

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Glenfield on Friday, 17 September 2021.

PRESENT

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

Mrs D. Taylor CC  
Mrs. C. M. Radford CC  
Mr. L. Breckon JP CC  
Mrs H. L. Richardson CC

Mrs. P. Posnett MBE CC  
Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC  
Mr. P. Bedford CC

Apologies

Mr. B. L. Pain CC

In attendance

Mr. O. O'Shea CC and Mrs B. Seaton CC (via Microsoft Teams) and Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC

40. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

41. Urgent items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

42. 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. He declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 (Ashby Canal Maintenance Funding) as a local property owner and undertook to leave the meeting whilst that item was considered.

Mrs P. Posnett CC declared a personal interest which may lead to bias in agenda item 5 (Melton Mowbray Distributor Road Southern Section – Housing Infrastructure Fund Grant) and undertook to leave the meeting whilst that item was considered.

Mr R. J. Shepherd CC, Mrs D. Taylor CC and Mrs C. M. Radford CC each declared a personal interest in item 11 (Response to Charnwood Borough Council's Emerging New Local Plan 2021 – 2037 Consultation) as members of Charnwood Borough Council.

Mr. O. O'Shea CC declared a personal interest in agenda item 12 (Response to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Draft Local Plan) as a member of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

43. Medium Term Financial Strategy - Latest Position.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources concerning the revenue budget and capital programme monitoring position as at the end of July 2021 and sought approval to changes to the previously agreed 2021-2025 capital programme and an approach to updating the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2022-2026. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 4', is filed with these minutes.

Members noted the comments of the Scrutiny Commission, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Mr Breckon CC said that the Council's difficult financial position would continue in the medium term and the Council would need to maximise efficiencies and contain adult social care expenditure in order to produce a balanced budget. He added that the Council would continue to push Government to introduce fair funding and he welcomed the recent publication of the think-tank Onward's publication of a fair funding research paper, developed by the County Council's Director of Corporate Resources, which set out how Government funding could be distributed more fairly. He also thanked all Leicestershire MPs for their support on the matter.

Mrs Taylor CC said that despite the challenges with the funding of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and High Needs block provision, the Children and Family Services budget for 2021/22 was underspent for the first time in several years and she thanked officers within the Department for their hard work.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- b) That the latest position regarding the 2021/22 revenue budget and capital programme as at the end of July 2021, period 4, be noted;
- c) That the revised capital programme 2021/22 to 2024/25 as set out in Appendix C to the report be approved;
- d) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Corporate Resources, be authorised to agree the use of funding from the portfolio risk allocation to specific projects within the Environment and Transport Capital programme;
- e) That the approach outlined in the report to updating the Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To inform members of the intended approach to the development of plans to address the latest financial position.

To agree the revised capital programme for 2021-25 which has required amendment as a result of the latest forecast financial position and known pressures on a number of schemes and to the delegation to the Director of Corporate Resources following

consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Corporate Resources, of the authorisation of the use of the portfolio risk contingency (£10.6m) for Environment and Transport schemes in order to address issues arising with major schemes without delay.

44. Melton Mowbray Distributor Road Southern Section - Housing Infrastructure Fund Grant.

(Mrs. P. Posnett MBE CC, having declared a personal interest leading to bias, left the meeting during consideration of this item)

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Law and Governance concerning the latest position regarding the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) grant offered by Homes England in respect of the southern leg of the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 5', is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that due to there being no further substantial information to that already having been considered by the Cabinet in previous reports on the matter, the supplementary report referenced in the original Cabinet report was subsequently not required. Financial implications arising from the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road Southern Section were fully outlined in the report considered by the Cabinet on the 20 July.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the County Council welcomes the decision of Melton Borough Council's Cabinet to approve a Draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for consultation, noting that the Borough Council's Cabinet on 21 September will be recommending that a final SPD is adopted and welcomes ongoing officer discussions, but notes that the Borough Council has yet to determine formally matters relating to i) the completion of a legal agreement underwriting the cost of provision by the County Council in respect of infrastructure arising on the completion of the MMDR(S) at the capped sum of £1.75million to mitigate the financial risk to the County Council; and ii) masterplans for the South and North Sustainable Neighbourhoods;
- b) That the negotiations with Homes England be noted and that the Directors of Law and Governance and Environment and Transport be requested to continue the dialogue in regard to the provisions of the Forward Funding Agreement (GDA) and additional funding required as a result of cost increases;
- c) That the progress to date with resolving the terms of the GDA be noted and that subject to
  - i. completion of a legal agreement referred to in (a) above or an alternative means of mitigating the risk to the County Council at the same figure recently suggested by the Borough Council;
  - ii. a successful outcome to the negotiations with Homes England referred to in (b) above;
  - iii. resolution of the outstanding points in the GDA to the satisfaction of the County Council's statutory officers; and

- iv. The decision of Melton Borough Council following consultation on the SPD and written assurances from the Borough Council about its decisions on a legal agreement at the capped sum of £1.75million and on the two masterplans

the Housing Infrastructure Grant be accepted;

- d) That the Director of Law and Governance and Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to give the warranties and representations required and the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to complete and execute the GDA.

