

" County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during

Name of Councillor James Poland CC

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

In the past year I have been involved in a whole range of activity in the town and villages I represent. Activities include:

- Supporting grants for the local community, such as projects at Queniborough and East Goscote Village Halls
- Took part in numerous community activities, such as the Thrussington village litter pick
- Ensured the street lights are turned on all night in areas where turning them off has proven dangerous
- Worked to improve road signage in East Goscote
- Worked with residents and the Highways Department on a number of road safety issues
- Taken action to ensure road repairs were reported promptly
- Helping residents with a multitude of other issues and problems

Engagement with the Council, other statutory bodies and public utility companies (Water, Gas etc) about services in the area

- I work closely with the 7 Town and Parish Councils in my Division, attending all of their meetings on a regular basis.
- I also have a close working relationship with Ed Argar MP and the four Borough Councillors who represent East Goscote, Queniborough and Syston East. I represent 4 of the parishes in Syston Fosse myself on Charnwood Borough Council (Cossington, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Thrussington and Rearsby).
- I lobbied for the re-opening Sims pub in East Goscote (as the site had become an untidy entrance to the village). This has now been done with the pub now being called The Plough.
- Worked with the Police on road safety issues

Priorities for the immediate future are:

Over the next year Leicestershire County Council will have to make some difficult decisions, but my key priority to ensuring the services which are so vital to residents in Syston Fosse are still delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible.

I will also continue to campaign for the fairer funding Leicestershire so desperately needs. At the moment, the formula is heavily skewed towards London and the South East. If Leicestershire received the same level of funding as Surrey, we'd be better off to the tune of £100 million a year. The London Boroughs are even better funded again. This cannot be right and I'll fight, alongside County and Borough colleagues, as well as the County's MPs to ensure counties such as Leicestershire are not forgotten when funding local government.

2) Council Activities

Committees you serve on at County Hall

Environment and Transport Committee: We have been involved in scrutinising a whole range of different items, including SEN school transport needs, County Environment Strategy and the provision of rural bus services. Serving on this committee I've seen the effect that being the lowest funded County in the country has had on our ability to provide the services we would wish, and the difficult decisions this has led to. Transport is just one area where the people of Leicestershire would see a real benefit if central government funding was spread out around the country more fairly, and as I said above it's a priority of mine to fight to ensure it is.

Local committees/Outside Bodies

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority: This has been a busy year, as following the Grenfell tragedy the Fire Service immediately had to change its priorities in the community (which up to that point had largely been around educating people in fire prevention) to ensuring all high rise buildings in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland were safe. This work has now been complete and thankfully there were no buildings in the Service area which were affected by the same cladding problems Grenfell had. At the end of 2017, the previous Chief Fire Officer retired and on the 11th May Rick Taylor (who had been acting Chief Fire Officer since January) was appointed as the next Chief Fire Officer for Leicestershire.

Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc

- Charnwood Borough Council (I serve as Cabinet Lead Member for Equalities and Strategic & Member Services)
- Outwoods Management Committee

Signed by Councillor J Poland

Date 24th May 2018