

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY
2023**

PRESENT

Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC (in the Chair)

Mr. R. G. Allen CC, Mr. R. Ashman 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, Mrs. L. Broadley CC, Mr. B. Champion CC, Mr. N. Chapman CC, Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC, Mr. J. G. Coxon CC, Mr. M. Frisby 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. D. Harrison CC, Mr. R. Hills CC, Mr. Max Hunt 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, Mr. J. T. Orson CC, Mrs. R. Page CC, Mr. B. L. Pain CC, Mr T. Parton 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

33. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

The Chairman reminded members that the Council at its Extraordinary Meeting on 13th September resolved to adopt an Address to His Majesty The King which in part expressed deep sympathy on the death of his mother. The Chairman informed members that the King responded to the Council by sending a card, with a picture of himself as a child with his late mother, thanking the Council for its generous message. The address and card had been framed and put up in the Members' Lounge.

King Charles III Coronation

To celebrate the King Charles III's Coronation the Chairman would be holding a reception at Beaumanor Hall on Saturday 13th May. Whilst the reception was the week after the Coronation he still felt it was important to mark this very special occasion.

Stonewall Top 100 Employers

The Chairman was proud to announce that, for the twelfth year in a row, the County Council was included in Stonewall's list of 100 top LGBTQ+ friendly employers in the UK.

This year the County Council placed 48th in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, a list which recognised the Council's commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion safety and visibility in the workplace. Leicestershire was the highest

ranking council in England and had also been given the prestigious Gold award for “excellence in providing an inclusive and welcoming environment.”

Members joined the Chairman in congratulating Council officers, particularly those in HR and the Equalities Team, for this achievement.

34. MINUTES.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman and carried:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 December 2022, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

35. 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 registrable interest in relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 to 2026/27 (minute 38(a) refers).

Mr Pain CC declared a non-registrable interest in the MTFS in relation to passenger transport issues as his family operate a taxi business (minute 38(a) refers).

Mr Phillimore CC declared a non-registrable interest in the MTFS in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) issues due to his wife’s employment (minute 38(a) refers).

36. QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)(2) AND (5).

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

- “1. A recent highway application [2022/0946/07 (2022/RegMa/0069/LCC)] contains a response to the Climate Change Emergency [Paragraph 100 Climate Change/Sustainability] which states:

It is considered that the proposed development is aimed at easing congestion within the wider Coalville Area and providing for non-motorised users to access Coalville Town Centre via proposed walkway/cycleway. Thus, it is considered that the proposal would have broad sustainability benefits and there are no concerns in this [climate change emergency] regard.

Now that the authority is planning to meet Net Zero Carbon by 2030 (our own operations) or 2045 (for wider Leicestershire) to what extent do such developments contribute to our new Net Zero Carbon target?

2. Was the report suggesting that road schemes which reduce congestion also reduce the carbon emissions, even if traffic is increased.

3. How can the decarbonising effect of our highway schemes be consistently measured in future applications?

What increase in traffic is projected by the A511 scheme as a whole in the period of our Net Zero Carbon Strategy to 2045?”

Mr Pain replied as follows:

- “1. The Bardon Link Road application forms part of a wider package of measures set out within the Coalville Transport Strategy (CTS). This Strategy was developed to help alleviate the highway impacts associated with the planned growth across North West Leicestershire, without which congestion would likely increase along with vehicle emissions, thereby having a detrimental impact on the environment.

In line with Department for Transport (DfT) Guidance, the Council has prepared a Carbon Management Plan, which utilises the Carbon Reduction Hierarchy – as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