(KEY DECISION)

REASON FOR DECISION:

To agree a position to be adopted by the County Council.

(Mrs. P. Posnett returned to the meeting)

45. Corporate Asset Investment Fund Annual Performance Report 2020-21.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources concerning the performance of the Corporate Asset Investment Fund for the 2020-21 financial year. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 6', is filed with these minutes.

Members noted the comments of the Scrutiny Commission, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Mr Breckon CC said the Fund had performed well in challenging circumstances and the income raised had been used to support crucial frontline services.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- b) That the performance of the Corporate Asset Investment Fund for the period April 2020 to March 2021 as set out in the Annual Report, be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION:

In accordance with the Cabinet's decision in September 2017, the report fulfils the requirement to report annually on the performance of the CAIF to both the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Commission, to demonstrate that the Fund is being managed professionally and prudently.

46. Ashby Canal Maintenance Funding.

(Mr. N. J. Rushton CC, having declared a personal interest leading to bias, left the meeting during consideration of this item)

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport seeking agreement for the County Council to provide funding to the Ashby Canal Association for

maintenance of a section of the Ashby Canal which was due to be transferred to the Association. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 7', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the allocation of £1.1m for funding the maintenance of the section of the Ashby Canal to be transferred to the Ashby Canal Association (ACA) in line with option b(ii) as set out in the report be approved, subject to Parliamentary approval of the proposed transfer of a section of the Transport and Works Act Order 2005 and associated land;
- b) That the Director of Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Corporate Resources, be authorised to agree payment terms and enter into a funding agreement with the ACA to cover all future maintenance costs for the transferred section of canal referred to at (a) above.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

It is usual when a canal is transferred for there to be a maintenance undertaking or financial dowry payment from the transferer (the County Council in this instance) to the transferee (the ACA in this instance).

In taking on responsibility for the transferred section of the Ashby Canal, the ACA will take on all ongoing and future liabilities for the upkeep, maintenance and future development of the section to be transferred.

(Mr. N. J. Rushton CC returned to the meeting)

#### 47. Interim Coalville Transport Strategy.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the outcome of engagement on the draft Interim Coalville Transport Strategy and sought approval for the adoption of the interim Strategy. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 8', is filed with these minutes.

Mr. O'Shea CC said the Interim Strategy provided a framework by which the County Council could deliver its transport aspirations, including the development of highway, passenger transport, and active travel schemes. He added that the Strategy would also provide the Authority with evidence to help secure developer contributions and Government funding to improve the Town's network as part of the A511 Growth Corridor Scheme.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the responses to the engagement on the draft Interim Coalville Transport Strategy (ICTS), as set out in paragraphs 57 to 60 and summarised in Appendix A of the report, be noted;
- b) That the ICTS, attached as Appendix B to the report, be approved.

## REASONS FOR DECISION:

Significant traffic congestion in Coalville has affected the lives of its residents, the efficiency of its businesses and its ability to grow. Having a transport strategy for Coalville remains vital to addressing the town's existing traffic problems, supporting its continued growth and achieving wider objectives, including in respect of the environment.

The ICTS will ensure that the County Council, as the local Highway Authority (LHA), is using the most up-to-date evidence and information when seeking developer contributions, providing highways advice to North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) and supporting the District Council with any highway related planning appeals.

The ICTS will help to provide a transparent framework for determining decisions on transport priorities, ensuring co-ordination of investment and support NWLDC's Local Plan. Any delay in adopting the ICTS could potentially impact on securing developer contributions towards highway infrastructure in NWLDC to support the local growth agenda.

### 48. Leicester City Council Draft Local Transport Plan 4 and Work Place Parking Levy Consultations.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the consultation on Leicester City Council's draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) and Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) and set out a proposed response for submission to Leicester City Council as the views of the County Council. A copy of the report and supplementary report, marked 'Agenda item 9', are filed with these minutes.

