

MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 16TH MAY 2018 AT 2.00 P.M.

ORDER PAPER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN

MRS RICHARDS will invite nominations.

MR RUSHTON will move and MR GALTON will second:-

“That MR OZZY O’SHEA be elected Chairman for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.”

On being elected the Chairman will read out and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which will be witnessed and signed by the Chief Executive.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – TO APPOINT A VICE-CHAIRMAN

THE CHAIRMAN will invite nominations.

MR RUSHTON will move and MR GALTON will second:-

“That MR DAVID JENNINGS be appointed Vice-Chairman for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.”

On being appointed, the Vice-Chairman will read out and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which will be witnessed and signed by the Chief Executive.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will make his announcements.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

(Pages 5 to 6)

The CHIEF EXECUTIVE will present the report of the Returning Officer on the election of the County Councillor for the Stoney Stanton and Croft Electoral Division on 3 May 2018.

THE CHAIRMAN will welcome MRS MAGGIE WRIGHT CC to the Council.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – MINUTES

(Pages 7 to 22)

The CHAIRMAN will move and the VICE CHAIRMAN will second:-

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21st March 2018, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1) (2) &(5)

(A) Question by MR BILL

“At the County Council Cabinet meeting held on 9th March it was agreed to “welcome the Strategic Growth Plan as a key, long term strategy for the future development and prosperity of Leicester and Leicestershire.

As there is now considerable concern being expressed by District and Parish Councils in the south of the County, both in relation to the Strategic Growth Plan itself and to other emerging plans being promoted by the private sector such as the Hinckley Rail Freight depot and other developments will steps now be taken to reflect these concerns in order to ensure that the quality of life and the environment is protected in the south of the County?”

Reply by MR RUSHTON

“The Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire is a key document that will, in my opinion, help protect the quality of life and the environment across the county.

Local planning authorities are required to meet objectively assessed housing needs, and are under a duty to co-operate with each other and with the County Council across the housing market area to meet those needs. Failure to do this will only lead to key decisions about future housing provision being made by Government inspectors or by developers rather than by democratically accountable councils.

The approach proposed in the draft SGP, including focusing future housing provision along key strategic infrastructure corridors (in particular along the proposed new A46 expressway), is beneficial for a number of reasons:

- It will maximise the chances of securing funding which will ensure the new housing is provided as part of sustainable communities well-served by a range of infrastructure and facilities;

- It will minimise the provision of new homes in and adjacent to existing villages and small towns, and thereby protect the quality of life and environment of the residents of these areas;
- It will facilitate future economic growth to the benefit of the county's businesses and residents.

I should perhaps remind Mr Bill that the Scrutiny Commission of which he is a member also recognised the benefits of the Draft SGP stating, and I quote, that it *'welcomed the principle of the Strategic Growth Plan, to prevent unplanned growth which damaged the character of local areas and lacked infrastructure. The proposals in the Plan were generally felt to be sensible and it was felt that a long term strategic vision would benefit the area and provide a framework for the development of future Local Plans at District Council level.'*

I am, however, aware that a substantial number of comments have been made on the Plan during the consultation period which ended last week. Some of these comments are very supportive but others raise important matters including in relation to quality of life and the environment in the south of the county and elsewhere. These will be looked at carefully by the Cabinet when it considers approving the final Plan later this year and I am sure both the Member Advisory Group and the Scrutiny Commission will do likewise."

(B) Question by MR SHEAHAN

"What are the County Council's plans regarding Sarah's Wood in Moira?"

Reply by MR RHODES

"The County Council's current and ongoing plans are to continue to maintain Sarah's Wood for public access and enjoyment. This site is currently managed by Countryside Services, within Operational Property and FM Services. Day to day operations are delivered by a Community Ranger supported by a number of local volunteer groups.

There are plans in place to replace the children's play area, which was completely destroyed by fire, with a new children's sculpture trail, which was referred to at a previous meeting officers held with Mr Sheahan and the Ashby Woulds Town Clerk.

Consideration is also being given how best to maintain the toilet block which has been subject to on-going vandalism.

Discussions have started with the National Forest regarding any opportunities for joint working/funding. Further opportunities for community involvement on the site will also be explored."

(C) Question by MR BRAY

“Could the Leader please update on the latest position with regard to providing a much-needed crossing on Lancaster Road and when he expects this now to be complete?”

Reply by MR PAIN

“A zebra crossing was due to be installed on Lancaster Road at its junction with Station Road in March 2018. Due to unforeseen issues with buried services this crossing could not be safely constructed.

