



DATE: 6 May 2025  
MY REF: RW/DS  
PLEASE ASK FOR: Mrs. R. Whitelaw  
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Dear Sir/Madam

I summon you to THE ANNUAL MEETING of the LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL to be held at COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD on WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2025 at 2.00 p.m. for the transaction of the business set out in the agenda below.

Yours faithfully



**Chief Executive**

### **A G E N D A**

1. To elect a Chairman.
2. To elect a Vice Chairman.
3. Chairman's Announcements.
4. To receive the report of the Returning Officer. (Pages 3 - 20)
5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 February 2025. (Pages 21 - 34)
6. To receive declarations by members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
7. To answer questions asked under Standing Order 7(1)(2) and (5).
8. To receive position statements under Standing Order 8.



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

9. Reports of the Cabinet
  - (a) Dates of Council Meetings 2025/26 and 2026/27 (Pages 35 - 36)
10. Report of the Constitution Committee.
  - (a) Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Pages 37 - 48)
11. Appointments in accordance with item 11 of Standing Order 4:
  - (a) To appoint the Leader (and to note the members which the Leader proposes to appoint to the Cabinet);
  - (b) To appoint such Cabinet Support Members as the Council considers appropriate.
12. Political Balance and appointments in accordance with item 12 and 13 of Standing Order 4
  - (a) Political balance and allocation of Committee Seats - Report of the Chief Executive; (Pages 49 – 51)
  - (b) To appoint members of the Scrutiny Commission, Board and Committees;
  - (c) To appoint independent members of the Corporate Governance Committee – Report of the Chief Executive; (Page 53 - 54)
  - (d) To appoint church representatives to serve on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Report of the Chief Executive; (Page 55)
  - (e) To appoint parent governor representatives to serve on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Report of the Chief Executive. (Page 57)

**Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025**  
**Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected**  
**to the County Council**

Electoral Division	Name	Address
<b><u>Blaby</u></b>		
Stoney Stanton & Croft	ABBOTT Carl Walter	Address in Leicestershire
Blaby & Glen Parva	BLOXHAM John Andrew	26, Sycamore Street Blaby Leicester  LE8 4FJ
Glenfields, Kirby Muxloe & Leicester Forests	CHAPMAN Nick	16 Sword Close Glenfield Leicester  LE3 8SY
Cosby & Countesthorpe	COOKE Graham	Address in Leicestershire

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
Glenfields, Kirby Muxloe & Leicester Forests	CROOK Kevin Paul	Address in Leicestershire
Enderby & Lubbesthorpe	HOLT Nick	Olive Tree Cottage 3 High Street Enderby  LE19 4AG
Braunstone	ROBINSON Kim Paul	Address in Leicestershire
Narborough & Whetstone	THORP Andrew	Address in Leicestershire

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
<b><u>Charnwood</u></b>		
Loughborough South West	BAILEY Richard George	Herdsmans Cottage Bawdon Lodge Farm Nanpantan Loughborough LE12 9YE
Sileby & The Wolds	BOTTOMLEY Naomi Eleanor	111 Maxwell Drive  Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 4RZ
Syston Ridgeway	BRADSHAW Simon John	Address in Charnwood
Shepshed	BUTLER Helen	Address in Charnwood

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
Rothley & Mountsorrel	DANKS Linda	Address in Charnwood
Loughborough South	GRAY Beverley	Address in Charnwood
Birstall	GRIMLEY Daniel John	Address in Charnwood Birstall
Loughborough North West	HAMILTON-GRAY Andrew Charles	Address in Charnwood

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
Loughborough East	MIAH Jewel	21 Normanton Drive Loughborough LE11 1NT
Loughborough North	MORRIS Peter	97 Thorpe Acre Road Loughborough LE11 4LF
Syston Fosse	POLAND James Mark	Address in Charnwood
Quorn & Barrow	RUDKIN Paul John	Address in Charnwood

**Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025**  
**Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected**  
**to the County Council**

Electoral Division	Name	Address
Thurmaston Ridgemere	SEATON Brenda	909 Melton Road Thurmaston Leicester  LE4 8EF
Bradgate	TAYLOR Deborah	6 Geary Close Anstey LE7 7LW



# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
<b><u>Harborough</u></b>		
Bruntingthorpe	FOWLER Harrison	Address in Harborough
Launde	GALTON Simon James	Thurnby Court The Square Thurnby Leicestershire LE7 9PX
Market Harborough East	HILL Sarah	36 The Woodlands Market Harborough LE16 7BW
Gartree	KING Phil	19 Elliot Close Kibworth Beachamp LE8 0EZ Leicestershire

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
Lutterworth	PAGE Rosita	Address in Harborough
Market Harborough West & Foxton	PAGE David John	Address in Harborough
Broughton Astley	PIPER Bill	Address in Harborough

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
<b><u>Hinckley &amp; Bosworth</u></b>		
Mallory	BOOLS Mark	13 Rush Close Newbold Verdon LE9 9LX Leicestershire
St Marys	BRAY Stuart Lee	26 Netherley Court Hinckley LE10 0RN Leicestershire
Earl Shilton	ENGLAND Martin Richard	Address in Hinckley & Bosworth
Market Bosworth	MELEN Joshua	Address in Hinckley & Bosworth

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
De Montfort	MULLANEY Michael Timothy	9 Chessher Street Hinckley LE10 0AH Leicestershire
Groby & Ratby	O'SHEA Ozzy	19 Heatherbrook Drive Ratby LE6 0XB Leicestershire
Hollycroft	PENDLEBURY Ann	13 Netherley Road Hinckley LE10 0RD Leicestershire
Burbage	WALKER Barry Richard	16 Denis Road Burbage Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 2LR

**Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025**  
**Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected**  
**to the County Council**

Electoral Division	Name	Address
Markfield, Desford & Thornton	WHITFORD Charles	Address in Hinckley & Bosworth

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
<b><u>Melton</u></b>		
Melton East	INNES Andrew Colin Gordon	Address in Melton
Melton West	KNIGHT Kerry Lyn	Address in North West Leicestershire
Belvoir	LOVEGROVE Bryan John	Hill Top farm Melton Road, Long Claweson Melton Mowbray Leicestershire LE14 4NR

**Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025**  
**Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected**  
**to the County Council**

Electoral Division	Name	Address
Melton Wolds	ORSON Joe	31B Paradise Lane Old Dalby Melton Mowbray Leicestershire LE14 3NH

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
<b><u>North West Leicestershire</u></b>		
Whitwick	BOAM Joseph	Address in North West Leicestershire
Coalville South	HARRISON Paul	175 forest Road Coalville LE67 3SP Leicestershire
Ashby de la Zouch	HARRISON Dan	32 Wilfred Gardens Ashby de la Zouch LE65 2GX Leicestershire



# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
Castle Donington & Kegworth	PUGSLEY Charles Andrew Frank	8 Wilders Avenue Kegworth DE74 2XT Leicestershire
Ibstock & Appleby	RICHICHI Virge	Packington House, 19 Spring Lane Packington Ashby de la Zouch Leicestershire LE65 1WU
Coalville North	SMITH Craig Andrew	47 Brooks Lane Whitwick Coalville Leicestershire LE67 5DG
Valley	SQUIRES Michael	4 Hough Hill Swannington Coalville  LE67 8RE

**Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025**  
**Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected**  
**to the County Council**

Electoral Division	Name	Address
Forest & Measham	TILBURY Adam Rowland	11 Oakham Grove Ashby de la Zouch LE65 2QP Leicestershire

# Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025

## Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected to the County Council

Electoral Division	Name	Address
<b><u>Oadby and Wigston</u></b>		
North Wigston	BROADLEY Linda Margaret	7 Penzance Avenue Wigston LE18 2HX Leicestershire
East Wigston	CHARLESWORTH Michael Henry	2 Midland Cottages Wigston LE18 2BU Leicestershire
Oadby	DURRANI Moin	29 The Boradway Oadby Leicester  LE2 2HF
Oadby	GAMBLE Dean Adam	7 Frensham Close Oadby Leicester  LE2 5WF

**Leicestershire County Council Elections 2025**  
**Report of the Returning Officer of Persons Duly Elected**  
**to the County Council**

Electoral Division	Name	Address
South & West Wigston	MCDONALD John Mulhearn	Address in Oadby & Wigston

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY  
2025**

**PRESENT**

Mr. J. T. Orson CC (in the Chair)

Mr. R. G. Allen CC, Mr. R. Ashman CC, Mr. N. D. Bannister CC, Mr. T. Barkley CC, Mr. D. C. Bill MBE CC, Mr. G. A. Boulter CC, Mr. S. L. Bray CC, Mr. L. Breckon JP CC, Mr. N. Chapman CC, Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mr. M. Frisby CC, Mrs. H. J. Fryer CC, Mr. S. J. Galton CC, Mr. D. A. Gamble 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. M. Hunt CC, Mrs. S. Jordan 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. C. A. Smith CC, Mrs D. Taylor CC, Mr. B. Walker CC and Mrs. M. Wright CC

**ORDER PAPER AND WEBCAST**

**45. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**Residents from Great Glen**

The Chairman welcomed residents from Great Glen to the meeting, appreciating that they were in attendance to show the depth of feeling and concern from the village and its residents following the unprecedented flooding on 6 January. He was sure they would be interested to hear about the proposal to set funding aside for flood improvement works in response to the recent flooding.

The Chairman reminded all members of the public of the ways in which they could engage with the democratic process to get their views heard, including submitting questions and petitions to scrutiny committee meetings.

**Volunteers Award Evening**

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March the Chairman would be hosting a Volunteer Awards Evening at County Hall for those who carry out volunteering. He was sure it was going to be a wonderful evening, and he was looking forward to it.

**Covid Day of Reflection**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March would be the Covid Day of Reflection across the UK. This year marked five years since the pandemic began.

The Covid Day of Reflection would give us the opportunity to remember those who had lost their lives since the pandemic began and to honour the

tireless work and acts of kindness shown during this unprecedented time.

The Chairman thanked all staff across the County Council, the NHS, the emergency services and in communities who supported people during the pandemic. It was a time where many staff and communities worked together in ways never seen before to protect, support and help Leicestershire residents.

### **County Council Election**

As this would be the last meeting of the County Council before the election in May, the Chairman thanked those who were standing down for their service to the County Council and their constituents. The Chairman wished those who were standing for election on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

### **46. MINUTES.**

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Dr Feltham and carried:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 December 2024, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

### **47. 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 members of District Councils declared an other registrable interest in relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29 (minute 51(a) refers)

Mr Pain CC declared a non-registrable interest in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29 (minute 51(a) refers) in relation to passenger transport issues as his family operate a taxi business.

Mr Phillimore CC declared a non-registrable interest in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29 (minute 51(a) refers) in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) issues due to his wife's employment.

All members who were members of District Councils declared an other registrable interest in relation to the English Devolution White Paper: Local Government Reorganisation (minute 51(c) refers).

