



DATE: 11 May 2021
MY REF: RW/CCouncil
PLEASE ASK FOR: Mrs. R. Whitelaw
DIRECT DIALLING: (0116) 305 6098
E-MAIL: rosemary.whitelaw@leics.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I summon you to the MEETING of the LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL to be held at TURING ROOM, HOLYWELL PARK, LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY SCIENCE AND ENTERPRISE PARK (LUSEP), HOLYWELL WAY, LOUGHBOROUGH LE11 3GR on WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY 2021 at 2.00 p.m. for the transaction of the business set out in the agenda below.

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. To elect a Chairman.
2. To elect a Vice Chairman.
3. Chairman's Announcements.
4. To receive the report of the Returning Officer. (Pages 3 - 20)
5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 February 2021. (Pages 21 - 40)
6. To receive declarations by members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
7. To answer questions asked under Standing Order 7(1)(2) and (5).
8. To receive position statements under Standing Order 8.



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

9. Report of the Cabinet.
 - (a) Dates of Council Meetings 2021/22 and 2022/23. (Pages 41 - 42)
10. To make the following appointments in accordance with items 11 and 12 of Standing Order 4:
 - (a) To appoint the Leader (and to note the members which the Leader proposes to appoint to the Cabinet);
 - (b) To appoint such Cabinet Support Members as the Council considers appropriate;
 - (c) To appoint members of the Scrutiny Commission, Board and Committees;
 - (d) To appoint church representatives to serve on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Report of the Chief Executive. (Pages 43 - 44)

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| <u>Blaby</u> | | |
| Glenfields, Kirby Muxloe & Leicester Forests | BRECKON Lee Martin | 5 Triumph Road Glenfield Leicester Leicestershire LE3 8FR |
| Glenfields, Kirby Muxloe & Leicester Forests | CHAPMAN Nick | 56 Liberty Road Glenfield Leicester Leicestershire LE3 8JG |
| Braunstone | HACK Amanda Jayne | 6 Darwin Close Thorpe Astley Leicester Leicestershire LE3 3UE |
| Cosby & Countesthorpe | PHILLIMORE Les | 76 Springwell Lane Whetstone Leicestershire LE8 6LT |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Narborough & Whetstone | RICHARDSON Terry | 21 The Pastures Narborough Leicestershire LE19 3DS |
| Enderby & Lubbethorpe | RICHARDSON Helen Louise | 21 The Pastures Narborough Leicester Leicestershire LE19 3DS |
| Blaby & Glen Parva | WELSH Geoff | 14 Woodbank Glen Parva Leicester Leicestershire LE2 9QP |
| Stoney Stanton & Croft | WRIGHT Maggie | Teena Croft Road Thurlaston Leicestershire LE9 7TB |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <u>Charnwood</u> | | |
| Syston Ridgeway | BARKLEY Tom | 1 Northfields Syston Leicestershire LE7 1HW |
| Quorn & Barrow | FRYER Hilary Jean | 7 Warner Street Barrow upon Soar Leicestershire LE12 8PB |
| Birstall | GRIMLEY Daniel John | (address in the Charnwood area) |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Rothley & Mountsorrel | HADJI-NIKOLAOU Leon | 41 Swithland Lane Rothley Leicestershire LE7 7SG |
| Loughborough North West | HUNT Max | 58 William Street Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 3BZ |
| Loughborough East | MIAH Jewel | 21 Normanton Drive Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 1NT |
| Loughborough South West | MORGAN Jonathan | 21 Stanford Lane Loughborough Leicestershire LE12 5TW |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| Loughborough North | NEWTON Betty | (address in the Charnwood area) |
| Loughborough South | PARTON Ted | 4 Burton Street Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 2DT |
| Syston Fosse | POLAND James Mark | (address in the Charnwood area) |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Shepshed | RADFORD Christine Mary | 3 Moscow Lane Shepshed Leicestershire LE12 9EX |
| Thurmaston Ridgemere | SEATON Brenda Joyce | 909 Melton Road Thurmaston Leicester Leicestershire LE4 8EF |
| Sileby & The Wolds | SHEPHERD Richard James | 73 Leicester Road Quorn Leicestershire LE12 8BA |
| Bradgate | TAYLOR Deborah | 6 Geary Close Anstey Leicestershire LE7 7LW |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <u>Harborough</u> | | |
| Broughton Astley | BANNISTER Neil Durban | 56 Macaulay Road Lutterworth Leicestershire LE17 4XB |
| Market Harborough East | CHAMPION Barry | 36 Alvington Way Market Harborough Leicestershire LE16 7NF |
| Gartree | FELTHAM Kevin | (address in Harborough District) |
| Launde | GALTON Simon James | Thurnby Court The Square Thurnby Leicestershire LE7 9PX |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Market Harborough West & Foxton | KING Phil | (address in Harborough District) |
| Lutterworth | PAGE Rosita | (address in Harborough District) |
| Bruntingthorpe | PAIN Blake Lewis | (address in Harborough District) |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <u>Hinckley & Bosworth</u> | | |
| Earl Shilton | ALLEN Richard George | 63 Keats Lane Earl Shilton Leicestershire LE9 7DS |
| Markfield, Desford & Thornton | BEDFORD Peter Alexander | 15 Lockymead Drive Desford Leicestershire LE9 9JW |
| Hollycroft | BILL David Christopher | 8A Thornfield Way Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 1BE |
| St Marys | BRAY Stuart Lee | 26 Netherley Court Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 ORN |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Market Bosworth | HARRISON- RUSHTON Bertie | 17 Millston Drive Ashby de la Zouch Leicestershire LE65 2AU |
| Mallory | HILLS Ross Lloyd | 174 Kirkby Road Barwell Leicestershire LE9 8FS |
| De Montfort | MULLANEY Michael Timothy | 9 Chessher Street Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 0AH |
| Groby & Ratby | O'SHEA Ozzy | 19 Heathbrook Drive Ratby Leicestershire LE6 0XB |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Burbage | WRIGHT Amanda Victoria | (address in Hinckley & Bosworth) |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| <u>Melton</u> | | |
| Melton West | FRISBY Mark | (address in Melton) |
| Belvoir | LOVEGROVE Bryan | Hill Top Farm, Melton Road Long Clawson Melton Mowbray Leicestershire LE14 4NR |
| Melton Wolds | ORSON Joe | Parsonage House, 13 Paradise Lane Old Dalby Melton Mowbray Leicestershire LE14 3NH |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|--------------------|-------------|---|
| Melton East | POSNETT Pam | 11 Somerset Close Melton Mowbray Leicestershire LE13 0JS |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|---|------------------------|--|
| <u>North West Leicestershire</u> | | |
| Forest & Measham | ASHMAN Robert | 8 Violet Close Donisthorpe Leicestershire DE12 7RS |
| Ashby de la Zouch | COXON John Geoffrey | Highfield House, 66 Leicester Road New Packington Ashby de la Zouch Leicestershire |
| Whitwick | GILLARD Tony | 128 St Bernards Rd Whitwick Leicestershire LE67 5GW |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Ibstock & Appleby | HARRISON Dan | (address in North West Leicestershire) |
| Coalville South | MERRIE Keith | 30 Rushby Road Ellistown Coalville Leicestershire LE67 1FR |
| Castle Donington & Kegworth | PENDLETON Trevor John | Woodlands, 17a Langley Drive Kegworth Nr Derbys Leicestershire |
| Valley | RUSHTON Nick | 19 Lower Church Street Ashby de la Zouch Leicestershire LE65 1AB |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Coalville North | SMITH Craig Andrew | 47 Brooks Lane Whitwick Coalville Leicestershire |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <u>Oadby and Wigston</u> | | |
| South & West Wigston | BOULTER Bill | 86 Station Road Wigston Leicestershire LE18 2DJ |
| North Wigston | BROADLEY Linda Margaret | 7 Penzance Avenue Wigston Leicestershire LE18 2HX |
| East Wigston | CHARLESWORTH Michael Henry | 2 Midland Cottages Wigston Leicestershire LE18 2BU |
| Oadby | GAMBLE Dean Adam | 4 Frensham Close Oadby Leicester Leicestershire LE2 5WF |

