



DATE: 21 September 2021  
MY REF: RW/CCouncil  
PLEASE ASK FOR: Mrs. R. Whitelaw  
DIRECT DIALLING: (0116) 305 6098  
E-MAIL: [rosemary.whitelaw@leics.gov.uk](mailto:rosemary.whitelaw@leics.gov.uk)

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.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7 JULY 2021**

**PRESENT**

Mr. D. Harrison CC (in the Chair)

Mr. R. G. Allen CC, Mr. N. D. Bannister CC, Mr. T. Barkley CC, Mr. P. Bedford CC, Mr. D. C. Bill MBE CC, Mr. G. A. Boulter CC, Mr. S. L. Bray CC, Mr. L. Breckon JP CC, Ms. L. Broadley CC, Mr. B. Champion CC, Mr. N. Chapman CC, Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC, Mr. J. G. Coxon CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mr. M. Frsiby CC, Mrs. H. J. Fryer CC, Mr. S. J. Galton CC, Mr. D. A. Gamble CC, Mr. K. Ghattoraya CC, Mr. T. Gillard CC, Mr. D. J. Grimley CC, Mrs. A. J. Hack CC, Mr. L. Hadji-Nikolaou CC, Mr. B. Harrison-Rushton CC, Mr. R. Hills CC, Mr. P. King CC, Mr. B. Lovegrove CC, Mr. K. Merrie MBE CC, Mr. J. Miah CC, Mr. J. Morgan CC, Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC, Ms. Betty Newton CC, Mr. O. O'Shea JP CC, Mrs. R. Page CC, Mr. B. L. Pain CC, Mr T. Parton CC, Mr. T. J. Pendleton CC, Mr. L. Phillimore CC, Mr J. Poland CC, Mrs. P. Posnett MBE CC, Mrs. C. M. Radford CC, Mr. T. J. Richardson CC, Mrs H. L. Richardson CC, Mr. N. J. Rushton CC, Mrs B. Seaton CC, Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC, Mr. C. A. Smith CC, Mrs D. Taylor CC, Mr. G. Welsh CC, Mrs. A. Wright CC and Mrs. M. Wright CC

**11. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Mr John Thomas

The Chairman reported with great sadness the death of former County Councillor Mr John Thomas. He served on the County Council representing the Rushey Mead electoral division from 1994 to 1997. Following the re-organisation of local government in 1997 he served as a member of Leicester City Council

Mr Thomas served as a member Police, Education, Public Protection, Planning and Recreation and Arts, Libraries and Museums Committee.

Members joined the Chairman by standing in silent tribute to Mr Thomas.

**12. MINUTES.**

It was moved by Mr Harrison, seconded by Dr Feltham and carried:-

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 May 2021, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

**13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

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

All members who were also members of district councils declared a personal interest in the Notice of Motion on improving the local highway environment (minute 20(a) refers).

Mr J Miah declared a personal interest in the Position Statement from the Lead Member for Equalities, Community Engagement and Rural Partnerships as he was a trustee of a Community Centre that had received a Covid Grant (minute 15 refers).

Mr L Phillimore declared a personal interest in the Position Statement from the Lead Member for Children and Family Services as his wife worked in the fields of Early Years and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (minute 15 refers).

#### **14. QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)(2) AND (5).**

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

“The 22<sup>nd</sup> September is World Car-Free Day when all around the world towns, counties and cities allow people to experience streets free of motor traffic and as such aligns with and supports our environment strategy (tranche 2), our draft walking and cycling strategy, as well as supporting bids for future funding. Therefore:

1. Will the County Council be taking the opportunity to support this and promote events around the day?
2. Would the Council consider particular promotions around County Schools where competition for road space and its accompanying hazards are at their most acute?”

**Mr O’Shea replied as follows:**

- “1. The County Council will be promoting World Car Free Day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September through a variety of communication channels including our Choose How You Move website  
<https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/>
2. There is an ongoing programme of active travel encouragement for individuals, schools and businesses. This work takes many forms such as personalised travel planning to give detailed advice to households about alternatives to car use, through to working with businesses to encourage modal shift away from car use.