We remain committed to the provision of the crossing and are therefore looking at an alternative location approximately 30m west of the junction. This would mean that the crossing would be situated centrally between the junctions of George Street and Station Road.

We are currently undertaking work to confirm the feasibility of this location, including site investigations, trial holes and a Road Safety Audit.

It is expected that this work will be completed by the end of May 2018. We will then be in a position to review the proposals with the Police, local elected members and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for their input ahead of wider public consultations over the summer. These consultations will include all stakeholders and legal advertisement of the crossing on site and in the local press.

If the crossing is supported, we would look to construct this on site in Autumn 2018.”

(D) Question by MR BRAY

“Could the Leader advise what progress has been made in providing a new crossing patrol near to St. Peter’s School in Hinckley?”

Reply by MR PAIN

“The school crossing patrol at St. Peter’s School on London Road, Hinckley left at the end of the summer term 2017. The site meets our assessment criteria and usual recruitment methods were followed to seek a replacement person for this role. This has included sending three recruitment letters for the school to send to parents and using on-street vacancy boards at the crossing site. Because of the relatively short times of operation (45 minutes in the morning and 35 minutes in the afternoon) it is likely to appeal to someone with connections to the school and/or living in close proximity to the school. As Mr Bray will be aware the service is reliant on members of the community coming forward to fill these paid school crossing patrol roles. The school will be asked to send a further letter and I am sure the service would welcome applications from any interested candidates that Mr Bray may be aware of.”

(E) Question by MR MULLANEY

"The recent Cabinet report on the Enabling Growth Plan 2018-19 highlighted the County's plan for rolling out broadband coverage in Leicestershire, including securing funding to help deliver superfast broadband to more properties in the county. This included an aim for another 11,000 houses in the county to be covered by the end of this year. Residents of the Greens (Olympic Way) estate, off Leicester Road in Hinckley have to put up with extremely poor levels of broadband coverage and would benefit enormously from superfast broadband being extended to their estate. Could any future plans to include broadband roll-out please make extending it to this estate a priority?"

Reply by MR RUSHTON

"The Superfast Leicestershire Programme's aim is to bring high speed broadband access to as many homes and businesses as possible. Within current funding constraints it is unlikely that the programme will be able to reach 100% of properties but the Council is actively seeking solutions for all residents and businesses.

For new developments such as the Greens in Hinckley, it is the developer's responsibility to arrange provision of utilities, including broadband. Regrettably, many developers have failed to secure adequate service at the planning stage which means it is up to commercial telecoms operators to decide if it is financial viable to provide access. The result in this instance is that the area has been left with poor digital connectivity.

The Council has supported district counterparts to ensure that broadband coverage is reflected as a priority within Local Plans so that issues such as this are not repeated.

The Council's Broadband team is also supporting a residents' group representing the Greens in their attempt to negotiate a broadband upgrade paid for by the site developer.

All those who cannot currently access decent broadband in the area will be eligible to be targeted through the £5.7m Phase 3 of the Superfast Leicestershire programme. The Phase 3 procurement is expected to launch in June 2018 with a delivery partner to be appointed in the autumn and work to commence in 2019.

The areas which will benefit will not be known until the autumn and we will continue to seek solutions to ensure everyone across Leicestershire has access to the broadband speeds they need."

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – TO RECEIVE POSITION STATEMENTS
FROM MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

(Note: Standing Order 8 provides as follows:-

- (a) A position statement may give rise to an informal discussion by the Council.
- (b) At the conclusion of the discussion a formal motion may be moved to the effect that a particular issue relevant to the statement be referred to the Cabinet, the Commission, a Board or a Committee for consideration. This shall be moved and seconded formally and put without discussion. No other motion or amendment may be moved.
- (c) The discussion of any position statement shall not exceed 20 minutes but the Chairman may permit an extension to this period.)

There are no Position Statements to be made at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - APPOINTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEMS 11 AND 12 OF STANDING ORDER 4

A. TO APPOINT THE LEADER

MR RHODES will move and MR SHEPHERD will second:-

“That Mr N J Rushton be appointed Leader of the Council for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.”

B. TO NOTE ANY CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CABINET MADE BY THE LEADER

MR RUSHTON will move and MR SHEPHERD will second:-

“That it be noted that the Leader proposes to appoint the members named on list ‘1’ attached to the Order Paper as members of the Cabinet.”