Leicestershire County Council Elections 2021
Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected
to the County Council

| Electoral Division | Name | Address |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| Oadby | GHATTORAYA Kamal | 4 Ludlow Close Oadby Leicester Leicestershire LE2 4SU |

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY
2021**

PRESENT

Mrs. P. Posnett MBE CC (in the Chair)

Mr. T. Barkley CC, Mr. P. Bedford CC, Mr. I. E. G. Bentley CC, Mr. D. C. Bill MBE CC, Mr. R. Blunt CC, Mr. G. A. Boulter CC, Mr. S. L. Bray CC, Mr. L. Breckon JP CC, Dr. P. Bremner CC, Ms. L. Broadley CC, Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC, Mr. J. G. Coxon CC, Mr. B. Crooks CC, Dr. T. Eynon CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mrs. H. J. Fryer CC, Mr. S. J. Galton CC, Mr. D. A. Gamble CC, Mr. T. Gillard CC, Mrs. A. J. Hack CC, Mr. D. Harrison CC, Dr. S. Hill CC, Mr. Max Hunt CC, Mr. J. Kaufman CC, Mr. W. Liquorish JP CC, Mr. J. Miah CC, Mr. J. Morgan CC, Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC, Ms. Betty Newton CC, Mr. O. O'Shea JP CC, Mr. J. T. Orson JP CC, Mr. I. D. Ould OBE CC, Mrs. R. Page CC, Mr. B. L. Pain CC, Mr T. Parton CC, Mr. A. E. Pearson CC, Mr. T. J. Pendleton CC, Mr. L. Phillimore CC, Mr J. Poland CC, Mrs. C. M. Radford CC, Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC, Mr. T. J. Richardson CC, Mrs H. L. Richardson CC, Mrs. J. Richards CC, Mr. N. J. Rushton CC, Mrs B. Seaton CC, Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC, Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC, Mrs D. Taylor CC, Mrs. A. Wright CC, Mrs. M. Wright CC and Mr. M. B. Wyatt CC

28. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Mrs Evelyn Ensor

It was with great sadness that the Chairman reported the passing of former Councillors Mrs Evelyn Ensor. Mrs Ensor passed away on Monday, 11th January 2021 aged 98.

Mrs Ensor served on the County Council from November 1976 to April 1985 and represented the Market Bosworth No 4 Electoral Division.

During her term of office, she was appointed Chairman of the Personal Services Subcommittee and as Vice Chairman of the Social Services Committee. She also served as a member of the Environment Committee and Police Committee.