School traffic continues to be a challenge in some locations and we continue to promote the development of school travel plans and encourage all forms of active travel and help facilitate this through school travel grants and partnership working to implement measures such as park and stride so that areas around schools are less congested.

We have plans to explore trials of a scheme called ‘School Streets’ which brings in varying car free measures as appropriate to school locations. The measures need to be tailored to suit individual site locations. It is anticipated that this work will be looked at during the next academic year.”

**Mrs Hack asked the following supplementary question:**

“What does ‘we continue to promote the development of school travel plans’ mean? Is the County Council actively involved in the development of school travel plans? If so, please could we have some more information?”

**Mr O’Shea replied as follows:**

“I will make sure Mrs Hack gets written reply to her question.”

*[Subsequent to the meeting, the following written reply was provided:*

*The Safe and Sustainable Travel Team are actively involved in the promotion and development of School Travel Plans.*

*An on-going Choose How You Move schools programme is managed and delivered by a Safe and Sustainable Travel Officer in partnership with Leicestershire Rutland Sport (LRS). Leicestershire County Council is an active member of the MODESHIFT STARS programme which is a free (to primary schools) travel plan platform and accreditation system.*

*All schools across Leicestershire are invited to use MODESHIFT STARS and can receive support through the Choose How You Move schools programme to encourage active and sustainable travel, implement initiatives, and apply for sustainable travel grants. A variety of communication channels are utilised to engage with schools and information is readily available on [www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk](http://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk).*

*Since the partnership with LRS was formed in 2018, 23 schools have developed a full national standard travel plan through the MODESHIFT STARS platform. Schools have delivered travel plans to a bronze, silver and gold accreditation level and individual schools have been recognised nationally for their excellence in promoting sustainable travel.]*

**15. POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.**

The Leader gave a position statement on the following matters:

- Police and Crime Commissioner;
- East Midlands Global Gateway (Freeport);
- Fair Funding;
- Tree Strategy;
- Covid Memorial Walk.

The Lead Member for Children and Family Services gave a position statement on the following matters:

- SEND Provision;
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children;
- Foster Carers;
- Voice;
- Performance.

The Lead Member for Equalities, Community Engagement and Rural Partnerships gave a position statement on the Annual Report of work carried out within her portfolio to support Leicestershire Communities over the past financial year.

The Lead Member for Highways and Transport gave a position statement on the Members Highway Fund.

A copy of the position statements is filed with these minutes.

## **16. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION.**

### **(a) Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21.**

It was moved by Mr Mullaney, seconded by Mrs Page and carried:

“That the information contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21, attached as Appendix A to this report, on its activities, be noted.”

## **17. REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.**

### **(a) Proposed Changes to the Structure of Overview and Scrutiny Bodies.**

It was moved by Mr Rushton, seconded by Mrs Taylor and carried:

“That the proposed amendments to the Council’s Constitution, as set out in the report of the Constitution Committee and Appendix A thereto, be approved.”

## **18. REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.**

### **(a) Proposed Changes to the Contract Procedure Rules.**

It was moved by Mr Barkley, seconded by Mr Richardson and carried:

“That the proposed amendments to the Contract Procedure Rules, set out in Appendix A to the report of the Corporate Governance Committee, be approved.”



**19. TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.**

It was moved by Mr Shepherd, seconded by Mr Charlesworth and carried:

“That the membership of the Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out below, be approved.”

A copy of the list setting out membership of the Committees is filed with these minutes.

**20. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION:**

**(a) Improving the Local Highway Environment.**

Mrs Hack, with the consent of the seconder of the motion, sought the approval of the Council to move the following altered motion:-

It was moved by Mrs Hack, seconded by O’Shea, and carried:

