for 15 to 24 year olds will be retained and expanded to include a full STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) test and HIV self-sampling test that will be made available to all age groups.
- The condom distribution service for the under 25 year olds will be retained and expanded to all age groups where an appropriate need is identified.
- Strengthened access to community based pregnancy testing for under 25 year olds in appropriate settings, for example at existing condom distribution sites.

- Increasing access to information and advice services via the sexual health service website and over the telephone.
- A self-care and self-serve service for those users who can manage their own care or require basic check-ups.
- Increasing the opportunity to book more appointments online.
- HIV and STI testing to be via mainstream sexual health services and through the provision of self-test kits.
- The current clinical outreach services provided for men who have sex with men, sex workers and military personnel to be retained.
- The delivery of a young people's specific integrated sexual health service (for the under 25s) to be retained.
- Inclusion of the current separately commissioned services such as the condom distribution scheme and sexual health promotion and HIV prevention for at-risk groups into the integrated sexual health services contract.

29. The new model is expected to result in the following key outcomes:

- Reduction in teenage conceptions.
- Reduction in unintended conceptions and terminations of pregnancy.
- Reduction in repeat terminations of pregnancy.
- Reduction in rates of STIs including HIV.
- Reduction in the late diagnosis of HIV.
- Improved uptake of the national Chlamydia screening programme for 15-24 year olds
- Improved co-ordination and availability of integrated sexual health services to the local population in response to identified needs.
- Reduce the prevalence of undiagnosed STIs.
- Increased uptake of effective methods of contraception, specifically LARC (Long Acting Reversible Contraception).
- Improved knowledge of sexual health and sexual health services amongst the local population.

30. The effect of the new model will continue to be monitored and reviewed by members of the LLR Sexual Health Commissioner's meeting, through the key indicators of the Public Health England Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles and local performance dashboards. The LLR Sexual Health Commissioner's meeting is an officer led meeting involving representation from commissioners of the sexual health service and representation from external partners such as Public Health England, NHS England and local Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Re-procurement and Contract Management

31. The Cabinet approved the procurement of the existing integrated sexual health service in January 2013. It was commissioned as a single LLR service with each local authority holding an individual contract. Budgets were not pooled. A partnership agreement was developed and a Partnership Board established to oversee the contracts. Contract management for all three local authority areas has been via a single process and is currently co-ordinated by Public Health at Leicestershire County Council. It is proposed that these arrangements continue in the same format.

32. The current timescales for re-procurement entail political approval being sought from each partner Local Authority during November and December 2017, with a view to the invitation to tender documentation being ready for December 2017

and the tender opportunity being published at the end of January/early February 2018.

33. The length of the contract will be 3 years 3 months (to align with the financial year) with an option to extend for a further two years.

Background Papers

Report to the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee – Re-procurement of Integrated Sexual Health Services – 6 September 2017

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s131279/Scrutiny%20Paper%2006092017_Final.pdf

Report to the Cabinet – Re-procurement of Integrated Sexual Health Services – 23 June 2017.

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s129546/FINAL%20Re-Procurement%20of%20Int%20Sexual%20Health%20Services.pdf>

Early Help and Prevention Review and Strategy – 17 June 2016.

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s119782/FINAL%20Early%20Help%20and%20Prevention.pdf>

Report to the Cabinet - Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy (2016-2019) – 19 April 2016

<http://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/leicestershire-sexual-health-strategy-2016-19.pdf>

Report to the Cabinet – Procurement of Sexual Health Services – 16 January 2013

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s76089/I%20procurement%20sexual%20health%20services.doc.pdf>

Appendices

Appendix A – Consultation Report

Appendix B - Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

34. An Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been completed for the Sexual Health Strategy 2016-19, which includes aspects of the proposed service changes.

35. A separate Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) has been completed in relation to the impact of a change in service model for residents of Leicestershire (Appendix B). The EHRIA indicates that the Leicestershire Sexual Health Services delivery model has a positive impact overall with some exceptions. However when balancing the evidence base together with the requirement to reduce sexual health budgets as part of the reduction to Public Health grants, and the range of mitigating actions proposed to support individuals to access sexual health services, these proposals are considered appropriate.

36. The results from this EHRIA will be reviewed as part of ongoing contract management and sexual health strategy progress monitoring.

Partnership Working and Associated Issues

37. Partners, including current providers, have been consulted on this re-procurement. In addition, the re-procurement of integrated sexual health services

involves a partnership between Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland Councils to allow a provider to exploit economies of scale in providing services across LLR.

Risk Assessment

38. The re-procurement of integrated sexual health services is a project within the County Council's Transformation Programme. As such, risks are managed through the Transformation Programme, with project management support from the Transformation Unit.
39. An Integrated Sexual Health Service Project Delivery Board was established in June to include each of the three local authorities. The Board has a risk management and governance role and is accountable through member organisations.

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CABINET – 24TH NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH –
‘LEICESTERSHIRE’S HEALTH – NEW INSIGHTS INTO OUR
POPULATION’**

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Director of Public Health’s Annual Report for 2017. A copy of the full Report is appended.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that
 - a) The Director of Public Health’s Annual Report 2017 be noted and its recommendations supported;
 - b) It be noted that the Annual Report will be submitted for consideration by County Council on 6 December 2017.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The Director of Public Health’s (DPH) Annual Report is a statutory independent report on the health of the population of Leicestershire.
4. To enable the County Council to consider the Report, which will help inform future commissioning decisions.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. The Annual Report was considered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 November and its comments are set out in Part B of this report. It will be submitted to the County Council meeting on 6 December 2017.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

6. Last year’s report focussed on workplace health and this report includes an update on progress against the recommendations made in that report.