The Chairman called on members to stand in silent tribute to the memory of Mrs Evelyn Ensor.

Covid-19

The Chairman reminded members that it was coming up to a year since the impact of the coronavirus began to be felt in Leicestershire.

Plans are in hand with partners to mark the anniversary of the first case in Leicestershire on 6th March and the first lockdown which followed on 23rd March. The County Council will be playing a key role in remembering those who had tragically lost their lives to Covid.

The Chairman mentioned the opportunities to thank key workers - those many officers in the Council - as well as the contribution of others. As well as the efforts of volunteers and unpaid carers who had stepped forward through this year.

The Chairman also thanked all residents, reminding members they had played their part in reducing the spread of the virus - following the guidance to protect family and neighbours. There will also be acknowledgment of those who had struggled through this year - facing hardship, isolation, mental health issues - or the long-term effects of Covid.

The Chairman was pleased to inform members that funding for the Watermead Memorial Walk had been secured earlier in the month and that there were also plans to dedicate a tree at County Hall in remembrance of those staff who had lost their lives.

The Chairman asked Members to look out for further details about the memorial activities and to reflect and find some comfort through them in what had been a difficult year.

29. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2020.

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

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 December 2020, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

30. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

It was assumed that all members who are members of District Councils would wish to declare a personal interest in relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25.

The following members declared a personal interest in the MTFS:-

- Mr Pain CC in relation to passenger transport issues as his family operate a taxi business.
- Mr Phillimore CC in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) issues due to his wife’s employment.

31. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)(2) AND (5).

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

“Could the Leader update me on progress regarding a school crossing patrol

for St Peter's School, Hinckley?"

Mr Pendleton replied as follows:

"The school crossing patrol (SCP) for St Peter's School in Hinckley has been vacant since 14th July 2017. We have ever since sought to recruit a patrol to this site on London Road and have done our best to attract candidates. Because of the relatively short times of operation (45 minutes in the morning and 35 minutes in the afternoon) it is likely to appeal to someone with connections to the school and/or living in close proximity to the school.

Our service is reliant on members of the community coming forward to fill these paid school crossing patrol roles. Unfortunately, to date no applications for this location have been received.

As with all our vacant SCP sites we will be reviewing this location once children return following the latest lockdown. This will be to check the volume of traffic and number of pedestrians crossing – known as a PV² assessment. We will then revisit our recruitment programme dependent on the outcome of this review."

(B) Mr Bray asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:

"Could the Leader update me on the highspeed broadband rollout in parts of Burbage which currently have poor speeds/coverage?"

Mr Pain replied as follows:

"Superfast Leicestershire is a £33.5m partnership led by the County Council, together with Openreach, LLEP, Government and district councils. Since 2014, Leicestershire County Council has invested more than £20m to improve digital infrastructure through the Superfast Leicestershire Programme, resulting in more than 75,000 residential and business premises having gained access to superfast broadband across Phase 1 & 2 of the Programme, taking the broadband coverage across Leicester to 97%.

The Superfast Leicestershire Programme is committed to delivering further phases of high-speed broadband rollout, and the launch of Phase 3 of the Programme in August 2019 will see a further 2500 premises benefit from future proofed Gigabit capable full fibre connections across west Leicestershire, working with our delivery partner Openreach.

Specifically, as a result of the Programme's intervention to date, superfast broadband coverage within Burbage, and across the Hinckley & Bosworth district as a whole has reached 95%.

We do not want to see any area left behind and are committed to working towards 100% superfast coverage across Leicestershire, and to seek all possible solutions to support the residents of Burbage and across the Hinckley & Bosworth area.

The remaining premises in Burbage which have poor broadband speeds are

currently in the delivery plan within the Phase 3 Contract, of which the Superfast Leicestershire Team are focussing their efforts on ensuring all the unserved premises are planned-in to receive full-fibre broadband infrastructure.

The good news is, so far 20 premises within the Burbage area have recently been upgraded to full-fibre, and can now order gigabit capable broadband services, via their internet service provider.

We are prioritising and focussing our efforts on finding solutions for all unserved properties, and I have asked officers to work closely with BDUK and Outside-in Programme to ensure Leicestershire is at the front of the queue to be considered for BDUK funding to rollout full-fibre broadband to the remaining unserved areas and premises across Leicestershire.

For information, **Appendix A** provides the current status of premises by post-code in the Burbage area planned in the Phase 3 delivery, including those that have recently been upgraded.”

Appendix A

| No. of Premises | Post-Codes | Outcome |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 20 | LE10 3EN LE10 3ES LE10 3ER LE10 3DP | Fibre-to-the-Premises infrastructure built and go LIVE as part of Contract 3 delivery - Dec 2020. These 20 premises can now order FTTP service |
| 275 | LE10 2LG LE10 2LL LE10 2LN LE10 2NS LE10 2NW LE10 2NZ LE10 2PE LE10 2PF LE10 2PG LE10 2QJ LE10 2QP LE10 2RR | Originally modelled as FTTC as part of the original Contract. Once planning had mobilised, Openreach advised FTTP would be a better solution with better speeds and to flip the technology. These premises have now been submitted as a change request to Openreach to re-model and cost based on FTTP. LCC awaiting the Impact assessments and confirm intentions to sign-off subject to BDUK Assu |
| 6 | LE10 2LN LE10 3BQ | Business Premises to be descoped as they all leased lines / Ethernet lines drawing speeds of 100Mb. |
| 13 | LE10 3JA LE10 3AH LE10 2QP LE10 3BA LE10 2LL LE10 3AJ | Openreach have not modelled these in original contract, potential to review these once the fees from the Change Request has been received, however no guarantees can be offered. |

(C) Dr Eynon asked the following question of the Leader or his

nominee:

“The Century Theatre has, thanks to the diligent work of artistic director Sam Girdham, a £250,000 award from the Arts Council’s Cultural Recovery Fund (CRF). The fund is to assist this Council’s refurbished heritage and new studio theatres, situated in Snibston Colliery Park, to re-open after the pandemic. The deadline for making claims against the grant is March 31st. This funding lifeline has the potential to reinvigorate the cultural offer in North West Leicestershire and it would be a pity to lose this opportunity.