- “(a) That this Council notes:
- (i) Too much litter, including recyclable cans and bottles, continues to be thrown onto grass verges and pavements and is an increasing threat to the environment and wildlife;
  - (ii) Despite the best efforts of the local authorities and other agencies, many Leicestershire roads contain signing clutter resulting from highways maintenance, contractors and other parties work on the highway;
  - (iii) The importance of biodiversity on roadsides is under-recognised.
- (b) That this Council also notes:
- (i) The safety of some footways and cycleways can be improved by better lighting;
  - (ii) The need to maintain the highway network to a high standard includes footways and cycleways;
  - (iii) The risks of tree foliage hiding lighting and tall grasses at junctions.
- (c) That this Council will therefore:
- (i) Continue to work with the relevant organisations including utility companies and developers to ensure that temporary highway signage is removed and stored rather than being left at the roadside when works are complete;
  - (ii) Continue to work with the organisations responsible for highway cleansing (district authorities and Highways England) to seek improvements as well as on campaigns to persuade the public to act in a more responsible way respecting the natural environment and so reducing highway litter and damage to the environment;
  - (iii) Review the lighting of cycleways and footways in response to Government’s commitment to active travel to support greater choice in how people move around the county safely when walking

and cycling and in line with current operating procedure.

- (d) That this Council further notes that the County Council's Tree Management Strategy and emerging Action Plan already recognise the significant role roadside grass verges could play in improving the ecology and biodiversity of the county by appropriate planting and maintenance focussed primarily on safety."

2.00 pm – 3.42 pm  
07 July 2021

CHAIRMAN

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021****POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****Police and Crime Commissioner**

I would like to begin by placing on record my congratulations to Rupert Matthews on being elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Deborah Taylor and I met with him to discuss ideas for his policing plan and areas of mutual interest. These included county lines, Supporting Leicestershire Families, Domestic Violence and rural crime.

It is important that the County Council has a good working relationship with the PCC and I have invited him to an all-member briefing in October.

**East Midlands Global Gateway (Freeport)**

Members will be aware from a recent report to the Cabinet that the Government has approved an expression of interest for a Freeport based around East Midlands Airport, the current Ratcliffe on Soar power station and a site owned by Severn Trent close to the Toyota site in Derbyshire.

This is an exciting opportunity for the East Midlands and the Freeport will bring together a mix of industries at the heart of the country. An independently chaired interim Board comprising private and public sector representative has been set up and we hope to capitalise on our strengths in the areas of advanced manufacturing, automotive and logistics and build on emerging opportunities for green growth to create new jobs, aid the economic recovery from Covid and contribute to the levelling up agenda.

Linked to this I also had a meeting with Ben Bradley, the newly elected Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council. I am pleased that he is taking a keen interest on a number of regional matters such as HS2, the East Midlands Freeport and like us, is prioritising environmental and highway improvement/maintenance schemes.

### **Fair Funding**

Several members of the Cabinet recently held a Teams meeting with MPs Andrew Bridgen and Neil O'Brien to run past them the latest strategy and campaign ideas.

We hope to enlist the support of 20 low funded authorities and their respective MPs, into a new campaign to highlight the unfairness of the current funding system. Together with the MPs we believe this campaign can run alongside the government's "Levelling up" agenda.

I do not believe that we will be able to achieve a root and branch reform given the impact this would have on a large number of Authorities who are currently well funded. However, I believe that we could push for an additional injection of funds for local government to begin to right the historic wrongs.

### **Tree Strategy**

Last year we agreed a Tree Strategy and action Plan with the aim of significantly increasing tree coverage in the County. Leicestershire is one of the least wooded counties in the country and this will only get worse as we deal with the effects of Ash Die Back.

Our Strategy will make a significant contribution to increasing tree planting working with partners and landowners and help to deliver the manifesto commitment of planting 700,000 trees, one for every resident in the County.

A high level action plan is under preparation and I would urge the new Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee to contribute to the emerging Action Plan and monitor its implementation.

### **Covid Memorial Walk**

Finally, on 21<sup>st</sup> June I was privileged to be at the opening of the Covid Memorial Walk in Watermead Park.

The idea for the memorial walk was put forward by the County and City Council – particularly in our case by Pam Posnett when she was Chairman last year. Dozens of individuals and businesses supported the project through a crowdfunding campaign for which I am grateful.

58 trees have been planted along a 2.6mile route that links the city side of the park in the south to the county side in the north. The new trees including aspen, cockspur thorn, elm, hornbeam, maple, oak, rowan and silver birch now form a tranquil trail through the park.