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

**(A) Mr Hunt asked the following question of the Acting Leader or her nominee:**

“1. The new Government is making an initial £3.4 billion investment over

the next three years to improve home energy efficiency and switch to low carbon technologies; this includes a step change in the size and scope of the Warm Homes Local Grant which the County Council administers. What plans have been prepared to ensure plenty of applications are made in relevant postcode areas to reduce fuel poverty in the county?

2. The total grant for Warm Homes Local Grant will be £88,000 in 2025/6, and £206m subsequently; what proportion of that does the county expect to receive and how many homes in the county is that likely to cover?
3. I understand that with only 51.2% of existing domestic properties having an EPC rating of C or greater, Leicestershire has fallen into the second quartile relative to other English authorities, can the Leader account for this comparative change?
4. What proportion of domestic properties have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) and how do we target those areas without an EPC which are in postcodes identified as at risk?"

**Mrs Richardson replied as follows:**

- "1. The County Council, with Green Living Leicestershire (Leicestershire Districts except for Oadby and Wigston, who are implementing this independently), has requested funding from the Government as part of the Warm Homes: Local Grant. The applications were submitted through the Midlands Net Zero Hub as part of a wider Midlands consortium. The County Council Warm Homes service will lead delivery on behalf of the Leicestershire consortium.

The Council has a history of delivering various energy efficiency government grants including Sustainable Warmth Competition and Home Upgrade Grant. In line with this, an online Tableau tool designed to map data across the county was developed, which includes areas identified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), EPC and fuel poverty data. Continuing to employ this targeted methodology aims to ensure that residents in these areas have a fair opportunity to submit their applications. The marketing strategy includes mailshots, social media advertisements, attending local events, and collaboration with internal and external partners. The Green Living Leicestershire group inputs local housing knowledge to help identify priority neighbourhoods based on housing archetype and relevant housing tenure.

Over the last year, the Warm Homes team has also been working on a separate government-funded demonstrator project known locally as the Home Energy Retrofit Offer (HERO) to reach at-risk residents, especially those living in hard-to-treat homes, to provide face-to-face advice on how to access energy efficiency schemes. Some eligible residents have received EPCs to enable them to access schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). Those not eligible for the scheme can access telephone advice from the service.

2. The Warm Homes: Local Grant will allocate funding to Local Authorities in line with past delivery. For Leicestershire, this will be linked to the successful delivery of the Sustainable Warmth Competition (named locally as the Green Living Leicestershire Home Energy Grant). At this time, the funding allocations nationally have not yet been confirmed by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a result, the County Council is not yet able to determine the estimated number of homes that will benefit from this initiative.
3. & 4. From data gathered in October 24, 56.2% of properties within Leicestershire had a valid EPC. There are many properties within Leicestershire with EPCs over 10 years that will not show in this data. This data fluctuates as EPCs expire. Please note that areas of new house building can impact localised EPC scores as new properties are built to higher energy rating standards. Utilising the tools previously mentioned the Warm Homes team is able to target homes without valid EPCs based on neighbouring property data where similar housing archetypes indicate likelihood of lower energy efficiency.

The types of properties within an area significantly impact the EPC ratings. For example, older properties with solid brick walls tend to have low EPC ratings and would need proportionately more investment to increase the rating to modern standards. This is demonstrated within Leicestershire where the percentage of solid wall domestic properties links to the percentage of properties rated EPC band E-G in each district, with Melton having the highest and Blaby the lowest. Leicestershire as a whole is considered to have a significant number of solid wall properties. These properties typically require significant measures such as external wall insulation, which can be challenging to make viable within grant funding schemes available, for example meeting cost cap restrictions and balancing against lower cost measures that are increasingly hard to identify.

Work within the County Council led energy efficiency grant schemes aims to increase EPC ratings as a measurable outcome however the overall numbers are low within the scale of Leicestershire and unlikely to impact the overall Leicestershire EPC ratings significantly within one year. The main benefit of these schemes is the significant positive impact on the residents, including financial, comfort of the home and health, and the lowering of carbon emissions.

A number of factors will influence the countywide average EPC rating scale proportions including the 10 year period at which EPC data is valid, where newer housing built at the introduction of the EPC mechanism (2007/8) is now expiring. Other relevant factors include the rate of new house build and the characteristics of homes that are increasingly targeted by energy efficiency grant schemes generating a first time EPC, typically those likely to be a lower rating.

This figure fluctuating alongside other factors generating new first time EPCs targeted at older inefficient homes might lead to an overall reduction in average EPC rating and may give the effect of implying



lowering energy efficiency standards but in reality, it is a result of a diminishing pool of properties that have never had an EPC being counted, masking improvements being achieved. This can be compounded by the significant time lag between properties starting and completing the retrofit process. Typically, the number of homes surveyed and identified to be lower ratings outstrips the quantity completing the retrofit journey and realising improvements through a follow-up EPC meaning there is potentially a surplus addition of lower rated homes impacting the statistics quoted in question 3.

Warm Homes, as a service within the County Council which delivers grant projects improving energy efficiency alongside wider national schemes, has been targeted at and requires confirmation of qualifying EPC ratings (targeted at lower bands D-G). Typically, it is a requirement to provide a valid pre and post works EPC demonstrating eligibility for grant funding provided to local authorities to deliver. It has not necessarily been a requirement to complete a post EPC to reflect the improvement in rating under national schemes such as ECO which deliver on a larger scale. Additionally, some properties may drop out in the grant process meaning no post EPC is completed for a portion of properties with lower-than-average ratings. As such a significant number of these EPCs will have been generated and may be contributing to lowering the overall proportion of homes falling into the A – C band category.