What urgent steps are being taken to:

- ensure the timely allocation of spend,
- make a full claim against the grant and
- promote the wider benefits that this opportunity provides?”

Mr Rhodes replied as follows:

“I join Dr Eynon in welcoming the £250,000 award from the Arts Council’s Cultural Recovery Fund for the Century Theatre and the opportunities it provides to expand the cultural offer in Coalville.

Since the grant award, officers from across the County Council have been working together to develop specifications, plan the required works and develop a comprehensive programme of events. Some artists have been commissioned and the tenders are being issued for the electrical equipment and works.

The budget for the grant award has been agreed and funds allocated accordingly, part of the grant award is to support the theatre with its costs through the loss of income due to Covid 19. The tenders are being issued for the equipment and works and the funds will be committed by the deadline of 31st March 2021.

The Arts Council are allowing some carry forward of the grant due to the ongoing Covid-related restrictions and officers are working closely with them to ensure the grant is secure.

We are already promoting the wider benefits of the grant. Thanks to the Culture Recovery Fund grant, the Century Theatre is proud to have established a new programme of creative classes for young people and the community. In partnership with the Arts Mark initiative and Trinity College, local schools and community groups can learn, explore and perform in the Century Theatre’s main auditorium and studio space. The Academy brings in high quality professional artists to teach and nurture creativity for everyone. The new Facebook and Instagram pages will be a source of information not only about what we have to offer but also serve as a repository for the extensive material that will be created on site and from people’s homes.

In the spring, the Century Theatre will be hosting a National Forest initiative, led by a local theatre company, to promote creativity in outdoor spaces and will take place at Snibston Country Park”.

Dr Eynon asked the following supplementary question:

“I thank the Lead Member for his response. Whilst I am pleased to see that we are making use of the wider benefits of the grant by establishing new programmes and partnerships, bringing in professional artists and using Facebook and Instagram as a repository for materials, I am concerned that none of these necessarily constitute public ‘promotion’ of these opportunities.

I would be grateful if the Lead Member could clarify:

- Is there a Marketing Plan and, if so, how will it be funded and delivered?
- Will the responsibility for the creation, responsiveness, reach and engagement of social media posts lie with the Comms Team or with Century Theatre staff?”

Mr Rhodes replied as follows:

“We are currently updating the marketing plan to ensure that it fits within the whole plan for Snibston Colliery Park and is flexible enough to ensure that it can accommodate on line and face to face activity as lockdown restrictions ease over time.

It will be funded as part of the overall Leicestershire Traded Services (LTS) Marketing Budget and delivered jointly by appropriate officers from Comms and LTS, including the Century Theatre staff, working together.

Therefore, the responsibility will lie jointly across the whole LTS and Comms team, drawing together expertise, innovation and creativity from many individuals.”

(D) Mr Hunt as the following question of the Leader or his nominee:

- “1. Last year the authority compensated bus companies in full to the value of £5million for loss of concessionary fares. Will the same compensation apply in the budget 2021/2 and for how long will it apply?
2. Has the authority considered reducing this, possibly in consultation with the bus companies for reduced services during the pandemic?
3. What contributions to concessionary fares have been received by the County Council this year and previously, and under what form of allocation?
4. Does the authority believe we have been allocated fair compensation in the past?”

Mr Pendleton replied as follows:

- “1. Payment is made by the local authorities to operators to reimburse them where they have been carrying eligible concessionary travel pass holders for free.

The County Council was urged by the Department for Transport (DfT) to reimburse bus operators at pre-Covid levels (2019/20) during the pandemic despite significantly lower concession passengers. The County Council initially wrote to operators in March 2020 stating that they would maintain full payment until the end of June 2020. This was further extended until November.

An independent review of concessionary travel reimbursement and bus subsidy in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic was commissioned by the County Council in November 2020. The review recommended that in consideration of the local bus market, concessionary reimbursement should continue at 100% of pre-Covid levels, in order to protect the local bus network. It was intended that the arrangement would remain in place until the DfT advised otherwise, with a further review taking place in May 2021 if the situation remained the same.

2. On 13th January 2021 the DfT wrote to Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) asking them to continue making concessionary reimbursement payments. However, they advised that LTAs could consider reducing concessionary fare reimbursement funding to the level of service that operators are providing.

Given this recent guidance by the DfT, the County Council is currently considering its position on this matter taking into account current service levels as well as the findings of the independent review referred to in Question 1.