C. TO APPOINT CABINET SUPPORT MEMBERS AS THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE

MR RUSHTON will move and MR SHEPHERD will second:-

“That the following members be appointed as Cabinet Support Members until the next Annual Meeting of the County Council, as provided for in Article 7 of the Council’s Constitution:-

Mr L Breckon
Mrs C M Radford
Mrs D Taylor”

D. TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (INCLUDING THE NAMING OF SPOKESMEN/SPOKESPERSONS)

MR SHEPHERD will move and MR CHARLESWORTH will second:-

“That the membership of the Scrutiny Commission, Boards and Committees as set out in List ‘2’ attached to the Order Paper be approved.”

D(i) SPOKESMEN

Commissioners

MR SHEPHERD will name the members shown in the second and third column of list ‘S’, as Conservative Commissioners of the Scrutiny Commission as shown.

MR CHARLESWORTH will name the member shown in the fourth column of list ‘S’, as Liberal Democrat Commissioner of the Scrutiny Commission as shown.

MR HUNT will name the member shown in the fifth column of list ‘S’, as Labour Commissioner of the Scrutiny Commission as shown.

Scrutiny Committees and Development Control and Regulatory Board

MR SHEPHERD will name the members shown in the second and third column of list ‘S’, as Conservative Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees and the Development Control and Regulatory Board as shown.

MR CHARLESWORTH will name the members shown in the fourth column of list ‘S’, as Liberal Democrat Spokesmen of the Scrutiny Committees and the Development Control and Regulatory Board as shown.

MR HUNT will name the members shown in the fifth column of list ‘S’, as Labour Spokespersons of the Scrutiny Committees and the Development Control and Regulatory Board as shown.

Other Regulatory Bodies

MR SHEPHERD will name the members shown in the second column of list ‘S’, as Conservative Spokesmen of the bodies as shown.

MR CHARLESWORTH will name the members shown in the third column of list ‘S’, as Liberal Democrat Spokesmen of the bodies as shown.

MR HUNT will name the members shown in the fourth column of list ‘S’, as Labour Spokespersons of the bodies as shown.

A copy of list ‘S’ is attached.

D(ii) SUBSTITUTES

MR SHEPHERD will move and MR CHARLESWORTH will second:-

“That the Chief Executive be authorised to make and terminate appointments to the Commission, committees, boards and other County Council bodies (not including the Cabinet) in accordance with the wishes of the political groups to whom the seat in question has been allocated, subject in the case of those bodies set out in list ‘B’ to the Group giving one day’s notice to the Chief Executive of its wishes.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – NOTICE OF MOTION

(A) NHS Finance and Sustainability

MRS HACK will move and MRS POSNETT will second:-

(a) That this Council notes:-

- i) The demographic and central government pressures on the NHS and Social Care;
- ii) The combined financial savings target in 2018/19 for all Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups is of the order of £60million;
- iii) The quality improvement and performance targets for all LLRCCGs are challenging and that West Leicestershire CCG has publicly acknowledged that its target for 2018/19 is significantly higher than that planned or delivered in 2017/18.

b) That this Council notes with concern:-

- i) That the realignment of Community Hospital beds is still being considered at a time of significant bed pressures across the local health system;
- ii) That no agreed and financially sustainable transformation plan is yet in place to meet the challenges facing the local health economy despite the known on-going significant financial pressures;
- iii) The impact on NHS and local authority services of the CCGs' financial savings targets;
- iv) That whilst the three LLR CCGs have agreed to work together this is only at the level of a senior joint management board and not a full merger of the three CCGs;
- v) That there is a lack of democratic accountability in the NHS decision making system.

- c) That this Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Lead Members to work closely with their counterparts in Leicester City and Rutland Councils:-
 - i) To challenge the strategic direction of the financial and service plans for all LLR CCGs;
 - ii) To work to protect NHS community hospitals and district nursing services;
 - iii) To engage in national discussions on a medium term financial settlement for health and social care with the aim of achieving genuinely sustainable, adequately funded, integrated health and social care system for the LLR area.
- d) That this Council welcomes the decision of the LLR CCGs to accept the need for an externally led governance review of the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Partnership.
- e) That this Council welcomes the decision of the LLR CCGs to accept an invitation from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to explain their proposals for a joint management board and request the Committee to explore why a full merger of the three CCGs was not pursued as this has the potential of reducing bureaucracy, management and administration costs; and to explain the consequences for services of their savings targets.”

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