It should be noted that nationally, schemes designed to improve energy efficiency of the lowest rated homes (such as ECO and Home Upgrade Grant phase 2), have experienced increasing challenges and barriers for various reasons including complexity, measure mix and cost caps and this can be seen in the delivery statistics at local and national level.

The County Council's continued efforts will focus on leveraging existing tools and partnerships to effectively reach and support residents in need. Existing data will be used to identify properties without EPCs in high-risk areas to be included within the marketing plan and ensure a comprehensive approach where residents are offered a fair opportunity. This will ultimately contribute to a reduction in fuel poverty and to greater energy efficiency across the county."

**(B) Mr Walker asked the following question of the Acting Leader or her nominee:**

"Could the County Council, as the Highway Authority, put in measures to restrict the use of e-scooters and illegal e-bikes on the public highway, to minimise potential danger to pedestrians?"

**Mr. O'Shea responded as follows:**

"As the Local Highway Authority, the Council has no powers to deal with the issue of illegal vehicles using the highway.

The Police is the only authority who can enforce the use of illegal vehicles on the public highway. Whilst currently only operating in Leicester City Centre, Op Pedalfast is Leicestershire Police's city centre response to the use of illegal/modified e-scooters and e-bikes that do not conform to Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle (EAPC) regulations.

EAPC regulations state e-bikes must:

- have a motor with an output of less than 250 watts;
- have a motor which is activated by the action of pedalling (not using a throttle);
- display information about the manufacturer of the vehicle, its battery, manufacturer maximum speed and maximum continuous rated power either via a securely fitted plate or be visibly and durably marked with the required details.

If an e-bike does not conform to these regulations, it is an electrically powered moped/motorcycle and therefore must be ridden in line with the same laws that are applicable to riding a petrol powered moped/motorcycle (i.e. have a numberplate, rider must wear a helmet and have the appropriate licence etc).

Rules for e-scooters state they are only allowed to be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. The only exception to this is if hired through one of the Department for Transport trials such as the scheme in Nottingham.

To aid the police, district councils can introduce Public Space Protection Orders to tackle the issue, as ultimately this is an anti-social behaviour issue."

**(C) Mr Hunt asked the following question of the Acting Leader or her nominee**

- "1. The deficit for the High Needs (SEND) education stood at £41 million last April under a statutory override introduced by the previous government, one of many deficits they left behind. Given that there are no plans to extend the override beyond March 2026, why are there no measures to repay the deficit within the within the four year programme?
2. Even if the deficit was paid from already deficient reserves, as suggested, where are the measures within the plan to meet the full cost of High Needs to 2028/9 which are currently projected to be a similar sum?
3. The plan indicates that the SEND Investment Fund, taken from the Schools Block, will continue to 2029. What plans are there to cease this very unpopular transfer from Schools Block to High Needs or, having gained it, will it become permanent?"

**Mrs Taylor replied as follows:**

- "1. The statutory override is in place until March 2026 and discussions and lobbying are underway. Government is being pressed for an early

announcement on its future, as the uncertainty being created across the sector is creating. An announcement on future SEND policy is expected. The Transforming Special Educational Needs and Inclusion in Leicestershire (TSIL) programme is transforming SEND services and is on track to deliver cost reductions of £36.5m up to 2028/29 and is currently considering what other actions may reduce the forecast deficit.

2. There are no government proposals to meet the deficit from current reserves and the statutory override means this is currently not required. Local authorities are required to balance a number of financial risks and as such hold some levels of contingency with which to do so. Judgments have to be taken on the balance of risk and contingency, the more provision made equals less spending on services and a need for higher levels of savings.
3. Within the school funding system SEND funding for local authorities is provided within the High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and for schools within the National Funding Formula. The movement of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block and establishment of the SEND Investment Fund serves to reset the SEND finance system and aligns to changes delivered through TSIL and the direction of national SEND policy. The SEND Investment Fund will be targeted at activities to support pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs within mainstream schools. The transfer is an annual decision taken by the Schools Forum following consultation with schools with local authorities being able to request a decision from the Secretary of State should the Schools' Forum not approve the proposal, as was the case for the 2025/26 transfer."

**(D) Mr Hunt asked the following question of the Leader**

- "1. What has been the total cost (including, fees, consultancy etc) of the Phase 1 of the Airfield Business Park?
2. Could you confirm the total area of Phase 1 and the area currently let?
3. What proportion of that is retail use?
4. Given the current occupancy, when is it expected to break even?
5. What are the current cost estimates to complete construction of further Phases?"

**Reply by MR BRECKON:**

- "1. £6,668,770.
2. 81,218 sq. ft (7,545m<sup>2</sup>). The area is 100% leased as at 14 February 2025.
3. None of the tenants on site operate as retail.
4. The latest independent valuation for the scheme is £8,500,000, at

October 2023. This shows that the scheme has already exceeded break-even on a valuation basis, plus net rental income earned in this time.

5. The current construction contract sum for Phase 2 is £12,954,609.46, plus contingencies.”

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

##### **(a) Review of Standing Orders (Meeting Procedure Rules).**

It was moved by Mrs Taylor and seconded by Mr Breckon:

“That the changes to Standing Orders (Meeting Procedure Rules), as set out in the Appendix to the report of the Constitution Committee, be approved.”

The motion was carried with 39 members voting for the amendment and 9 members voting against.

#### **50. TO RECEIVE POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER** **8.**

The Acting Leader gave a position statement on the following matters:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy Position;
- Local Government Reorganisation;
- Flooding;
- Zouch Bridge;
- Invictus Games.