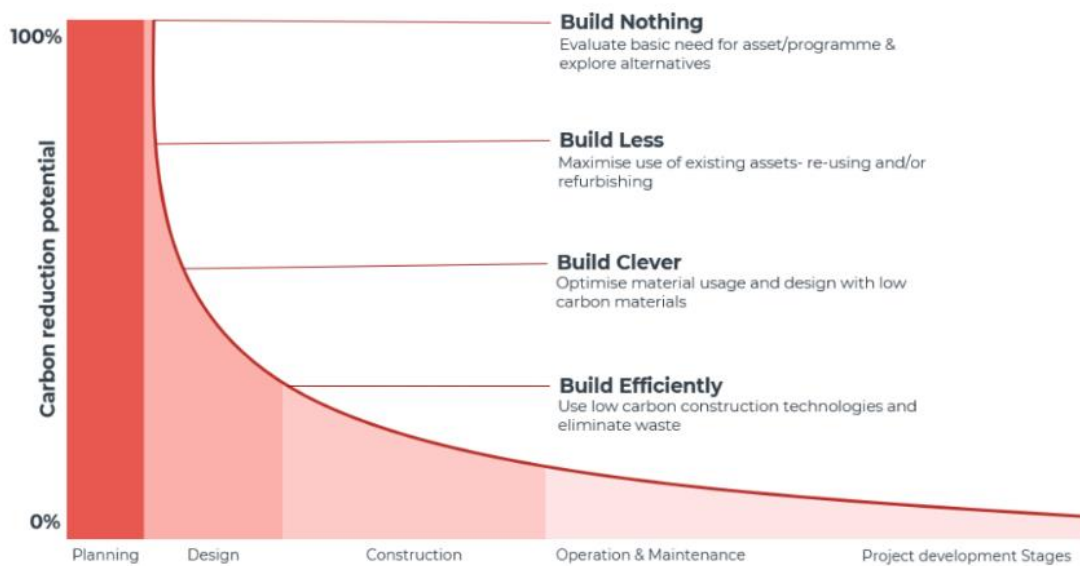


Figure 1: Carbon Reduction Hierarchy

The Carbon Management Plan (CMP) will quantify the baseline carbon impact of the project, which will be agreed with the DfT, and a suitable reduction target set.

Throughout the planning and design stages, the project team has examined ways to reduce the amount of new infrastructure needed and where this is not possible, the team has turned its attention to building less or designing more efficiently. The A511 Project Team has committed to appointing a Carbon Co-Ordinator who will take ownership of coordinating and ensuring the successful delivery of the CMP.

As the proposed scheme moves into the pre-construction stages, this work will continue with the selected Contractor to examine ways in which the scheme can be built efficiently using low carbon technologies wherever possible.

2. The proposed scheme is not designed to increase traffic, but simply accommodate for traffic generated by planned housing and employment growth across the Coalville area.

Without these improvements, traffic congestion along the A511 would likely increase having a detrimental impact on air quality.

Furthermore, the proposed scheme itself incorporates enhanced facilities for pedestrians and cyclists with a view to increasing modal choice and helping to maximise the use of sustainable modes.

3. The Department for Transport will soon be publishing Quantified Carbon Reduction (QCR) guidance; once it has been published and reviewed by the County Council, the QCR may be of assistance in establishing how the decarbonising effect of the proposed scheme can be measured as the construction stage of the proposed scheme is approached.
4. The proposed scheme does not generate traffic but has been designed more efficiently to facilitate trips associated with planned and committed developments across the Coalville area.

Due to a projected increase in population and employment, traffic flow along the A511 at certain points is predicted to increase in the morning peak from 1,788 vehicles (2017) to 3,061 vehicles by 2031, and in the evening peak from 1858 vehicles (2017) to 2,216 vehicles by 2031. This represents an increase of 71% and 21% respectively.

Scheme specific traffic flow data is not available for the year 2045.”

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

“In regard to the proposed saving PH8 ‘Review approach to homelessness support (- £300k from 2024/25), I am concerned this is being portrayed locally as a reduction by the County Council in the core funding of a charitable organisation, the Falcon Centre, when that is not the case. That has been explained to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee but I will be grateful if the Leader can clarify and put the position on the record at this budget meeting of the County Council?”

Mrs Richardson replied as follows:

“The homelessness support service costs Leicestershire County Council around £300,000 a year, with the work contracted out to Falcon Support Services and the Nottingham Community Housing Association (NCHA). The current contract ends on March 31st 2024.

The service provides a broad range of support to adults who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This may include such things as supporting them to find secure stable housing, running benefits advice surgeries, supporting them to access appropriate health services or helping find

training, employment and volunteering opportunities.