Benches have been installed along the route to encourage people to use the space to relax and reflect. A small plaque on each bench has been engraved with lines of poetry, or a quotation from literature, to provide words of comfort or hope.

Covid-19 has been mentioned on the death certificates of some 2400 people in Leicester and Leicestershire and the memorial walk will last as a tribute to them and the thousands of key workers who risked their lives for others during the pandemic.

As we move out of lockdown, I would urge people to recognise that the virus is still prevalent and to ensure that we still take precautions.

**Mr N. J. Rushton**

**Leader of the Council**

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021****POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES****SEND Provision**

Over the last three years we have invested £30million of capital to deliver nearly 500 new places for children with special education needs and disabilities in Leicestershire. The provision developed includes resource bases in mainstream schools, 3 new schools, a new post 16 provision in Loughborough, expansion projects for all existing Leicestershire special schools, 2 satellite classroom facilities run by existing special schools on nearby mainstream school sites, 1 new specialist pre-school in and the expansion of another specialist pre-school.

Further developments are planned for the forthcoming year to continue to develop high quality local provision to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities in Leicestershire.

**Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)**

I am pleased to inform Members that Leicestershire has agreed to join the voluntary national transfer scheme for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The new scheme will introduce a rota across the East Midlands where unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who arrive on the south coast will be placed in accommodation and supported by local authorities across the region. The County Council will take five children a year from the rota. In addition to this, the County Council will also be taking three unaccompanied asylum seeking children to support the critical position that Kent is currently in due to the number of children who have arrived and are currently in Kent and who urgently need placing in accommodation with support provided to them.

## **Foster Carers**

As Members will be aware, Leicestershire County Council has 112 inhouse foster carers and who provide a home and care for our children in care and 35 supported living providers who provide a home for our care leavers. Over the last 18 months these carers have gone above and beyond to provide support for our children and young people over the pandemic. This has included taking on additional responsibilities such as home schooling, managing contact virtually with children`s families and supporting them through this in addition to maintaining face to face contact where it was safe to do. I would like to express my thanks to our foster carers and specialist carers for all they have done over the pandemic.

Our Fostering Service not only provides high quality support and training to our foster carers they also work hard to recruit new carers. Over the last year, despite Covid, the team have successfully recruited an additional 13 foster families. Leicestershire Fostering Service is unique in that it also recruits and supports our in house Supported Lodgings Scheme, recruiting a further 11 carers despite Covid.

Another initiative that is supporting recruitment of foster carers is a Place to Call Home. This is a joint project of nine East Midlands Local Authorities led by Leicestershire County Council. This aims to place unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in homes in the county in which they arrived. The project came about following the growing recognition that a lot of these young people ended up in placements at a distance from the local authorities and social workers who care for them.

The project currently has over 20 carers in assessment, hopefully due for final approval in August and September. However, the project does need more carers to come forward to provide homes for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children.

## **Voice**

In Autumn 2020 the children and Family services department launched the Voice and Influence Strategy that evidences the department`s commitment to putting



children and young people at the heart of all of its activities through involving them and their families in the decision-making, planning, commissioning, design, development, delivery and evaluation of services that affect their daily lives. The strategy was developed and influenced by feedback from children and young people. Over the last year the department has continued to engage with and seek the views of children and young people and whilst the Covid -19 pandemic has presented some real challenges to participation work across the department it has also offered some new opportunities to engage children and young people in different ways.

From this engagement activity we know that there have been a number of positives that children and young people have experienced during lockdown as well as the significant amount of challenges, most notably practical issues such as accessing dentists and other services, the impact of feelings of isolation and increased concerns about mental health.

Children in Care have been involved in the development of a Contact Expectations Statement and a Review of Arrangements Expectation Statement to improve the experiences of our children who have contact with their birth families and participate in their Review of Arrangement Meetings. They have also been involved in work to develop residential and fostering provision and in developing referral information used by all social workers for residential and foster providers.

Children and Families have been involved in the development of new practice standards for children in need and in feeding back their views on the work undertaken by the children and Family wellbeing service on how well they were heard and involved in the planning of work undertaken with tier family. 92.3% of families held the view they had either always or often felt listened to by their worker in a way made them feel that their family was really understood.