Members noted comments from Mr. Max Hunt CC, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

The Director said that following receipt of further information from Leicester City Council with regards to its proposed WPL scheme, a revised County Council consultation response had been produced and was set out in the supplementary report.

Mr O'Shea CC said that there were concerns with regards to the displacement of parking into the County's villages close to the Leicester City border should a parking levy be introduced, and this had been recognised in the Council's response.

## RESOLVED:

That the comments in response to Leicester City Council's consultation on its draft Local Transport Plan 4 as set out in paragraphs 23 to 36 of the original Cabinet report and those relating to the Workplace Parking Levy, as set out in paragraphs 14 to 17 of the supplementary report, be submitted to Leicester City Council in response to their consultation as the views of the County Council.

## REASONS FOR DECISION:

The draft Leicester LTP4 and WPL will inform the next stage of local transport plan making in the City up to 2036. As the City of Leicester is important to residents of Leicestershire, e.g. for access to jobs and services, so then too is the need for good transport connectivity to and through the City. Proposals within the City's boundaries have the potential to interact with and affect county highways, transport networks and

local communities. The content of the Leicester City draft LTP4 and WPL are thus important to the County Council.

The responses set out key comments for consideration by Leicester City Council in preparing its new LTP4 and WPL proposals. These comments seek to ensure alignment with key strategic documents (including the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (SGP), the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities document and the County Council's Strategic Plan) and ensure that Leicester City Council's draft LTP4 and WPL do not have a negative effect on County highways or residents.

49. Exception to Contract Procedure Rules - Urgent Action Taken by the Chief Executive in Relation to the Appointment of a Supplier to Provide the Publishment of Legal Traffic Orders.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning urgent action taken by the Chief Executive to agree an exception to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules which enabled the Council to continue to place advertising relating to Road Traffic Orders. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 10', is filed with these minutes.

The Leader said that the County Council should write to the Department for Transport expressing its objection to the requirement to publish traffic orders in the regional press when the Council could use its existing website and social media channels instead, saving the Authority a considerable amount of money which could be spent supporting key services.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the urgent action taken by the Chief Executive to agree an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules to enable the appointment of Reach Publishing Plc, to continue with the publication of Road Traffic Orders in local press for a six-month period ending on the 31 March 2022, be noted;
- b) That the County Council write to the Department for Transport expressing its objection to the requirement, as the local Highway Authority, to publish advertisements in the regional press for each road traffic order it makes which costs the Authority in the region of £1m per annum, when other mediums with a larger readership such as the County Council's website and social media accounts could be utilised at a considerably reduced cost.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Council's Constitution (Contract Procedure Rule 6 (b)) provides that exceptions to the Contract Procedure Rules may be made by the Cabinet where it is satisfied that an exception is justified on its merits and that in urgent cases the Chief Executive (after consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader save where this is not practicable) may direct that an exception be made subject to it being reported to the Cabinet.

The direct appointment was required in order for the Authority to continue to meet its statutory duty to publicise Road Traffic Orders in local newspapers, until such time when a procurement exercise can be undertaken.

50. Response to Charnwood Borough Council's Emerging new Local Plan: the Pre-submission Charnwood Local Plan (2021 to 2037) Consultation.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive regarding the content of Charnwood Borough Council's Draft Local Plan and sought approval for comments to be submitted to the Borough Council as the views of the County Council. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 11', is filed with these minutes.

The Leader said that it was vital that housing growth was accompanied by the appropriate infrastructure and it was therefore imperative that the Council worked closely with Charnwood Borough Council to achieve this.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be forwarded to Charnwood Borough Council (Charnwood BC) as the views of the County Council on the Draft Charnwood BC Local Plan 2021 to 2037;
- b) That Charnwood BC be advised that the County Council considers that partnership working arrangements between the Borough Council, the County Council and other partners, notably National Highways, need to be formalised at the earliest opportunity;
- c) That it be noted that
  - i. the initial cost of the further work required to identify the transport mitigation strategies to support the Draft Charnwood BC Local Plan at Examination in Public, estimated at £150,000 to £200,000, will be shared between the County Council, Charnwood BC and other partners as appropriate;
  - ii. given the distribution strategy proposed by Charnwood BC, it is likely that much of the transport mitigation will be achieved via Section 106 (developer) funding arising from multiple developments, securing which will require continued close working between the County and Borough Councils.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Adoption of the new Local Plan will replace the existing Charnwood Core Strategy 2011 to 2028 (adopted 2015) and the Saved Policies of the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan 1991 to 2006 (adopted 2004). The new Local Plan will provide Charnwood BC with a plan-led development strategy to 2037. Given the location of the district of Charnwood close to the City of Leicester and close functional connectivity to communities living and working in Blaby, North West Leicestershire, Melton and Hinckley and Bosworth, the content of the emerging Local Plan is particularly important to this area and the wider Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (L&L HMA).