The funding does not pay for the running of homeless hostel buildings, including the Falcon Centre.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 placed a new duty on district councils (as the housing authorities) to prevent and relieve homelessness. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has provided district councils with a homelessness prevention grant to deliver on these duties. In effect, the current service isn't a statutory duty for the County Council to provide specific services for individuals who are homeless, and the Council has not been a recipient of any grant funding that is focused on preventing or relieving homelessness."

Mr Parton asked the following supplementary question:

"The question referred to criticism being wrongly directed to Leicestershire County Council. Would the Lead Member therefore be against providing a clear explanation of the situation within Loughborough to the following three bodies: the Falcon Centre, the Member of Parliament and the Borough Council, and how can we deliver this explanation as soon as possible?"

Mrs Richardson replied as follows:

"I'm quite happy to do that. Unfortunately, a letter went out from the Falcon Centre that was a little misleading, in public. I have brought it to the attention of the District Councils etc., but I wasn't aware of where the letters had gone to. The Falcon Centre should already be aware, but I will re-emphasise it and I'm quite happy to send a letter out to clarify. There will be other people we won't be able to get hold of but, suffice to say, we don't fund buildings. We don't fund their Hub or their hostels. If we have been shoring them up then they've been using the money in the incorrect way. We do a lot on the benefit side, tenancy, to try and get all the people who are homeless back into society as much as we can and to give them as much help as we can. It's a very rounded provision."

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

"With many Leicestershire Communities having lost a physical Sure Start facility due to funding pressures it was good to see an additional £1m had been awarded for 'Family Hubs' in Leicestershire. Please could we receive information on the work that is planned within the funding for Family Hubs:

1. Where will the Family Hubs be located, will these extend services within existing well established 'sure starts' or are we anticipating new facilities?
2. What is the timeframe of the support?
3. We note that this money is for transitional services, so what will happen after the funding period?

4. The case made in this council to close sure starts, was based on need, what need hasn't been met which has led to the bid for additional money?"

Mrs Taylor replied as follows:

- "1. Family Hubs are a blend of physical spaces and on-line/web-based services.

The principal idea behind Family Hubs is that they will support all families with children 0-19 (up to 25 with SEND) to access information, advice and where needed, services.

The project commits to working with families and communities to ensure the Family Hubs provision is planned around local needs. The County Council is working towards establishing a hub and spoke model with one hub in each locality outlined below.

The hubs (both physical and on-line) will act as a central access point to all services available to families. The Council's ambition is that the hubs will be the first point of call for families needing support and information around services such as social care, relationship support, mental health services and health services. The hubs will support other delivery/information sites in each locality.

The initial plan is to have the hubs in the Children and Family Wellbeing Centres in the following localities:

- North West Leicestershire
- Charnwood
- Melton
- Harborough
- Blaby, Oadby, Wigston
- Hinckley

In addition, officers are working with Library Services to explore how best to make use of library facilities in areas which do not have a Children and Family Wellbeing Centre. For example, they are talking to Midwifery Services about the spaces they need to deliver clinics to pregnant women in some of the more rural areas. Officers are also looking at how they can provide appropriate training (for example, Mental Health First Aid, Trauma Informed Practice, Making Every Contact Count) to library staff so that they are able to advise and signpost families to relevant services.

These libraries will become Family Hub 'spokes'. This will all be supported by the development of a Family Hub website which will become an on-line one-stop-shop of information and resources for both families and professionals.

The County Council will not be creating any new facilities, i.e. there is no funding for new buildings; this is about making best use of existing spaces and ensuring all families can access the right information and support needed.

2. The funding is in place until March 2024.
3. All the work being undertaken is building sustainability into the approach.

For example, a 'Maternity Champions' pilot is being launched in Loughborough to reach out to women who are not attending maternity appointments. It is known that Black and Asian women have an increased risk of dying during pregnancy and childbirth, so it is important that officers work with communities to understand barriers to accessing services.

The pilot will identify, train and support 'maternity champions' to help spread knowledge and information around pregnancy, childbirth and the early years within specific communities. These champions will then be supported by the Children and Family Wellbeing Service Volunteer Scheme.