3. There is no separate Government allocation for concessionary travel. The DfT specific grant for concessionary travel ceased in 2011/12 and transferred into Revenue Support Grant (RSG). Concessionary travel is now funded solely from the settlement (combination of council tax and business rates) and therefore not separately identifiable.
4. Given the funding arrangement (Question 3 above), there is no transparency in the funding allocation specifically for concessionary travel. Increased cost pressures from concessionary travel reimbursement compound already competing demands for finite funding and place further strain on County Council services.

It is well documented that the County Council does not believe Leicestershire is fairly funded under the current financial settlement arrangements.”

(E) Mrs Hack asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:

“It is recognised that the progression of the 5G network is of critical importance to the ongoing progress to mobile connectivity, but there are increasing concerns being raised by local people about masts appearing without any consultation or prior knowledge. In addition, as many of these masts appear on public land, the lack of consultation for these infrastructure projects is what creates the most frustration. The mast that has appeared in my division has been placed on County Council Highways land, yet I have

been informed by Highways colleagues that there was no formal notice raised with the County Council as the owner of the land. As there was no notice to County, there was obviously no consultation with me as the local member either.

Could the Leader please advise me:

1. What is the local agreement, if any, for the District Councils to notify Leicestershire County Council of planning permission requests around 5G masts?
2. What is the local agreement, if any, for the District Councils/or the applicant to notify Leicestershire County Council of planning permission for 5G masts that are going to be placed on land owned by the County given that many masts are appearing on land owned by Leicestershire Highways?
3. Apart from the planning process, what other constraints apply to the positioning of 5G and similar masts?
4. What sanctions are available where procedure, including consultation, is overlooked by the applicant?"

Mr Pendleton replied as follows:

- "1. There are no local agreements. National legislation is in place and followed as detailed. Most masts (and antennae) can be erected under 'permitted development' rules, which means that full planning permission is normally not required. Where they do need permission (typically because of the mast's height), the County Council as highway authority will only be consulted by the district council as local planning authority if they consider there may be a potential highway safety issue (such as affecting a visibility splay or if sited on a narrow footpath). In most cases, equipment will not have any impact on highway safety, so the highway authority will not be consulted. Our understanding is that, under Government licencing rules, telecommunications operators have to inform the highway authority about telecoms installations in the highway as a statutory undertaker (notification, not consultation). This is the same as where other utility providers install equipment in the highway. More detail on specific cases may be available from local planning authorities.
2. Following on from the above, there are no specific agreements for land designated as public highway (which may not necessarily be owned by the County Council) as the telecom operator is usually required to follow a simple notification process. However, with respect to other County Council land, on 11th July 2000 the Cabinet considered a joint report from the Director of Property and Director of Education regarding the perceived health impact of cellular telephones. Cabinet agreed that the County Council should adopt a precautionary approach, as follows:
 - (a) (i) that leases of telecommunications aerials and equipment

on occupied buildings should be terminated wherever possible, where no penalties are likely to be incurred;

- (ii) that no new installations be permitted on occupied buildings other than those alterations and additions allowed under the individual lease terms; and
 - (iii) that no new base installations be erected on sites remote from occupied buildings until advice has been received from the Government on appropriate safeguards.
- (b) that Governing Bodies are advised of Council policy and are strongly advised to follow that policy; and
 - (c) that a Health & Safety circular is prepared for Governing Bodies and Headteachers containing the latest Government advice in relation to the use of mobile phones by children.
3. There is a code of practice relating to this in regard to highway installations – Code of Practice relating to Electronic Communications Code and the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 and the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order, Part 24 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO).
4. The procedures that should be followed will vary depending on issues such as the siting of the equipment or the height of the mast. Therefore, the local planning authority will be best placed to advise on any relevant sanctions.

In some cases, it may be appropriate to use the complaints procedure of the company responsible for the installation.”

Mrs Hack asked the following supplementary question:

“The response indicates:

- a) that the District Council will consult County ‘if they consider there may be a potential highway safety issue’. Considering County deals with 7 District/Borough Authorities, is there an agreed threshold for a potential highways safety issue and is this consistent across Leicestershire?
- b) the telecoms provider is required to notify the highway authority. In the case referred to in my question it did not. The answer to question 4 states that sanctions are the responsibility of the planning authority, but if it’s the duty of the communications provider to inform County, what is the process County follow where this does not happen?”

Mr Pendleton replied as follows:

- “a) No, it will be a matter for each LPA to determine any need for

consultation and consult relevant authorities based on their assessment

- b) Once the planning process is complete the telecom provider will need to apply for a permit to work in the highway. If excavation and works take place on the highway without a permit, the maximum fee we can charge them is £500, (reducing to £300 if paid within 29 days)."

Mrs Hack asked a further supplementary question:

"The last time this issue was reported to Cabinet was 11th July 2000. Does the Lead Member consider whether there need to be a review in light of more recent legislation on this issue?"

Mr Pendleton replied as follows:

"Given the issues raised through these questions both locally and more generally, I have asked officers to review the processes relating to telecommunications equipment and infrastructure in relation to highways. This will be reported to me so I can consider my position on this point."

32. TO RECEIVE POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER

8.

The Leader gave a position statement on the following matters:

- Litter Wombles
- LGBT+ History Month
- Covid Memorial Walk – Watermead Park
- Supporting Residents, Community Groups and Businesses During Covid.

The Lead Member for Health gave a position statement regarding Covid Vaccinations and the work of the Council.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission gave a position statement on the work of the Scrutiny Commission.

Copies of the position statements are attached.