The Department continues to support the County Youth Council Leicestershire (CYCLe) members and the 3 elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) to progress their campaign activity on improving cancer care for young people, the environment and poverty. The MYPs have been supported to meet with members of parliament, local councillors and senior managers from the Council and organisations including Health to discuss their ideas and share their views.

**Performance**

Over the last year performance across the Children and Families Department has remained strong, in particular around the delivery of our services to children and their families through targeted early help and children's social care. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff across the department for their work over this difficult year, they have worked tirelessly to support children and their families and show some real innovation in their approach to delivering services over the pandemic. I would also like to thank all staff who work in schools across Leicestershire for keeping children learning and engaged in education over this difficult year.

**Mrs D. Taylor CC**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021****POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES,  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL PARTNERSHIPS**

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to introduce the Annual Report of work that has been carried out within my portfolio to support Leicestershire Communities over the past financial year.

It has been a year dominated by the Covid 19 pandemic which has presented huge challenges both globally and locally. The pandemic has however also provided very many examples of positive community spirit, the willingness of people to volunteer to help others, particularly those who are most vulnerable, and the value of what can be achieved from within our communities.

The County Council has worked to support and complement community action, and this has been the prime focus of work within my portfolio. This work seeks to help enable the further development of thriving communities where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities participate and help each other. It also provides inspiration for us all to continue with, and build on, the enhanced community networks and initiatives that have been established over the past year.

The Annual Report is available on the Leicestershire Communities website and on the Members Hub and brief highlights of some of the schemes and activities included within it are summarised below.

**Mrs Pam Posnett CC**

**The Leicestershire County Council Communities Fund**

The Communities Fund was launched on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020, following a decision made by Cabinet to establish a £1m fund to help VCSE sector organisations to continue providing services for vulnerable people during the Covid-19 pandemic. The grant fund was subsequently increased in value and extended through further rounds of funding to help voluntary groups to manage the impacts of the pandemic and to continue to deliver services for vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities.

In total, over 3 rounds of funding, 379 grants were awarded, totalling nearly £2.6m of funding from the County Council.

### The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Resilience Partnership

The Resilience Partnership Team carries out a wide range of projects – for individual authorities, for authorities collectively and by representing local authorities across the multi-agency LLR Prepared Forum. During 2020/21 the Partnership has been primarily focused on coordinating and supporting the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has involved working within individual councils, collectively with LLR local authorities and across the wider Local Resilience Forum partners on a wide range of work including support for shielded residents, provision of PPE and arrangements for increased mortuary capacity. Later in the year support was also provided for planning for the recovery phase of the pandemic. The Team has also responded to several flood events and an avian flu outbreak as well as planning for/responding to the implications of the EU Exit Transition.

### Volunteering

Volunteering has been a key theme throughout the last year and one which the Communities Team has continued to co-ordinate, promote and support. A strategic volunteer advisory group was formed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and this has ensured that Volunteer Managers and their volunteers have been able to access consistent messaging and support for volunteering to safely continue and adapt to ever changing circumstances.

During Covid 19 volunteering has been critical to supporting vulnerable people and the vaccination programme and Voluntary Action LeicesterShire has worked closely with the County Council and other Resilience Forum partners to mobilise and co-ordinate the voluntary response.

### Armed Forces

The Communities Team and the Council were incredibly proud to be awarded the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) gold award in 2020, one of only 17 employers in the East Midlands to achieve this. The Ministry of Defence award encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same.

Through the last year the focus of work has been on:

- Supporting the regional Civil and Military Partnership Board covering Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to develop and deliver a regional action plan co-ordinating the work of local authorities, universities, military charities and our armed forces.

- Hosting a council armed forces employee network which supports forces family employees and explores ideas about how we can better improve service delivery to this cohort.
- Maintaining ties with the Ministry of Defence Employment Engagement Team including attending Partnering with Defence training and events.
- Commemorating several important remembrance events relating to previous conflicts including WW1 and WW2 events.