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

#### **51. REPORTS OF THE CABINET:**

##### **(a) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 - 2028/29.**

It was moved by Mr Breckon and seconded by Mr Poland:

- “(a) That subject to the items below, and following changes arising from the final Local Government Finance Settlement and receipt of final Business Rates information from Leicestershire district councils, approval be given to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which incorporates the recommended net revenue budget for 2025/26 totalling £615.2m as set out in the revised Appendices A, B and E of this report and includes the growth and savings for that year as set out in the revised Appendix C;
- (b) That the revised Appendices A, B, C and E be approved to reflect the changes in Business Rates, grant income and a reduction in the growth contingency, which taken together have no impact on the use of reserves;

- (c) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29, set out in the revised Appendix B to the report, including the growth and savings for those years as set out in the revised Appendix C, allowing the undertaking of preliminary work, including business case development, engagement 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;
- (d) 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;
- (e) That the level of the general fund and earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix K be noted and the planned use of those earmarked reserves as indicated in that appendix be approved;
- (f) That the amounts of the County Council's Council Tax for each band of dwelling and the precept payable by each billing authority for 2025/26 be as set out in Appendix M;
- (g) 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;
- (h) That approval be given to the 2025/26 to 2028/29 capital programme, totalling £439m, as set out in Appendix F;
- (i) 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;
- (j) That the financial indicators required under the Prudential Code included in Appendix N, Annex 2 be noted and that the following limits be approved:

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028 £m
Operational boundary for external debt				
i) Borrowing	201	197	232	271
ii) Other long term liabilities	6	6	6	5
TOTAL	207	203	238	276
Authorised limit for external debt				
i) Borrowing	211	207	242	281
ii) Other long term liabilities	6	6	6	5
TOTAL	217	213	248	286

- (k) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to effect movement within the authorised limit for external debt between borrowing and other long-term liabilities;
- (l) That the following borrowing limits be approved for the period 2025/26 to 2028/29:

(i) Maturity of borrowing:-

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
	%	%
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

- (ii) An upper limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days is 20% of the portfolio.
- (m) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to enter into such loans or undertake such arrangements as necessary to finance the capital programme, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix N;
- (n) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2025/26, 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;
- (o) 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;
- (p) That it be noted that the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool will continue for 2025/26;
- (q) That School funding is subject to a 0.5% transfer of funding to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant;
- (r) That the Leicestershire School Funding Formula is subject to capping at 0.28% per pupil and continues to reflect the National Funding Formula for 2025/26;
- (s) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Children and Family Services, following consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Family Services, to agree the funding rates for early years providers."

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 Breckon, Mr Chapman, Dr Feltham, Mr Frisby, Mrs Fryer, Mr Gillard, Mr Grimley, Mr Hadji-Nikolaou, Mr Harrison, Mr Harrison-Rushton, Mr King, Mr Lovegrove, Mr Merrie, Mr Morgan, Mr O'Shea, Mr Orson, Mrs Page, Mr Pain, Mr Parton, Mr Pendleton, Mr Phillimore, Mr Poland, Mrs Posnett, Mrs Radford, Mr Richardson, Mrs Richardson, Mr Rushton, Mrs Seaton, Mr Smith, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Wright

Against the Motion:

Mr Bill, Mr Boulter, Mr Bray, Mr Charlesworth, Mr Galton, Mr Gamble, Mrs Hack, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jordan, Mr Miah, Mr Mullaney, Ms Newton, Mr Walker

The motion was put and carried, with 35 members voting for the motion and 13 members voting against.

**(b) Annual Report of the Director of Public Health: Leicestershire's Health - Inequalities in Health.**

It was moved by Mrs Richardson, seconded by Mrs Radford and carried unanimously:

"That the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2024 be noted with support"

**(c) English Devolution White Paper: Local Government Reorganisation.**

It was moved by Mrs Taylor and seconded by Mr Ashman:

"That the report and supplementary report on the English Devolution White Paper: Local Government Reorganisation including urgent action taken, considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 7 February, be noted."

The motion was put and carried, with 36 members voting for the motion and 8 voting against.

**52. REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:**

**(a) Changes to the Contract Procedure Rules Following the Implementation of the Procurement Act.**

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

"(a) That the new Contract Procedure Rules, set out in the Appendix to this

report, be approved;

- (b) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to approve minor amendments to the Rules up to 24 February 2025.”

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

**(a) NHS and Social Care System.**

Mr Mullaney sought and obtained the consent of the Council to move an altered motion.

It was moved by Mr Mullaney and seconded by Mrs Taylor:

“(a) This Council notes:

- (i) That the NHS and social care system face multiple crises of access, staff retention, long waiting times, missed targets and poor outcomes;
  - (ii) That people across Leicestershire are struggling to access health and care services;
  - (iii) That despite this, primary care providers have not been given the funding to employ more GPs, leaving qualified doctors facing unemployment;
  - (iv) That there is a national dentistry crisis as increasing numbers of practitioners leave the NHS;
  - (v) That the Adult Social Care and Education and Children’s Care budgets face significant pressure to continue to deliver savings in 2025/26 in the context of increasing demand for services;
  - (vi) That difficulty accessing services increases pressure on acute care such as Accident & Emergency as well as undermining overall population health;
  - (vii) That both The King’s Fund and the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care have acknowledged the positive vision the Liberal Democrats have for social care reform and that cross-party working is the only way to achieve this.
- (b) This Council advocates for cross-party collaboration both locally through the Health and Wellbeing Board and nationally through a long-term agreement on funding and provision of social care.
  - (c) This Council resolves to:
    - (i) Continue to work with local NHS commissioners and providers to ensure and equitable and consistent delivery of health and care



funding aligned to national frameworks and policy for residents of Leicestershire;

- (ii) Request the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to reconsider his decision to delay critical and long-awaited investment in Leicester's Hospitals, as work is now not expected to start on site until between 2030 and 2035."