Resource Implications

7. There are no resources implications arising directly from this report. The recommendations set out in the report will inform commissioning decisions relating to the priorities for public health.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

8. None.

Officers to contact

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PART B

Background

9. The Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report is a statutory independent report on the health of the population of Leicestershire.
10. One of the roles of the Director of Public Health is to be an independent advocate for the health of their population. The Annual Reports are the main way by which Directors of Public Health make their conclusions known to the public.
11. This year's report presents a broad overview of health in Leicestershire – covering population and population change, the wider determinants of health, lifestyle behaviours, hospital admissions and prescribing.

Summary of the Annual Report

12. The County continues to be a healthy place to live. While identifying the 21st century challenges being faced, child obesity rates are continuing to decline, around 65 per cent of residents are taking part in the recommended 150 minutes of activity per week, and teenage pregnancy rates are more than halving.
13. While Leicestershire remains relatively affluent and healthy, the County faces challenges around housing and access to services, and a priority included within the report is to examine rural health in more depth and ensuring that robust plans are in place to tackle issues.
14. The report also points to air quality as posing the 'largest environmental risk to public health in the UK', with Public Health England assessing that over 300 deaths in the County each year can be attributed to an exposure to high levels of air pollution. The highest levels of air pollution are around junction 21 of the M1, East Midlands Airport, and the former coal-mining areas of North West Leicestershire.
15. Other key points from the Annual Report identify:
 - The need for closer partnership working between the County's Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety Boards to tackle rising rates for domestic and alcohol-related violence.
 - Ensuring children have the best start in life. This follows findings which mirror the national picture that shows the later that a child is born in the school year, the less likely they are to achieve a good level of development.
 - The difficult balancing act between continuing to improve public health at a time when Government funding continues to fall. The County population of 675,300 in 2015 is expected to grow during the next 25 years, for

example, by 49 per cent in people aged 65-84, and 162 per cent in 85s and over.

Comments of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16. Concerns were raised by Members about the impact of air quality on the population of Leicestershire and particularly in relation to 'drive-through' catering establishments. In response to a question regarding what measures could be taken to tackle this problem Members were advised that the main powers were with local planning authorities such as permitting, monitoring and dust control. The Director of Public Health agreed to give consideration along with colleagues in the Chief Executive's Department to whether tackling air quality should form part of the Strategic Growth Plan.
17. With regard to school readiness in Leicestershire and the development of children, Members suggested that more work needed to be carried out with Special Educational Needs children to ensure that their development was not inhibited and to help them become more independent. The Director of Public Health offered to work with colleagues in the Children and Families Services to investigate what further measures could be taken in this regard.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

18. Implementation of the report's recommendations would have a positive impact on health inequalities.

Partnership Working and associated issues

19. The recommendations within this report focus on actions across agencies that will improve the population's health. The basis of the report is improving population health in partnership with other key agencies.

Background Papers

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2016

http://www.lsr-online.org/reports/director_of_public_health_annual_reports

Appendix

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2017.



CABINET - 24 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval to publish a statement detailing the Council's approach to tackling modern slavery and human trafficking.

Recommendations

2. The Cabinet is recommended to:
 - (a) Approve the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement attached as an appendix to this report;
 - (b) Note that this Statement will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis at the end of each financial year and published on the Council's website.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 places a requirement on commercial organisations (with a global turnover above £36m and which carries out business in any part of the UK) to prepare and publish an annual statement setting out the steps they have taken, during that financial year, to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place anywhere in their supply chains and in any part of their own business. Whilst the Council is excluded from this requirement as it is not a commercial organisation, ethically it is felt that in promoting the Council's stance on serious and organised crime such a statement should be published on a voluntary basis.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The Statement will be published on the Council's website following approval by the Cabinet and updated on an annual basis.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. None.

Resources Implications

6. All activities are being undertaken within existing resources.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

7. None.

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PART B

Background

8. Modern Slavery is a serious crime which comprises slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking.
9. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 was brought into force on 29th October 2015 and requires employers with a global turnover above £36m who carry out business in any part of the UK to produce a modern slavery and human trafficking statement for financial years ending on or after 31st March 2016.
10. According to Section 54 of the Act, the modern slavery and human trafficking statement should set out what steps the organisation has taken to ensure modern slavery is not taking place in its business or supply chains. The statement should aim to include the following information:
 - The organisation's structure, its business and its supply chains;
 - Its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
 - Its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
 - The parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
 - Its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate;
 - The training and capacity building about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff.
11. Leicestershire County Council is committed to understanding the risks presented by modern slavery and to ensuring that there is no slavery or victims of human trafficking working within the Council, the companies it commissions services from or its supply chain. In addition to its own statement, the Council is required to obtain copies of statements from its qualifying suppliers. Tender documentation has therefore been updated to ask potential suppliers specific questions relating to this requirement.

Human Resources Implications

12. A review has been completed of the Council's current employment policies and practices to ensure that they are in support of the organisation's commitment to preventing slavery and human trafficking. Whilst, no changes have been identified, steps are being taken to introduce appropriate training and awareness-raising for certain employees.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

13. The actions set out in the attached Statement will help to address the abuse of human rights resulting from modern slavery and human trafficking.

Appendix

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2016-2017

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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