The response sets out key comments for consideration by Charnwood BC in progressing its new Local Plan. It seeks to ensure alignment with the strategic outcomes of the County Council's Strategic Plan, the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (SGP), and to influence the content of the Local Plan in the interests of local communities, including to ensure that the Local Plan provides as robust as possible policy platform for securing the provision of the infrastructure and services required to support its successful delivery.



The highways and transport issues arising from accommodating further growth in the Borough of Charnwood impact on both local road networks (County and City) and the strategic road network. Addressing the issues requires a formalised partnership approach to the development of the required transport mitigation strategies.

In the current financial climate, the financial risk to the County Council needs to be minimised. Therefore a joint commitment to developing a funding strategy for how infrastructure will be funded in the Charnwood BC Local Plan will be essential. It is vital that S106 contributions are secured to support mitigation strategies and to facilitate growth.

51. Response to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) consultation.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive regarding the content of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Draft Local Plan and sought approval for comments to be submitted to the Borough Council as the views of the County Council. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 12', is filed with these minutes.

The Leader said that it was crucial Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council worked with the County Council to develop its Local Plan in order for the delivery of sustainable development.

Mr Bedford CC said that the County as a whole needed sustainable growth which was accompanied by the right infrastructure and this was only possible if comprehensive local plans were produced and followed. He added that whilst the Council was committed to working with the Borough Council to develop its Local Plan, its concerns with regards to transportation mitigation measures would need to be addressed by the Borough Council before the Plan could be progressed. He thanked parish councils within his division for their hard work in producing their own local neighbourhood development plans.

Mr O'Shea CC said he was concerned that the Borough Council did not have a five year housing supply which had led to the approval of ad hoc developments which lacked the necessary infrastructure. He urged the Borough Council to consider the County Council's comments and work together for the benefit of the local community.

RESOLVED:

- a) The comments set out in the Appendix to the report be forwarded to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as the views of the County Council on the Draft Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2020 to 2039;
- b) That Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council be advised that the County Council
  - I. considers that partnership working arrangements between the Borough Council, the County Council and other partners, notably National Highways, need to be formalised as a matter of urgency;
  - II. will need to secure substantial funds from the Borough Council and other partners in order to meet the (as yet unidentified) cost of the work to identify transport mitigation measures and strategy required to support delivery of the Draft Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan;

- III. accordingly, requests the Borough Council to delay progressing to Regulation 19 stage of the Local Plan in order for the Draft to be fully informed by transport evidence.

#### REASONS FOR DECISION:

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's new Local Plan will set out the Borough's development strategy to 2039. Given its location close to Leicester and close functional connectivity to communities living and working in Blaby, Charnwood and North West Leicestershire, the content of the emerging Local Plan is particularly important to this area and the wider Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (L&L HMA).

The County Council wishes to see alignment of the Borough's Draft Local Plan with other key strategies (for example, the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan) and for it to provide a robust policy platform to secure the infrastructure and services to support its delivery and protect local communities.

It is a matter of some concern that the Borough Council has not published any transport assessment as part of the evidence base for this consultation. The highways and transport issues arising from accommodating further growth in the Borough are expected to have significant impacts on local road networks (in Leicestershire, Leicester, and Warwickshire) and the strategic road network.

As the Highway Authority the County Council would expect to see, at the point of a Local Plan's submission, a clear understanding of the likely nature, scope, scale (cost) and deliverability of the transport measures required. Transport modelling takes time and a formal partnership approach is needed to develop transport mitigation strategies. To date, transport work has been concerned only with base inputs and potential impacts of development options.

In the current financial climate, the financial risk to the County Council needs to be minimised. Therefore a joint commitment to developing a funding strategy for how infrastructure will be funded in the Hinckley and Bosworth BC Local Plan will be essential.

#### 52. Public Engagement Principles.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval of a Consultation and Engagement Principles document which had been developed as part of the Council's approach to public engagement. The report also sought approval for the Council to become a signatory to the Consultation Charter. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 13', is filed with these minutes.

Mrs Posnett CC said the County Council was committed to high standards of public involvement as part of its decision making. She added that it was particularly important that the Council's approach to consultation and engagement was inclusive and its digital first approach was complemented by other methods in order for all communities to participate.