The motion was put and carried, with 40 members voting for the motion and no members voting against.

2.00 pm – 4.55 pm  
19 February 2025

CHAIRMAN

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**REPORT OF THE CABINET****A. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025/26 and 2026/27****Introduction**

1. This report concerns the proposed dates for Council meetings in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

**Background**

2. Standing Order 1(2) requires that in addition to the Annual Meeting of the Council and any meetings convened by the Chairman or members of the Council, meetings of the Council for the transaction of general business shall be held on such days as may be determined by the Council at its Annual Meeting on the recommendation of the Cabinet. A date so determined may be varied by the Cabinet. Dates for the 2026/27 municipal year have been included in order to provide members with advance notice of future meetings.
3. The recommendation of the Cabinet on this matter is set out in the motion which appears below:

**(Motion to be moved:**

**That Council meetings in 2025/26 and 2026/27 be held on the following dates:**

- **Wednesday 2 July 2025**
- **Wednesday 24 September 202**
- **Wednesday 3 December 2025**
- **Wednesday 18 February 2026 (to consider the budget)**
- **Wednesday 13 May 2026 (Annual meeting)**
- **Wednesday 1 July 2026**
- **Wednesday 23 September 2026**
- **Wednesday 2 December 2026**
- **Wednesday 17 February 2027 (to consider the budget)**
- **Wednesday 12 May 2027 (Annual meeting))**

**18 March 2025**

**Mrs D. Taylor CC  
Acting Leader of the Council**

**Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet, 18 March 2025 – Dates of Council meetings 2025/26 and 2026/27

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## **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 and its recommendations are set out in its report which is attached as Appendix A to this report. It concerns the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to the Chairmen of the Local Pension Committee and Board and review of the Travel and Subsistence Rates.

#### **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 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 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 Chairman of the Local Pension Committee receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £5,209.00 per annum.**
- (b) That the Chairman of the Local Pension Board receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,318.00 per annum.**
- (c) That the new Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairmen of the Local Pension Committee and Board be index linked on an annual basis in accordance the level of indexation set out in the Members' Allowance Scheme.**
- (d) That the current levels of Travel and Subsistence allowances remain unchanged.**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Mrs D. Taylor CC  
Acting Chairman

### **Background Papers**

Report of the Chief Executive to the meeting of the Constitution Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 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**

**JANUARY 2025**

## 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 and the Democratic Services Manager who provided advice and background information to help with the Panel's deliberations.

## Scope of the Review

5. The Panel last met in March 2024 when it recommended the following:-
  - i. **Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased by the equivalent percentage increase awarded to Spinal**



**Column Point 43 of Grade 15, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The increase be implemented as soon as practicable after the employee pay award is agreed and be back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April.**

- ii. **That the arrangement for indexation of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances continue until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028 based upon the equivalent percentage increase on SCP 43, Grade 15, of the County Council's pay spine. The increase will be implemented when the employee pay award is agreed for each year and backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April of that year.**
  - iii. **The current levels of Travel and Subsistence allowances remain unchanged.**
  - iv. **Those Members who submitted an Annual Report be thanked for doing so.**
6. The Panel was therefore re-convened to:-
- i) Consider the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to the Chairmen of the Local Pension Committee and Board.
  - ii) Review the Travel and Subsistence Rates.

### **Recommendations of the Panel**

#### **A. Additional Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) Review**

- 7. The Panel met following a request by the County Council for it to consider whether it wished to recommend a SRA payment for the Chairmen of the Local Pension Committee and Local Pension Board.
- 8. The Panel when it met were mindful that the Member Allowances and in particular the payment of SRAs are governed by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2000. Part 3 of the Regulations and in particular paragraph 5 sets out the rules in relation to the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances which are

5.—(1) A scheme made under this Part may provide, in accordance with paragraph (2), for the payment for each year for

which that scheme relates of an allowance (“special responsibility allowance”) to such members of the authority as have such special responsibilities in relation to the authority as are specified in the scheme and are within one or more of the following categories-

- (a) acting as leader or deputy leader of a political group within the authority;
- (b) acting as a member of an executive where the authority are operating executive arrangements within the meaning of Part II of the Local Government Act 2000;
- (c) presiding at meetings of a committee or sub-committee of the authority, or a joint committee of the authority and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee;
- (d) representing the authority at meetings of, or arranged by, any other body;
- (e) acting as a member of a committee or sub-committee of the authority which meets with exceptional frequency or for exceptionally long periods;
- (f) acting as the spokesman of a political group on a committee or sub-committee of the authority;
- (g) acting as a member of an adoption panel within the meaning of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 1983([1](#));
- (h) acting as a member of any committee or sub-committee that deals with any function arising under any enactment authorising the authority to license or control the carrying on of any activity;
- (i) carrying out such other activities in relation to the discharge of the authority’s functions as require of the member an amount of time and effort equal to or greater than would be required of him by any one of the activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (h) (whether or not that activity is specified in the scheme).