33. REPORT OF THE CABINET.

(a) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25.

It was moved by Mr Rhodes and seconded by Mr Shepherd:

- (a) That subject to the items below, approval be given to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which incorporates the recommended revenue budget for 2021/22 totalling £399m as set out in Appendices A, B and E of this report and includes the growth and savings for that year as set out in Appendix C;

- (b) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, set out in Appendix B to the report, including the growth and savings for those years as set out in Appendix C, allowing the undertaking of preliminary work, including business case development, consultation and equality and human rights impact assessments, as may be necessary towards achieving the savings specified for those years including savings under development, set out in Appendix D;
- (c) That approval is given to the early achievement of savings that are included in the MTFS, as may be necessary, along with associated investment costs, subject to the Director of Corporate Resources agreeing to funding being available;
- (d) That the level of the general fund and earmarked funds as set out in Appendix K be noted and the use of those earmarked funds as indicated in that appendix be approved;
- (e) That the amounts of the County Council's Council Tax for each band of dwelling and the precept payable by each billing authority for 2021/22 be as set out in Appendix M (including 3% for the adult social care precept);
- (f) That the Chief Executive be authorised to issue the necessary precepts to billing authorities in accordance with the budget requirement above and the tax base notified by the District Councils, and to take any other action which may be necessary to give effect to the precepts;
- (g) That approval be given to the 2021/22 to 2024/25 capital programme as set out in Appendix F;
- (h) That the Director of Corporate Resources following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources be authorised to approve new capital schemes, including revenue costs associated with their delivery, shown as future developments in the capital programme, to be funded from funding available;
- (i) That the financial indicators required under the Prudential Code included in Appendix N, Annex 2 be noted and that the following limits be approved:

| | 2021/22 £m | 2022/23 £m | 2023/24 £m | 2024 £m |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Operational boundary for external debt | | | | |
| i) Borrowing | 263 | 263 | 262 | : |
| ii) Other long term liabilities | 1 | 1 | 1 | : |
| TOTAL | 264 | 264 | 263 | : |
| Authorised limit for external debt | | | | |
| i) Borrowing | 273 | 273 | 272 | : |
| ii) Other long term liabilities | 1 | 1 | 1 | : |
| TOTAL | 274 | 274 | 273 | : |

- (j) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to effect movement within the authorised limit for external debt between borrowing and other long-term liabilities;
- (k) That the following borrowing limits be approved for the period 2021/22 to 2024/25:
- (i) Upper limit on fixed interest exposures 100%;
 - (ii) Upper limit on variable rate exposures 50%;
 - (iii) Maturity of borrowing:-

| | <u>Upper Limit</u> | <u>Lower Limit</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | % | % |
| Under 12 months | 30 | 0 |
| 12 months and within 24 months | 30 | 0 |
| 24 months and within 5 years | 50 | 0 |
| 5 years and within 10 years | 70 | 0 |
| 10 years and above | 100 | 25 |

- (iv) An upper limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days is 10% of the portfolio.
- (l) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to enter into such loans or undertake such arrangements as necessary to finance capital payments in 2021/22, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix N;
- (m) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix N, be approved including:
- (i) The Treasury Management Policy Statement, Appendix N; Annex 4;
 - (ii) The Annual Statement of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision as set out in Appendix N, Annex 1;
- (n) That the Capital Strategy (Appendix G), Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy (Appendix H), Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Appendix I), Earmarked Funds Policy (Appendix J) and Insurance Policy (Appendix L) be approved;

- (o) That it be noted that the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool will continue for 2021/22;
- (p) That the Director of Corporate Resources following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources be authorised to make any changes to the provisional MTFs which may be required as a result of changes arising between the Cabinet and County Council meetings, noting that any changes will be reported to the County Council on 17th February 2021;
- (q) That it be noted that following the enactment of the relevant legislation a report will be presented to the Council's Constitution Committee and thereafter to the County Council regarding the proposed addition to the County Council's Constitution (Part 2, Article 12.04) to confirm that the Director of Corporate Resources, as the Chief Financial Officer, is the Responsible Officer for the Leicestershire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS);
- (r) That the Leicestershire School Funding Formula is unchanged and continues to reflect the National Funding Formula for 2021/22.

The Chairman indicated that a named vote would be recorded, as required by Government Regulations.

The vote was recorded as follows:

For the Motion

Mr Bedford, Mr Bentley, Mr Blunt, Mr Breckon, Dr Bremner, Mr Coxon, Dr Feltham, Mrs Fryer, Mr Gillard, Mr Harrison, Mr Liquorish, Mr Morgan, Mr O'Shea, Mr Orson, Mr Ould, Mrs Page, Mr Pain, Mr Parton, Mr Pearson, Mr Pendleton, Mr Phillimore, Mr Poland, Mrs Posnett, Mrs Radford, Mr Rhodes, Mrs Richards, Mr Richardson, Mrs Richardson, Mr Rushton, Mrs Seaton, Mr Shepherd, Mrs Taylor, Mrs A. Wright, Mrs M. Wright.

Against the Motion

Mr Bill, Mr Boulter, Mr Bray, Mrs Broadley, Mr Charlesworth, Mr Crooks, Dr Eynon, Mr Galton, Mrs Hack, Dr Hill, Mr Hunt, Mr Kaufman, Mr Miah, Mr Mullaney, Ms Newton, Mr Sheahan, Mr Wyatt.