4. Whilst buildings have a role to play in the delivery of Family Hubs it is not an entirely buildings-based programme.

There is significant emphasis on use of digital and on-line resources enabling families to access information and advice in ways that suit them and at times that suit them.

The Council will be developing a website that will serve as a one-stop-shop for information, advice, and resources. Work is being undertaken with partners to ensure the website contains appropriate links to partner services. Self-help resources will also be developed for families, as well as resources which professionals from all agencies will be able to use to support their work with families.

Since Covid, families have been accustomed to accessing services in different ways and this funding is helping us to align more closely with what families need. It will also enable digital poverty to be tackled by providing more public-access technology in the centres for those who do not have access at home.

Additionally, opportunities for integrated service delivery are being explored with partners, again looking at making best use of existing buildings. An example of this is the work being undertaken with maternity services to support their outreach to women who do not live near health facilities. Officers are also talking to Adult Social Care about closer working in cases where for example a parent has mental health difficulties and needs specialist support.

Family Hubs have a much wider remit than the Sure Start programme which was focused entirely on the 0-5 age group. Family Hubs certainly build on the foundations of Sure Start but encompass some newer developments such as the Reducing Parental Conflict programme. Research states that relationships between parents impact whole family relationships, even when parents are no longer together. The impact of

children being exposed to frequent unresolved conflict between their care givers can be significant and long lasting in terms of children achieving good outcomes across health, education, and social care.

Through the Family Hubs programme, a much wider cohort of public facing staff (i.e. in libraries and other public access buildings) will be trained to be able to recognise issues such as parental conflict and provide information, advice and signposting so that they can access the support they need.

Mrs Hack asked the following supplementary question:

“The question I asked was we know the money is for traditional services so what will happen after the funding period? So far there's one example of looking to volunteers. I was wondering if a fuller response could be given please?”

Mrs Taylor replied as follows:

“Yes, I'm happy to put a full response in email to you but I think the plan is for that money to be used. We've got just under £1 million to get all the hubs up and running and the website etc., then it will become business as usual. We're looking to sustain it going forward out of our own budgets if there's no further funding coming.”

[Subsequent to the meeting Mrs Hack was advised as follows:

The funding received from the Department for Education is to support Leicestershire County Council to transition to a Family Hubs model of working. In February 2022 it was agreed by Cabinet that Children and Family Services, and in particular the Children and Family Wellbeing Service, would move towards a model of delivery based on the national Family Hubs framework. The successful application for grant funding means that the work to transition and to enhance some of the developments, such as the website, can be accelerated. Until the funding was confirmed progress towards working in this way had been made based on existing budgets and resources.

There are 3 main elements to the funding:

- 1. Community engagement. This involves working alongside families to ensure they are involved in developments and have their say in how services are being delivered. There are both short term and longer elements to this. Some families they may not wish to be involved in developments in an ongoing way and they will be supported to participate through events, focus groups, surveys etc. It is also hoped to recruit other families who want to stay involved with the County Council through locality parent forums. These parents will be recruited through the community engagement work but will be supported long term through the CFWS Volunteer programme and locality management teams. As mentioned previously, the more targeted engagement work involves developing 'maternity champions' in Loughborough. These*

champions will be supported beyond the funded period through business as usual, i.e. the CFWS volunteer programme/NHS parent forums.

- 2. Development of a Family Hubs website. The grant will fund the development costs of the new website and this will include development of resources such as videos for families and professionals to use. Beyond the funded period the website will be maintained via business as usual resources i.e. it will be factored into existing roles within CFWS.*
- 3. Extending the reach to communities through the use of existing other buildings such as libraries. The main focus is on providing training to front facing staff in a range of buildings which include libraries. Wherever possible the training is being delivered through a 'train the trainer' model so that staff within the CFWS workforce, or within Learning and Development, are trained to deliver the training themselves. This brings a measure of sustainability to the approach and can be incorporated in business as usual. Since covid a lot of training has been delivered in the virtual space which means it is much easier and more cost effective to deliver. Other elements of the grant funding for buildings are around signage, displays and resources. These are mostly one-off costs.*

The Children and Family Wellbeing Service will carefully consider the longer-term implications of any proposed changes to service delivery (for example, public opening hours of CFWS buildings) to ensure that costs can be met within budget. The project is being monitored by the Departmental Management Team which includes Finance Business Partner.]