(2) Any scheme making such provision as is mentioned in paragraph (1) shall—

(a) specify the amount of each special responsibility allowance, which need not be the same;

(b) provide that, where—

(i) members of an authority are divided into at least two political groups; and

(ii) a majority of members of the authority belong to the same political group (“the controlling group”),

a special responsibility allowance shall be paid to at least one person who is not a member of the controlling group and has special responsibilities described in paragraph (1)(a) or (f); and

(c) provide that where a member does not have throughout the whole of a year any such special responsibilities as entitle him to a special responsibility allowance, his entitlement shall be to payment of such part of the special responsibility allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which he has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that year.

(3) The scheme may specify that where a member is suspended or partially suspended from his responsibilities or duties as a member of an authority in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made under that Part, the part of special responsibility allowance payable to him in respect of the responsibility or duties from which he is suspended or partially suspended may be withheld by the authority.

9. The Panel when making its deliberations were advised that The Leicestershire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme (the Fund), is administered by Leicestershire County Council and has over 100,000 scheme members. The Fund is currently valued at around £6.3 billion with around 200 employers whose employees are

members of the Fund. The governance of the Fund is carried out by the Local Pension Committee and Local Pension Board.

10. The Panel noted the following:-

That the Local Pension Committee is the scheme manager of the Fund and has decision making powers, delegated from Leicestershire County Council who is the Administering Authority, and has the responsibility to safeguard and manage both the employers' and employees' assets held by the Fund, which are for the purpose of ensuring that pensions and lump sum benefits can be paid to Fund members.

That the Local Pension Board does not have decision making powers but is responsible for assisting and supporting the Administering Authority in its role as Fund Manager ensuring effective governance and administration of the Fund, securing compliance with the LGPS Regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administrative of the Fund, particularly the Pensions Regulator.

11. The Panel were also advised that both the Local Pension Committee and Local Pension Board are non-political forums and draw their membership from a range of organisations. Both forums have been in existence for some time. Originally the work of both bodies was not that onerous and this is the reason the Panel has not been asked to consider whether a SRA should be allocated to the Chairmen before. However, in the last few years the requirements around the management of the Local Government Pension scheme have become more contentious and more complex.
12. The Panel had its attention drawn to the fact that Members of the Local Pension Committee and the Local Pension Board are subject to a comprehensive programme of training to achieve the minimum level of skills and knowledge which members are required to have to discharge their responsibilities and to properly understand the technical implications of their decisions. For the Committee this required members to be able to fulfil their role as quasi-trustees for the scheme. Continuous and ongoing training, skills and knowledge attainment are a statutory requirement for both roles.

13. In terms of chairing the Local Pension Committee and Board the Panel noted that this had become increasingly complex and challenging as there is an increased level of scrutiny and public interest in whether the funds are invested in an ethical and environmentally friendly manner. The Panel noted that there is greater responsibility upon the Chairmen, to ensure decisions balance this responsibility with the financial duties of the Committee and Board, in ensuring benefits can be paid to scheme members.
14. The Panel were also advised that the County Council has established a subcommittee of the Local Pension Committee called the Investment Subcommittee which meets more regularly to decide on investment and divestment proposals and this is chaired by the Chairman of the Local Pension Committee.
15. The Panel also noted for the Fund to deliver the pooling of financial assets the Fund is an owner of the Local Government Pension Scheme Central Limited which is owned equally by the Pension Funds from Cheshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire. The Chairman of the Local Pension Committee is appointed as the Fund's shareholder on this Company. The Chairman also represents the Fund at meetings of the Joint Committee which provides oversight of the delivery of the objectives of the pool, the delivery of client service, the delivery against the LGPS Central business case and to deal with common investor issues.
16. The Panel after being advised of the above, carefully deliberated whether the Chairmen of the Local Pension Committee and Local Pension Board should receive a SRA and it concluded they should. However, the Panel noted the significant difference in responsibility between that of the Chairman of the Local Pension Committee and that of the Chairman of the Local Pension Board.
17. The Panel when making its recommendation on the amount of SRA payable to the Chairmen were mindful of the current level of all SRAs within the Members' Allowance Scheme. The Panel therefore concluded that the Chairman of the Local Pension Committee should receive the same allowance as that of a Chairman of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee i.e. £5,209.00 per annum, and that the Chairman of the Local Pension Board should receive the same allowance as the

Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee and Development Control and Regulatory Board i.e. £2,318 per annum.

18. The Panel also recommended that the SRAs for the Chairman of the Local Pension Committee and Pension Board should be index linked in accordance with the level of indexation in the Members' Allowance Scheme as set out below:

“The Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased on annual basis from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2028 equivalent to the percentage increase that those officers on Grade 15, spinal column point 43, receive as part of the annual employee pay award. The increase will be implemented as soon as practicable after the pay award has been agreed and where applicable back dated to 1st April of that year.”

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

**The Chairman of the Local Pension Committee receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £5,209.00 per annum.**

**The Chairman of the Local Pension Board receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,318.00 per annum**

**The new Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairmen of the Local Pension Committee and Board be index linked on an annual basis in accordance the level of indexation set out in the Members' Allowance Scheme.**

**B. Travel and Subsistence**

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

The Panel noted that for the financial year 2023/24 that the amount of mileage and subsistence that had been claimed was minimal.

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

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

## **Summary of Recommendations**

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

- i. The Chairman of the Local Pension Committee receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £5,209.00 per annum.**
- ii. The Chairman of the Local Pension Board receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,318.00 per annum.**
- iii. The new Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairmen of the Local Pension Committee and Board be index linked on annual basis in accordance the level of indexation set out in the Members' Allowance Scheme**
- iv. The current levels of Travel and Subsistence allowances remain unchanged.**

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## 0REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

### A. POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS

#### Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Council's political balance following the results of the local election on 1 May and seek agreement to the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements.