### Equalities

The Council adopted a new Equalities Strategy to cover the period from 2020-2024. The Strategy meets the Council's obligation under the Equality Act 2010 to set itself specific and measurable equality objectives at least every four years. It was informed by engagement with the Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group and a range of organisations representing protected characteristic groups.

The Strategy addresses workforce issues, service delivery issues and community engagement. Key achievements during the year include holding staff discussion forums on issues such as Black Lives Matter, access for deaf and hard of hearing service users, and support for transgender colleagues and service users. The Council commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day and celebrated diverse religious festivals. A new induction workbook for all staff on "Promoting Fairness and Respect" has been produced and is available on-line.

### Engagement

Following discussions with Members, officers and local communities, the Council's approach to engagement has been reviewed and refreshed and a County Council Engagement Strategy has been developed that will be progressed through corporate governance over the coming summer, accompanied by an Annual Report on engagement over the 2020/21 financial year.

The Council recognises that the pandemic has considerably changed how officers talk with local communities, and how they expect to talk to us. The last year has enabled the organisation to test new approaches, but also to develop a better understanding of how digital poverty, literacy levels and other barriers continue to prevent many people from getting involved.

In addition, the Council undertook a project specifically aimed at understanding the impact of the pandemic on communities that may not have had their voice heard. ['Conversations about Covid'](#) showed the value of informal interactions on broad issues and enabled key messages to be fed back into departments to improve how we communicate and deliver services.

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 2021****POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR  
HIGHWAYS****Members Highway Fund**

I am pleased to advise Members that Cabinet approved a new Members Highway Fund at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. This fund will provide each Member with a budget of £25,000 to use on small scale highway and environmental improvement works in their own divisions. We recognise how important small scale highway works can be to our communities and therefore we have allocated an additional £5m to cover a range of highway improvement works including: community speed management, gullies and drainage works, Public Rights of Way works, and signing and lining maintenance. The Members Highway Fund is one initiative to be funded from this additional money.

Over the next couple of months, a dedicated Project Manager will contact each Member directly to discuss the available options and offer support and guidance. We will also provide examples of effective and affordable scheme options with estimated costings and timescales for delivery to help Members consider how they want to spend their allocation. Such examples will include the provision of village gateway measures, flashing speed signs, vegetation clearing and minor improvements to roads and footways.

Officers will work with Members to get proposals developed over the next few months so the measures can be delivered in this financial year and the team is working hard to put in place the guidance and processes to support Members. An All Member Briefing has been arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> July where more details on the initiative and the application process will be available.

**Ozzy O'Shea**

This page is intentionally left blank



## **REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

### **A. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

#### **Introduction**

1. This report presents the report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances.

#### **Background**

2. The statutory framework for members' allowances includes the following requirements:-
  - Each local authority is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel with the function of providing the local authority with advice on its scheme and the amounts to be paid. Local authorities must have regard to this advice.
  - Local authorities must, before the beginning of each year, make a scheme for the payment of a basic allowance for the year. The basic allowance must be payable to all members.
  - The scheme may include provision for the payment of special responsibility allowances, travel and subsistence allowances, a dependants' carers' allowance, and co-optees' allowance.
  - The approval of a members' allowances scheme has to be determined by the full Council and cannot be delegated to the Cabinet or a committee.
  - A scheme for members' allowances may be amended at any time but may only be revoked at the end of the year, i.e. 31 March. A further scheme must be available to replace the revoked scheme.
3. The Independent Remuneration Panel has recently met to consider matters put to it by the County Council and its recommendations are set out in its report which is attached as Appendix A to this report. It concerns a review of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances which is linked to an agreed indexation figure, a review of Travel and Subsistence Allowances and a review of Annual Reports submitted by members.

#### **Resources Implications**

4. The proposals of the Independent Remuneration Panel can be met from the provision within the budget for members' expenses and support.

### **Consideration by Constitution Committee**

5. The Constitution Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September and decided to recommend the Council to approve the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel unamended, the details being set out in the motion which appears below.