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

“How much money has the County Council invested in the Investing in Leicestershire Programme (previously known as the Corporate Asset Investment Fund) on a year-by-year basis since it was created, could this be shown by each asset type?”

Mr Breckon replied as follows:

“The Investing in Leicestershire Fund (ILIP) has been successful in promoting economic growth and providing a steady and increasing investment return to support local services including those to vulnerable people. In the current financial year a net return of £6.5m is expected and total returns since its inception are £28.5m. In addition £8.6m of capital receipts have been generated. These assets will continue to generate income going forwards, including £47m over next four year MTF period, including £17m of capital receipts. If the fund had not been established this revenue would not have been available.

The table below provides the detail by asset type.”

ILP Summary of Investments made										
Does not include capital value changes										
									(Forecast)	
Asset Class	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	Total	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Direct Non Core Commerical Holdings										
Development	Note 1	0	105	2,181	9,059	18,212	12,185	617	615	42,974
Rural	Note 2	0	3,460	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,460
Direct Non Core Commerical Holdings		0	3,565	2,181	9,059	18,212	12,185	617	615	46,434
Direct Core Commerical Holdings										
Offices		0	61	24,705	4,762	13,859	5,401	18	0	48,806
Industrial		0	4,747	163	3,392	7,695	116	77	0	16,190
Distribution		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	3,141	8	0	0	0	3,149
Direct Core Commerical Holdings		0	4,808	24,868	11,295	21,562	5,517	95	0	68,145
Capital receipts		0	0	-5,334	-2,371	-60	0	-257	-564	-8,585
Core and Non Core Holdings		0	8,373	21,715	17,983	39,714	17,702	456	52	105,994
Diversifiers										
Pooled property funds		15,000	4,996	0	2,500	2,500	0	0	0	24,996
Private Debt	Note 3	0	0	7,000	13,000	-757	-3,972	7,966	3,995	27,232
Pooled infrastructure funds		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,780	8,780
CRC Bank Risk share		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000
Diversifiers total		15,000	4,996	7,000	15,500	1,743	-3,972	7,966	22,775	71,008
Total ILP		15,000	13,369	28,715	33,483	41,457	13,730	8,422	22,827	177,002
Notes										
1. Non returning until transferred to direct core holdings										
2. Low returning. Held to provide new farm business opportunities, supports rural economies and delivers stream of capital receipts										
3. Shows the net position by year, investments less capital distributions										

(E) Mr Galton asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:

- “1. How many children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are still waiting for a school place for this academic year?”
2. How many SEN cases have gone to Tribunal in each of the last 5 years?

Of these, how many cases were conceded by the LA before the decision was made by the Tribunal? Please could you provide figures for each year.

Please could you provide a breakdown of the outcome of Tribunal cases i.e., cases found in favour of the Child and against?”

Mrs Taylor replied as follows:

- “1. There are currently 48 children with an Education, Health and Care Plan who are awaiting a specialist SEN placement who do not currently have a school place. This number changes week on week as new children arrive and children are placed in schools. The reasons behind the 48 children awaiting a place include: the child has just moved into Leicestershire and a search for a placement is underway, the child has

left their named placement and a search is underway for a new placement, the child is awaiting a start date for their identified placement. There are also a number of children who have been offered a placement but the parent/carers are not happy with the offer of placement made, therefore the Department is working with the family to seek to resolve matters in order to place the child in specialist provision.

Securing a suitable placement to meet the needs of children with special educational needs is a priority for the department and officers are working hard to ensure all children with SEN have a placement that can meet their assessed needs.

2. The table below sets out the numbers of SEN cases that have gone to Tribunal in each of the last five years. It includes the number of cases resolved prior to the hearing and the reasons for this, as well as a breakdown of the outcome of Tribunal cases.”