The motion was carried 34 members voting for the motion and 17 against.

2.00 pm – 4.45 pm
17 February 2021

CHAIRMAN

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17TH FEBRUARY 2021
POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

‘Litter Wombles’

Local ‘litter wombles’ do a fantastic job keeping our county clean and tidy – and a new scheme is providing practical help to support them.

Across Leicestershire, there are hundreds of groups of volunteers who collect litter from our streets, parks, verges and other public spaces.

Getting the right equipment is one of the challenges they face – and that’s why the County Council will be offering groups light-weight fold-up road signs and hi-vis jackets to help keep them safe, and extra-long litter pickers to reach under bushes and hedgerows.

This initiative will not only help to keep Leicestershire grot-free and boost our environment but also help increase recycling rates and raise money for important charities.

To find out how to get this equipment visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/litter-picking or email Community.Litter@leics.gov.uk

LGBT+ history month

February is LGBT+ history month. This month is a chance to increase the visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, their history, lives and their experiences. These stories are often the ‘hidden histories’ that we have not heard before, and the month helps us to remember the milestones that have been fought for by LGBT+ people in Leicestershire and beyond in our recent past.

Along with our partners – including Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police - we’ll be proudly flying the rainbow flag every day in February to remind us how far we have come, and to celebrate the LGBT+ people of today.

Covid Memorial Walk – Watermead Park

In a couple of weeks, we will have been fighting COVID, in Leicestershire, for over a year. The first case in Leicestershire was detected on 6 March 2020 and the battle has been long and unforgiving. As the Chairman referred to earlier, the loss has been felt across the world, as well as here in our communities, hospitals, and care homes. We have sadly lost our own members of staff at the County Council.

Next month, along with the City Mayor, I will open the memorial walk at Watermead Park, which goes across the City and County boundary. Funded partly through memorial pledges from city and county residents, it will be a place of remembrance. It will also be a place where we say thank you to all the people of Leicestershire who have simply kept going through this terrible year. While noting it is not over yet, the memorial walk will also be a place of hope – for the future.

Supporting residents, community groups and businesses during Covid

The Council has continued to support the local voluntary and community sector in recognition of the fantastic work the sector continues to do in helping vulnerable people and providing vital services.

We have awarded a further £1million to 170 groups through Round 3 of the Leicestershire Community Fund, making a total of £2.6million to aid 390 groups since the start of the pandemic in March last year. We have also distributed £250,000 to help 26 foodbanks and have made available £1.2m to assist vulnerable children and families with food and fuel costs. Additionally, to increase capacity for debt and money problems we will be providing an extra £250,000 for Leicestershire and Charnwood Citizens Advice Bureaux.

We have also supported our rural pubs; 138 pubs have been assisted with £1,000. The scheme aims to keep people in jobs, maintain the role of the pub as a community hub and help them to diversify by providing extra services for residents. The scheme has been welcomed by the British Beer & Pub Association.

The impact of the pandemic on Leicestershire's economy is unprecedented. The damage is immediate and long lasting with evidence demonstrating that the hardest hit sectors are hospitality and tourism with the youngest most affected through job losses. This council has done what it can, and will continue to do so.

We have distributed £750,000 to over 100 businesses, helping to secure their futures and dozens of jobs in the County. And we are putting in place services to support those now looking for work as well as providing much needed employment opportunities for 16 to 24 year olds through an extended form of the Government's Kickstart programme

Mr N. J. Rushton CC
Leader of the Council

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17TH FEBRUARY 2021

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR HEALTH

As we start to look towards the anniversary of the first national lockdown announced by the Prime Minister on 23rd March 2020, it is only right that we remember the 1200 people who have died from Coronavirus in Leicestershire. This Council will not meet again now before the anniversary of the first Leicestershire case that occurred on March 6th last year.

The continual decrease in infection rates during the current national lockdown is welcomed, with rates in Leicestershire now below 200 per 100,000, which is half the rate it was at its peak in mid-January.

However, it does remain a concern that rates of infection are still very high compared with the position before October last year. Rates are not falling as fast as the national average, with the East and West Midlands currently the two regions with the highest rates in the country. It therefore still remains imperative to follow lockdown rules and advice as much as possible to drive down the rates to more manageable numbers.

The Council, working with other partner organisations, continues to lead the local fight against Coronavirus. Through the almost weekly all Member briefings, Members have been appraised of the significant workload made in communications and engagement, testing, enforcement and compliance, as well as supporting the clinically extremely vulnerable. The other work reported on has included the local contact tracing services and the detailed outbreak investigation and control.

The rolling out of testing for those without symptoms who are unable to work from home has been a key focus of the work of the Public Health Department so far this year. Seven sites are now fully operational across the County with over 3000 tests carried out so far. To put in place a service operating across the County with over 200 newly appointed staff is a real testament to the continued hard work of this County Council.

The vaccination programme goes from strength to strength with our NHS partners achieving high coverage in the most vulnerable cohorts of the population. While it is important that we all carry on practicing the key message of HANDS, FACE and SPACE, Members will recognise that vaccination offers the country the best chance of getting through this crisis. I would therefore echo our Director of Public Health's clear message that we continue to urge the public to take up the offer of vaccination as it is offered to them.

I am sure that we will all have been profoundly affected by the pandemic in so many ways and I would like to give my continued thanks to not only our Director of Public Health, Mike Sandys and his incredibly hard-working team, but to all of the officers of the County Council for their continued efforts above and beyond the call of duty.