#### **(Motion to be moved:-**

- a) That the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased on annual basis, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, for a two-year period, in line with the Local Government Pay Award;**
- b) That a further review of the indexation of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be undertaken in 2023;**
- c) That the current levels of Travel and Subsistence Allowances remain unchanged;**
- d) That those members who have submitted an Annual Report be thanked for doing so;**
- e) That those members who have not submitted an Annual Report for the municipal year 2020/21 be requested to do at the earliest opportunity.**

7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

N J Rushton  
Chairman

### **Background Papers**

Report of the Chief Executive to the meeting of the Constitution Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> September on the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.

### **Appendix**

Appendix A – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.

**REPORT OF THE  
INDEPENDENT  
REMUNERATION PANEL ON  
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

**AUGUST 2021**

## **Introduction**

1. This report sets out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel appointed by Leicestershire County Council to review its current Members' Allowances Scheme. The Panel was constituted under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.
2. The Regulations require all local authorities to set up and maintain an advisory Independent Remuneration Panel to review and provide advice about the allowances paid to members. All Councils are required to seek the advice of the Panel before making changes to their allowances scheme and must 'pay regard' to the Panel's recommendations.

## **Membership of the Panel**

3. Leicestershire County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel comprises the following:-
  - Michael Pearson –(Chairman) – Former Bursar and Finance Director of Loughborough University.
  - Jayne Kelly – Former Solicitor working with various local authorities.
  - Gordon Grimes – Former HM Revenue and Customs Area Manager.

## **Support to the Panel**

4. The Panel was supported by the Head of Member Services who provided advice and background information to support the Panel's deliberations.

## **Scope of the Review**

5. Following the County Council elections in May 2021 it was necessary to re-convene the Independent Remuneration Panel and for the Panel to be asked to:-

- i) Review the annual increase to Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances which is linked to an agreed indexation figure.
- ii) Review the Travel and Subsistence Rates.
- iii) Review of Member Annual Reports.

## **Recommendations of the Panel**

### **A. Review of Annual Increase to Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances**

6. As part of the Panel's 2017 review the Panel recommended the implementation, for the first time, of an indexation figure to the Basic and Special Responsibility in accordance with Part 3 – of the Regulations, 10 (4 and 5), which are set out below.
  - A scheme may make provision for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to such index as may be specified by the authority and where the only change made to a scheme in any year is that effected by such annual adjustment in accordance with such index the scheme shall be deemed not to have been amended.
  - Where an authority has regard to an index for the purpose of annual adjustment of allowances it must not rely on that index for longer than a period of four years before seeking a further recommendation from the independent remuneration panel established in respect of that authority on the application of an index to its scheme.
7. The Panel agreed that the indexation figure to be used should be the employee pay award and that it should be used for a four year period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.
8. That four year period is coming to an end and the Panel therefore needed to decide whether it wished to recommend the continuation of the indexing of allowances and considered the following indexation options:-
  - Employee Local Government Pay Award;

- Consumer Price Index;
  - Average Earnings in Leicestershire.
9. The Panel noted that the current level of Basic Allowance paid to Members was around £200.00 more than the average paid to the County Council's CIPFA comparable authorities.
  10. Following careful deliberation the Panel concluded that the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance should continue to be linked to the Local Government Employee Pay Award for that particular year.
  11. However, the Panel felt that, due to the recent pandemic and uncertainties surrounding the economic recovery, that the indexation of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance continue for a period of two years from April 2022 rather than as previously four years and that the Panel should reconvene in 2023 to carry out a further review.

**The Panel recommends to Council that:-**

**Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased on an annual basis, from 1st April 2022, for a two year period, in line with the Local Government Employee Pay Award.**

**The Panel reconvenes in 2023 to review the indexation of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances.**

**B. Travel and Subsistence**

12. The Panel reviewed the Travel and Subsistence allowances and concluded no changes to the scheme were necessary.

**The Panel recommends to Council that:-**

**The current levels of Travel and Subsistence allowances remain unchanged.**

**C. Member Annual Reports and Accountability**

13. In making its recommendation to the County Council, the Panel in 2017, as it had in previous reports, recommended that Members

should provide a public account of what they had done during the municipal year by way of an Annual Report and that these should be published on the County Council's website. In making this recommendation the Panel also recommended that Group Leaders and Whips be responsible for ensuring that all Members of their Groups complete and submit an Annual Report. The County Council endorsed this recommendation at the Full County Council meeting in December 2017.