Calendar Year	Resolved prior to a hearing				Resolved by hearing		Ongoing	Tribunal
	Resolved prior (Parent)	Resolved prior (LA)	Transferred	Consent Order	Ordered	Dismissed		
2022	118	4	0	4	31	3	76	
2021	73	7	0	17	41	4	1	
2020	27	3	1	35	32	5	0	
2019	60	11	1	23	12	5	0	
2018	25	40	1	2	18	4	0	

37. POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.

The Leader gave a position statement on the following matters:

- Support for Ukrainian Refugees;
- Earthquake in Turkey and Syria;
- Asylum Seekers;
- Coronation Bank Holiday Weekend;
- Children and Family Hubs Award;
- Suicide Prevention Conference;
- Buses – Innovating Schemes, Demand Responsive Transport and Fox Connect;
- Network Rail Performance;
- Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact;
- Nursery Partnership with the National Forest.

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

38. REPORT OF THE CABINET.

(a) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2026/27.

Mr Breckon, with the consent of the seconder of the motion, sought and obtained the approval of the Council to move an altered motion.

It was moved by Mr Breckon 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 2023/24 totalling £512.1m 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 as amended by paragraph (a) (i) and (ii) below:

(i) That the list of growth and savings proposals as set out in Appendix C of the report be amended as follows:

	2023/24 £000s	2024/25 £000s	2025/26 £000s	2026/27 £000s
Delete the following savings item:				
ET9 Review expansion of community speed cameras	55	55	55	55
Add the following new growth item:				
Revenue funding of capital spend to finance the purchase of community speed cameras	45	45	45	45
Reduce the Service Reduction contingency	-100	-100	-100	-100

(ii) That any residual funds not required from the Service Reduction Contingency be used for Highways Maintenance;

(b) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27, 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 to achieve the savings specified for those years including savings under development, set out in Appendix D;

(c) That approval be 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 reserves as set out in Appendix K be noted and the use of those earmarked reserves 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 2023/24 be as set out in Appendix M (including 2% 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 2023/24 to 2026/27 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:

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
(j) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to effect movement				
Operational boundary for external debt				
(i) Borrowing	262	262	275	309
(ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	263	263	276	310
Authorised limit for external debt				
(i) Borrowing	272	272	285	319
(ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	273	273	286	320

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 2023/24 to 2026/27:
- (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 20% 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 2023/24, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix N;
- (m) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24, 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), Investing in Leicestershire Programme Strategy (Appendix H), Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Appendix I), Earmarked Reserves 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 2023/24;
- (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 22 February 2023;
- (q) That the Leicestershire School Funding Formula is subject to capping and scaling continues to reflect the National Funding Formula for 2023/24;
- (r) That the funding rates for early years providers, as set out in paragraph 114 of the report, be approved.
- (s) That the additional investment of £0.5m for Highways Maintenance described in paragraph 36 be approved.”

An amendment was moved by Mr Galton and seconded by Mrs Hack:

- (i) That paragraph (a) of the motion be amended to read as follows:

“(a) that subject to the items below, approval be given to the MTFs which incorporates the recommended revenue budget for 2023/24 totalling £512.1m as set out in Appendices A, B, and E of the report and includes growth and savings for that year as set out in Appendix C thereto, as amended by paragraph (a) (i) and (ii) below;

- “(i) That the list of growth and savings proposals as set out in Appendix C of the report be amended as follows:

	2023/24 £000s	2024/25 £000s
Add new growth items as follows:		
G21 Additional funding for subsidised bus policy, post covid	500	500
Revise the following item to state:		
Service Reduction contingency	500	500

- “(ii) That it be noted that the budget shortfall of £500,000 will be met by the revision to the Service Reduction Contingency outlined in (i) above;

- “(iii) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, set out in Appendix B to the report including the growth and savings for those years as set out in Appendix C thereto and to the undertaking of such preliminary work, including business case development, consultation and equality impact assessments as may be necessary towards the achieving of savings specified for those years including savings under development, set out in Appendix D.”

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

The vote was recorded as follows:

For the Amendment:

Mr Bill, Mr Boulter, Mr Bray, Mr Charlesworth, Mr Galton, Mr Gamble, Mrs Hack, Mr Hunt, Mr Miah, Mr Mullaney, Ms Newton, Mr Welsh.