#### Background

2. Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the County Council, at its Annual meeting, to review the allocation of seats on its committees between political groups and to apply the political balance rules which are set out in paragraph 5 below. Political balance rules have been disapplied for Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board as these are not categorised as '*ordinary committees*' applying the relevant legislation, so these are not included.

#### Composition of the County Council

3. Following the election on 1 May 2025, the composition of the County Council is as follows:

Political Group	Number of Seats	Proportion of Seats
Reform	25	45.45%
Conservative	15	27.27%
Liberal Democrat	11	20%
Labour	2	3.64%
Green	1	1.82%
Independent	1	1.82%
Total	55	100%

#### Committee Size and Allocation of Seats

4. In order to reconstitute the Council's committees in accordance with the committee structure set out in the Council's Constitution as currently drafted, the Council must determine the number of members to serve on each committee and the allocation of committee places between the political groups.
5. In accordance with the legislation, the Council is under a duty to apply the following principles to the allocation of seats as far as is reasonably practicable:
  - (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;

- (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
  - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.
6. At the time of writing this report the allocation of seats between the political groups is still subject to discussion. A supplementary report proposing the size of each committee and allocation of seats will be circulated to members of the Council as soon as agreement has been reached.

### **Membership of Committees**

7. The lists setting out membership of the Scrutiny Commission, Boards and Committees (including the naming of Spokesmen/Spokespersons) is the subject of a separate agenda item and will be attached to the Order Paper and tabled on the day of the Council meeting.

### **Resource Implications**

8. There are no resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **Equality Implications**

9. There are no discernible equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **Human Rights Implications**

10. There are no discernible human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

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

- (a) That the Council's political balance following the results of the local election held on 1 May 2025 be noted;**

**(b)That the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements be approved.)**

**Background Papers**

The Constitution of the County Council

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1187&MId=8155&Ver=4&Info=1>

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## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **A. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

#### **Introduction**

1. This report concerns the appointment of independent members to the Council's Corporate Governance Committee.

#### **Background**

2. Guidance issued by CIPFA recommends that local authorities include two co-opted independent members on their audit committee to supplement the knowledge and experience of elected members in specific areas such as finance and audit, to provide continuity outside the political cycle (this being of particular importance where members of the committee can change annually or because of elections) and to help achieve a non-political focus on governance, risk and control matters.
3. The Government has recently committed to mandate audit committees with at least one independent member and consideration at full council, where this requirement does not yet apply in the sector, However, it could be some time before the relevant statute is enacted to support this approach and the Government and CIPFA has encouraged local authorities to establish their audit committee arrangements in line with this guidance.
4. Independent members are non-elected co-opted members that will not be able to vote on matters like elected members of the Committee but will be part of the Committee in an advisory and consultative capacity. They will operate in accordance with the Co-opted Members Protocol agreed by the Constitution Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025. They are recruited based on the suitability of their qualifications and experience in the area of audit and/or governance and should provide:
  - Specialist knowledge and insight to the workings and deliberations of the committee;
  - An effective, independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework;
  - An independent review of the Council's financial and non-financial performance;
  - Independent challenge to, and assurance over, the Council's internal control framework and wider governance processes.
5. The positions were advertised within the County and applications were received from the following two candidates:

### **Gordon Grimes**

Mr Grimes, a retired Senior Civil Servant, has been an Independent Person for various local authorities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland since 2012. He has been an Independent Member of the Leicestershire County Council's Corporate Governance Committee since 2023. He lives in Enderby.

### **John Pilgrim**

Mr Pilgrim, now retired, had a long career in the financial services sector including PwC LLP, Ernst and Young LLP and HM Customs and Excise. He is currently a trustee of local charities and has committee experience. He has been an Independent Member to support the Member Conduct Complaints Process since 2024. He lives in Ashby de la Zouch.

6. Members of the Constitution Committee were consulted on the proposed appointments, in line with the functions of that Committee. Unanimous support was given to the proposal to recommend the two applicants for appointment.

### **Resource Implications**

7. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

### **Equality Implications**

8. None.

### **Human Rights Implications**

9. None.

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

**That Mr G. Grimes and Mr J. Pilgrim be appointed to serve as independent members of the Corporate Governance Committee for a term of four years up to the May annual Council meeting in 2029.)**

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### B. APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMITTEES DEALING WITH EDUCATION

The Local Government Act 2000 requires local education authorities which maintain Church of England Schools to include at least one representative of the Church of England on any relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Subcommittee. Similar provision is included for Roman Catholic Schools that are maintained. There are currently no Roman Catholic Schools maintained by the authority so therefore no such appointment is required.

The nomination for the Church of England representative must be made by the appropriate Diocesan Board of Education.

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

Church of England – Canon Carolyn Shoyer

**(Motion to be moved:**

**That Canon Carolyn Shoyer be appointed as Church of England representative on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or other appropriate scrutiny committee dealing with Education) for the period ending with the County Council elections in 2029.)**

**J Sinnott**

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## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### D. 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 2025 nominations were sought from all eligible parent governors. Two nominations were received so no formal election is required. The people nominated were:

- Adina Murataj, a parent governor at Westfield Infants school, Hinckley;
- Emily Greasley, a parent governor at Hose Church of England Primary School, Hose.

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

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

**That Adina Murataj and Emily Greasley be appointed as co-opted members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or other appropriate scrutiny committee dealing with Education) for the period ending with the County Council elections in 2029).**

**J. Sinnott**

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