14. The Panel met in the autumn of 2018 and 2019 to review the submissions made by Members but did not meet in 2020.
15. In June 2021 the Head of Member Services wrote to the forty Members who were re-elected to the Council in May, asking them to write and submit an Annual Report for the municipal year 2020/21.
16. At the same time as Members were asked to submit their Annual Report the Head of Member Services also wrote to Group Leaders and Group Whips to remind them of the Council's recommendation that it was their responsibility to ensure that all Members of their Group completed a report.
17. A total of thirty seven out of forty Members produced an annual report for the municipal year 2020/21. The Panel noted that Mrs Radford has not produced an annual report because she produces a monthly report, all of which are published on the County Council's website.
18. All the Annual Reports submitted have been published on the County Council's website and can be accessed via the following:-

from the Member's individual page see link  
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1> and/or

a dedicated page for Member Reports see link  
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13200>

19. The Panel was very pleased with the number of annual reports returned and recognised the hard work of Members in producing a report. The Panel, therefore, wished to put on record its gratitude

and thanks to all those Members who took the time to write and submit a report.

20. Whilst pleased at the high response rate the Panel was disappointed that two Members had not submitted a report for the 2020/21 municipal year.
21. The Panel noted that the calibre and quality of reports had improved year on year and that it appeared that Members were taking a more serious and considered approach to their submission. By doing so it provided constituents with a greater understanding of the work of Members and the County Council. The Panel felt that Members should be commended for this.
22. However, The Panel observed that there were a small number of reports which contained very little content which, in the Panel's view, probably did not provide a fair reflection of the Member's activity during the year.
23. The Panel was also pleased that a number of Members had within their reports been able to identify how the impact of their activities was making a difference for their constituents and their communities.
24. The Panel highlighted a number of reports as being particularly good and these reports were submitted by the following Members:-
  - Mr. Bill CC
  - Dr. Feltham CC
  - Mrs Hack CC
  - Mr. O'Shea CC
  - Mrs. Taylor CC
  - Mrs. M. Wright CC

The Panel, in commenting on the reports, thought it might be useful for other Members of the Council to consider these when preparing their 2021/22 report.

25. The Panel was also pleased to see that a number of Members used their own report template and/or inserted photographs into their report which in the Panel's view made those reports more personal.



## **Recommendations**

**The Panel recommends to Council that:-**

**Those Members who submitted an Annual Report be thanked for doing so.**

**Those Members who have not submitted an Annual Report for the municipal year 2020/21 do so at the earliest opportunity.**

## **Summary of Recommendations**

**The Panel recommends to Council that:-**

- a. Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased on an annual basis, from 1st April 2022, for a two year period, in line with the Local Government Employee Pay Award.**
- b. The Panel reconvenes in 2023 to review the indexation of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances.**
- c. The current levels of Travel and Subsistence allowances remain unchanged.**
- d. Those Members who submitted an Annual Report be thanked for doing so.**
- e. Those Members who have not submitted and Annual report for the municipal year 2020/21 do so at the earliest opportunity.**

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021****REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER****A. PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001 require parent governor representatives to be elected to serve on education overview and scrutiny committees.

The County Council's Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny Rules Part 4E, Rule 5 (a)) provides for two parent governor representatives to serve on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The term of office for parent governor representatives will be four years, to run co-terminously with the election of the County Council.

In March 2021 nominations were sought from all eligible parent governors. Only one nomination was received from a local authority maintained school so no formal election is required. The person nominated was:

- Mr Robert Martin – Sketchley Hill Menphys Nursery School.

In accordance with the Regulations and the County Council's procedure, the successful candidate must be formally appointed by the County Council.

**(Motion to be moved:**

**That Mr Robert Martin be appointed as co-opted member of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or other appropriate scrutiny committee dealing with Education) for the period ending May 2025).**

**J. Sinnott**

This page is intentionally left blank