



DATE: 21 September 2021  
MY REF: RW/CCouncil  
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Dear Sir/Madam

I summon you to the MEETING of the LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL to be held at COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD on WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 2.30 p.m. for the transaction of the business set out in the agenda below.

Yours faithfully

**Chief Executive**

### **AGENDA**

1. Chairman's Announcements.
2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 July 2021. (Pages 5 - 24)
3. To receive declarations by members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
4. To answer questions asked under Standing Order 7(1)(2) and (5).
5. To receive position statements under Standing Order 8.

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

6. Report of the Constitution Committee.
  - (a) Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Member Allowances. (Pages 25 - 34)
7. To make the following appointments in accordance with items 11



and 12 of Standing Order 4:

- (a) To appoint a parent governor representative to serve on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Report of the Chief Executive. (Pages 35 - 36)

8. To consider the following notices of motion:

- (a) COP26 - Mr Max Hunt CC.

Leicestershire County Council has declared that climate change has become an emergency for all of us and therefore:

- (a) Notes that:
- (i) The County Council has a strong Environment Strategy; significant progress is being made to fulfil its Action Plan in Tranche 1 within the Council's direct sphere of influence across the county and the Council is working towards Tranche 2;
  - (ii) The UK has led the world through its system of carbon budgets under the Climate Change Act in its requirement to increase renewable energy;
  - (iii) The UK Climate Change Committee has set out a high level plan to meet the 6th Carbon Budget which has yet to be supported by policy;
  - (iv) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is calling for stronger measures in order to keep global temperature rises below a level of 1.5 degrees Celsius and above which life would become unsustainable in many areas of the globe.
- (b) Remains concerned that:
- (i) The major world economies are still not acting with sufficient urgency;
  - (ii) Mitigation measures, such as flood defences, will not hold back further climate change or the devastating effects on poor countries;
  - (iii) The UK Government has not yet put in place measures to meet the current targets whilst placing all bets on unproven technologies to control change which now risks being irreversible;
  - (iv) Meanwhile the UK Government is continuing to support measures that are irreconcilable with a strategy of achieving net zero in the near future including the recent scrapping of the Green Homes grant insulation scheme; freezing fuel duty; doing little to help electric car owners; authorising billions to be spent on new road schemes; delaying the phasing out of gas boilers in homes; and encouraging airport expansion. All are likely to lead to increases in carbon dioxide emissions rather than helping to reduce them. At the same time Local Authorities are constrained from taking significant steps to Carbon Zero through Local Plans;
  - (v) The Prime Minister will appear in Glasgow COP26 with greenwashed proposals on further exploitation of fossil fuels and no new actions on major causes of Greenhouse Gases emissions.

- (c) Agrees to:
  - (i) Write to the Prime Minister urging substantive proposals to meet targets set by and the UK Climate Change Committee and informing him that Leicestershire cannot meet Carbon Zero by 2030 without action by central government;
  - (ii) Write to all Leicestershire County and City Members of Parliament inviting them to support the concerns and actions set out in this motion and indicate further local measures which they would like implemented locally;
  - (iii) Hold an event in 2022 to support practical measures in support of the outcomes of COP26.
  
- (b) Prevention Services, Public Health and Cancer - Mr M T Mullaney CC.
  
- (a) This Council notes that:
  - (i) Preventable disease and mortality continue to have a massive impact on the public's health, the NHS and the economy. This has only come into sharper focus since the emergence of COVID-19, with preventable causes of cancer such as obesity being associated with a higher risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19. Further disruption caused by COVID-19 has also had a detrimental effect on the diagnosis of cancer cases; Cancer Research UK estimates that 3 million fewer people were screened in the UK between March and September 2020.
  
  - (ii) Investment in disease prevention and the public health grant must be a priority for the UK Government. The grant funds vital services and functions that prevent ill health, reduce health inequalities, and contribute to the future sustainability of the NHS. Local authorities are responsible for improving the health of their populations and do this through services such as stop smoking services, tobacco control and action on diet, exercise, and obesity. But their ability to do so is compromised by continued reductions to the Public Health grant.
  
  - (iii) In 2021/21, the public health grant was given a small uplift of £45 million by the UK Government – equivalent to a cash increase of 0.67%. In reality, however, this represents a 24% reduction, equivalent to £1 billion on a real term basis since 2015/16.
  
  - (iv) Taking funds away from prevention is a false economy. Without proper investment in public health, people suffer, demand on local health services increases, and the economy suffers. This uplift does not consider the impact of COVID-19 on local government budgets, nor their response to the unprecedented challenge of the pandemic. As well as working hard to safely deliver normal public health functions, councils have also had

to respond to the pandemic by supporting national efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, protect vulnerable members of the community and support local businesses and communities. In consequence, local preventive action has suffered.

- (v) Unless funding to improve public health is increased, our health and care system will remain locked in a 'treatment' approach, which is neither economically viable nor protects the health of residents. Deprived areas suffer the worst health outcomes, so it is also vital that areas with the greatest need receive sufficient funding to meet their local challenges. An estimated 27,000 cases of cancer a year in England are associated with socioeconomic deprivation.
- (b) This Council further notes that in Leicestershire, there are around 4,000 cancer cases per year, and around 2,000 deaths from cancer per year. Around four in ten cancers are preventable, largely through avoidable risk factors, such as stopping smoking, keeping a healthy weight and cutting back on alcohol. In 2017, smoking was estimated to account for 80,000 early deaths every year in England and it remains the largest preventable cause of cancer in the world. Smoking-related ill health costs local authorities £883.5 million every year in social care costs. Additionally, obesity and alcohol account for 30,000 and 7,000 early deaths each year respectively.
- (c) This Council therefore supports Cancer Research UK's calls for increased and sustainable public health funding, which will also help to level up unfair health inequalities, bolster our health and social care system and the economy, and help us rebuild and recover from COVID-19. In turn, Leicestershire County Council will continue to support and fund locally-delivered prevention services and other public health initiatives to the best of our abilities - to prevent ill-health, reduce inequalities and support a health and social care system that is fit for the future.