#### RESOLVED:

- a) That the Council's Consultation and Engagement Principles be approved;
- b) That the Council becomes a signatory to the Consultation Charter.

## REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Consultation and Engagement Principles update the Council's approach to involving members of the public in decision making, reflecting key lessons from the pandemic and broader changes in the way that local authorities nationally are involving residents.

By becoming a signatory to the Consultation Institute's Charter it will provide validation of the Council's high standards of consultation from the UK's national body for best practice and case law in this field.

53. Leicestershire School Term-Time Patterns from Autumn 2022 to Summer 2027.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services concerning the outcome of consultation on the preferred Leicestershire school term-time pattern to apply from autumn 2022 to summer 2027 for schools controlled by the Local Authority and sought approval of a preferred pattern. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 14', is filed with these minutes.

## RESOLVED:

- a) That the outcome of the public consultation on the proposed term-time options be noted;
- b) That the current Leicestershire term-time pattern that includes an earlier autumn and summer holiday and longer autumn term (Proposal 1) be approved.

## REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Education Act 2002 places a statutory obligation on the County Council to determine the number of school days that schools under its control must be open. The County Council is required to determine a pattern that ensures at least 380 sessions (190 days) during a school year.

The consultation responses overwhelmingly supported the retention of the existing Leicestershire term-time pattern and no imperative to change this has emerged.

54. Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board Partnership Annual Report 2020/21

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services concerning the Annual Report 2020-21 for the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board Partnership. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 15', is filed with these minutes.

Mrs Taylor CC said that the Annual Report highlighted the hard work undertaken by partners, particularly during what had been a difficult period as a result of the pandemic. She welcomed the introduction of a rotating Chair of the Partnership Board which had enabled the Independent Advisor to step away from that role and focus on scrutinising the work of the Partnership.

## RESOLVED:

That the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2020/21 be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Leicestershire County Council is one of the Statutory Partners who have a share an equal statutory duty with the local Clinical Commissioning Groups and Leicestershire Police to agree and make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Leicestershire.

The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements locally are managed through a partnership – the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership that covers the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. The arrangements were published on 28 June 2019 and commenced on 29 September 2019, replacing the former Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

In Leicestershire and Rutland the Annual Report has traditionally been presented to the Cabinet and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Consideration of the Annual Report enables the Cabinet to comment on the content of the document and consider whether it identifies matters that it wishes to address in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding within the work of the Authority.

55. Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2020/21.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Independent Chair of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) Ms. Fran Pearson, which presented the Board's draft Annual Report 2020-21. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 16', is filed with these minutes.

Mrs Radford CC thanked the Independent Chair and the various partners represented on the Board for their hard work and commitment during what had been a particular difficult period as a result of the pandemic.

RESOLVED:

That the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report for 2020/21 be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguard Adult Board (LRSAB) is a statutory body and local authorities have a duty to ensure that the Board is enabled to operate effectively.

It is a requirement of the Care Act 2014 that the LRSAB Annual Report be reported to the Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive of the local authority, the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Police and Crime Commissioner and local Healthwatch.

In Leicestershire and Rutland the Annual Report has traditionally also been presented to the Cabinet and the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Consideration of the report enables the Cabinet to comment on its contents and consider whether the report identifies matters that it wishes to address in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding within the work of the Authority.

56. East Midlands Freeport - Including Urgent Action taken by the Chief Executive.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive regarding the proposed establishment of a Freeport covering sites in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda item 17', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the latest position and next steps in establishing the East Midlands Freeport, including the financial implications for the County Council, be noted;
- b) That the urgent action taken by the Chief Executive under delegated authority to support the submission to Government of an Outline Business Case ahead of the submission deadline of 10 September be noted;
- c) That the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to submit the Full Business Case for the East Midlands Freeport to the Government on behalf of the County Council as the lead authority and accountable body for the East Midlands Freeport Interim Board;
- d) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to enter into such governance and other agreements as may be required to progress the Freeport designation.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To ensure that the Cabinet is aware of the latest position and next steps to be taken in establishing the Freeport.

The Government stipulated that as part of the process to secure designation of a Freeport, an OBC should be submitted by 10th September 2021. The Chief Executive took the decision, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, in order to meet the Government's deadline.

The Council's Constitution (Part 3, Section D) provides that the Chief Executive may take urgent decisions between Cabinet meetings subject to this being reported for information to the next available meeting.

The deadline for the submission of the Full Business Case (FBC) is 10th December 2021 which falls before the Cabinet meeting (14th December).

57. Items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.

There were no items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.