Against the Amendment:

Mr Allen, Mr Ashman, Mr Bannister, Mr Barkley, Mr Bedford, Mr Breckon, Mr Champion, Mr Chapman, Dr Feltham, Mr Frisby, Mrs Fryer, Mr Ghattoraya, Mr Gillard, Mr Grimley, Mr Hadji-Nikolaou, Mr Harrison, Mr Harrison-Rushton, Mr Hills, Mr King, Mr Lovegrove, Mr Merrie, Mr Morgan, Mr O'Shea, Mr Orson, Mrs Page, Mr Pain, Mr Parton, Mr Phillimore, Mr Poland, Mrs Posnett, Mrs Radford, Mr Richardson, Mrs Richardson, Mr Rushton, Mrs Seaton, Mr Shepherd, Mr Smith, Mrs Taylor, Mrs A Wright, Mrs M Wright.

The amendment was not carried, 12 members voting for the amendment and 40 against.

On the altered motion being put, 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 Allen, Mr Ashman, Mr Bannister, Mr Barkley, Mr Bedford, Mr Breckon, Mr Champion, Mr Chapman, Mr Coxon, Dr Feltham, Mr Frisby, Mrs Fryer, Mr Ghattoraya, Mr Gillard, Mr Grimley, Mr Hadji-Nikolaou, Mr Harrison, Mr Harrison-Rushton, Mr Hills, Mr King, Mr Lovegrove, Mr Merrie, Mr Morgan, Mr O'Shea, Mr Orson, Mrs Page, Mr Pain, Mr Parton, Mr Phillimore, Mr Poland, Mrs Posnett, Mrs Radford, Mr Richardson, Mrs Richardson, Mr Rushton, Mrs Seaton, Mr Shepherd, Mr Smith, Mrs Taylor, Mrs A Wright, Mrs M Wright.

Against the Motion:

Mr Bill, Mr Boulter, Mr Bray, Mr Charlesworth, Mr Galton, Mr Gamble, Mrs Hack, Mr Hunt, Mr Miah, Mr Mullaney, Ms Newton, Mr Welsh.

The motion was put and carried, 41 members voting for the motion and 12 members against.

39. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION:

(a) Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI).

It was moved by Mrs Wright, seconded by Mr Allen and carried unanimously:

“(a) That this Council notes:

- (i) The submission by the developer Tritax Symmetry to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) of an application relating to the construction of the HNRFI on February 3, 2023;
- (ii) That the County Council has no powers of veto but is a statutory

consultee in relation to this application and will respond in both its capacity as a Local Highways Authority and more broadly in relation to its wider responsibilities including flooding, public health, net zero, economic impact and ecology;

- (iii) That the Council has already submitted an Adequacy of Consultation response to PINs expressing the paucity of engagement and consultation with stakeholders by the developer; and (iv) That if the application for the HNRFI is accepted by PINS the final decision will ultimately be decided by the Secretary of State for Transport.

(b) That this Council also notes:

- (i) That the HNRFI is a major proposal that will have significant impacts on local rural communities and local rural infrastructure, including the local highways network;
- (ii) That the scale of this proposal, and of its potential impacts, means that it is also of sub-regional significance for the wider Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area;
- (iii) That it is critical that any development of this scale should only proceed if it is accompanied by the necessary funding and infrastructure to satisfactorily mitigate its impacts on local communities and existing wider infrastructure; and
- (iv) That 440 acres of agricultural land will be lost, the impact of which should be tested against the Government's Food Security Strategy.

(c) Therefore, should PINS accept the application, the County Council will:

- (i) Play its full part in comprehensively assessing the application through the submission of relevant and written representations to the Secretary of State on behalf of residents;
- (ii) Work closely with our strategic partners and other statutory consultees such as Blaby District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and National Highways in the preparation and submission of a Local Impact Report as invited to do so by PINS;
- (iii) Expect the developer to fully engage with local communities and stakeholders on the impact of its proposals;
- (iv) Seek to ensure local communities and stakeholders are regularly updated on the progress of the application;
- (v) Robustly carry out its statutory duties on behalf of affected residents and communities affected by the proposal for the HNRFI."