I would also like to say thank you to all of you as the Members of Leicestershire County Council, for all of your continued work on behalf of the residents of Leicestershire and continuing with all we do, in these difficult and challenging times.

For me as Lead Member for Health, the above Position Statement covers what we have done in dealing with this Pandemic as a County.

We have all felt and seen every day the effects of this pandemic. To overcome these impacts and effects, we have needed inspiring people and no one inspired us all more than Captain Sir Tom Moore. He inspired so many of us to make a difference and lifted our spirits at those much-needed times.

It is sad that he will not see life begin to return to normal. But he remains an inspirational figure to all of us, and we should all salute him for all he did for us as we all look forward to the future.

Mr L. Breckon CC

Cabinet Lead Member for Health

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17TH FEBRUARY 2021**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

The Scrutiny Commission and Committees are continuing to adapt to new ways of working making the best use of technology to ensure scrutiny continues its work despite current restrictions. By example, later this month we will be holding our first fully remote scrutiny member workshop to look at the work undertaken across the Council to support and engage with our communities and the role this has played during the Covid-19 crisis.

The workshop will provide a valuable opportunity for members to share their experiences and to identify what has worked well or not so well during this difficult time. The usual routes to contact and reach out to residents have had to be adapted over the last 12 months and whilst we have embraced the use of technology to continue in our work, it is recognised that this is not always appropriate or possible for all our residents and we must therefore work to ensure the Council's approach is as inclusive as possible despite current circumstances.

With this in mind, scrutiny members will consider the barriers to good community engagement, especially in light of restrictions necessary to battle the pandemic which may continue for some time to come, what lessons can be learnt and what positive experiences can be developed and captured as part of the planned review of the Council's Communities Strategy later this year. All Scrutiny members have been invited and are encouraged to take part in what we, the Commissioners, hope will be a valuable exercise.

Over the coming year scrutiny will continue to play a critical role in looking at growth and the implications of this on the County Council as a key infrastructure provider when it considers the Council's Infrastructure Policy. The financial consequences certainly need to be understood. The Commission had a useful and constructive discussion last year on the implications of the Leicester City Local Plan and will be keen to see how growth proposals are affected in the light of increased housing numbers now allocated by the government to Leicester City which will unfortunately have repercussions for the County as a whole.

A key area of focus for scrutiny throughout this year will continue to be the environment and how the Council will drive forward its commitment to become carbon neutral in its operations by 2030. The Environment and Transport Scrutiny Committee and the Commission will have a role to play and both will therefore be looking at the Council's Strategic Energy Property Strategy next month, which is a key delivery mechanism for the Environment Strategy in respect of the Council's own property assets. The Environment Scrutiny

Committee will also be looking at the new strategic approach to biodiversity issues.

The budget process has highlighted the significant cost pressures on the Council of SEND and in particular transport cost. A workshop is planned for later in March for members of the Children and Families and Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committees to consider the statementing process and how decisions are made regarding the provision of transport for these vulnerable young people. Invites will also go to the relevant Cabinet Lead Members and to the Lead Member for Resources so that we can have a full and informed discussion on this matter.

Mr S. Galton CC
Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission

REPORT OF THE CABINET**DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2021/22 and 2022/23****Introduction**

1. This report concerns the proposed dates for Council meetings in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Background

2. Standing Order 1(2) requires that in addition to the Annual Meeting of the Council and any meetings convened by the Chairman or members of the Council, meetings of the Council for the transaction of general business shall be held on such days as may be determined by the Council at its Annual Meeting on the recommendation of the Cabinet. A date so determined may be varied by the Cabinet. Dates for the 2022/23 municipal year have been included in order to provide members with advance notice of future meetings.
3. The recommendation of the Cabinet on this matter is set out in the motion which appears below:-

(Motion to be moved:

That Council meetings in 2021/22 and 2022/23 be held on the following dates: -

- **Wednesday 7 July 2021**
- **Wednesday 29 September 2021**
- **Wednesday 1 December 2021**
- **Wednesday 23 February 2022 (to consider the budget)**
- **Wednesday 18 May 2022 (Annual meeting)**
- **Wednesday 6 July 2022**
- **Wednesday 28 September 2022**
- **Wednesday 7 December 2022**
- **Wednesday 22 February 2023 (to consider the budget)**
- **Wednesday 17 May 2023 (Annual meeting)**

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet, 23rd March 2021 – Dates of Council meetings.

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 MAY 2021**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****D. APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMITTEES DEALING WITH EDUCATION**

The Local Government Act 2000 requires local education authorities which maintain Church of England Schools to include at least one representative of the Church of England on any relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Subcommittee. Similar provision is included for Roman Catholic Schools that are maintained.

The nomination for the Church of England representative must be made by the appropriate Diocesan Board of Education and for the Roman Catholic Church the nomination must be made by the Bishop of the appropriate Diocese.

The following nominations have been received to serve on the Children and Families Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Church of England – Canon Carolyn Lewis

Roman Catholic Church – Mr Neil Lockyer

(Motion to be moved:

That Canon Carolyn Lewis be appointed as Church of England representative and Mr Neil Lockyer be appointed as the Roman Catholic Church representative on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or other appropriate scrutiny committee dealing with Education) for the period ending with the County Council elections in 2025.

J Sinnott

This page is intentionally left blank