

CABINET – 13 SEPTEMBER 2019**ORDER PAPER****ITEM DETAILS****APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

1. MINUTES (Pages 5- 18)**Proposed motion**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2019 be taken as read, confirmed, and signed.

2. URGENT ITEMS

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Cabinet are asked to declare any interests in the business to be discussed.

**4. LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19. (pages 19 - 48)**

- *The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the matter at its meeting on 3 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '4'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the comments of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (b) That the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report for 2018/19 be welcomed and noted.

**5. LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL
REPORT 2018/19. (pages 49 - 76)**

- *The Adult and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the matter at its meeting on 2 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '5'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the comments of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (b) That the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report for 2018/19 be welcomed and noted.

6. CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION - REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN AND IMMEDIATE AREAS FOR ACTION. (pages 77 – 90)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the progress made to date in responding to climate change and the planned actions be noted;
- (b) That the proposed process and reporting schedule for the review of the Environment Strategy and the associated Action Plan be noted;
- (c) That the Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 and Single Outcome Framework be revised to incorporate the new environment and climate change commitments as part of its wider review;
- (d) That £450,000 revenue funding be allocated to facilitate the review of the Environment Strategy and Action Plan and to take immediate action to implement measures such as some of those outlined in the Appendix to the report.

7. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY REFRESH. (pages 91 - 104)

- *The Scrutiny Commission considered a report on the matter at its meeting on 4 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '7'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- (b) That the significant financial challenges faced by the County Council be noted;
- (c) That the approach to updating the Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted;
- (d) That the updated information regarding Savings under Development, as set out in the Appendix to the report be noted.

8. CORPORATE ASSET INVESTMENT FUND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018-2019 AND STRATEGY FOR 2019- 2023. (pages 105 - 152)

- *The Scrutiny Commission considered a report on the matter at its meeting on 4 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '8'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- (b) That the performance of the Corporate Asset Investment Fund from April 2018 to March 2019 as set out in Appendix A of the report, be noted;
- (c) That the revised Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy 2019 – 2023 attached as Appendix B to the report, be approved.

9. POTENTIAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREA - M69 JUNCTION 2. (pages 153 - 164)

- *Comments have been received from the local member Mrs. M. Wright CC and Mr. D. C. Bill MBE CC, which are attached to this Order Paper marked '9a' and '9b'.*

Proposed motion

- (a) That the Council's land situated to the west of Stoney Stanton submitted to the Call for Sites Consultation (identified on the plan appended to the report) be promoted as part of the proposed Strategic Development Area (SDA) for inclusion in the future Blaby District Local Plan;
- (b) That the Director of Corporate Resources
 - (i) enter into discussions with other landowners to assess the best way to achieve delivery of the SDA and in particular the land assembly that will be required to support this as set out in paragraphs 30-36 of this report;
 - (ii) in collaboration with the Director of Environment and Transport and the Chief Executive, formulate an approach for the Council to promote and deliver the proposed SDA taking account of the resources this will require and balanced against existing and future planned growth projects and demands on the Council's resources;
- (c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet on 22 November 2019 detailing the outcome of the work undertaken in (b) above and recommending a proposed approach to development of the SDA.

10. MAINSTREAM AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICIES - OUTCOME OF JUDICIAL REVIEW. (pages 165 - 170)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the outcome of the Judicial Review, which dismissed the challenge to the Cabinet's decision of 9 March 2018 regarding the Post-16 Special Educational Needs Transport Policy on all grounds, be noted;
- (b) That the decision of the Director of Environment and Transport in July 2019 to suspend introduction of a default Personal Transport Budget offer for Post-16 SEN students (an element of the new Special Educational Needs Transport Policy) from the start of the 2019/20 academic year be noted;
- (c) That the introduction of two elements of the new Policies from the start of the 2019/20 academic year be noted, namely:
 - (i) for SEN Post-16 and nursery students of low-income families (no low-income exemption) - charging at 50% rate (£330),
 - (ii) for Mainstream Post-16 eligible students from low-income or rurally isolated families; traditional transport being replaced by a £150 grant scheme;
- (d) That the process for the calculation and payment of Personal Transport Budgets as set out in the Special Educational Needs Transport Policy be reviewed and clarified ahead of the full implementation of the new Policies from the start of the 2020/21 academic year.

11. POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF PART OF THE ASHBY CANAL. (pages 171 -180)

- *Comments have been received from the local member Mr. S. Sheahan CC which are attached to this Order Paper marked '11'.*

Proposed Motion

- (a) The Director of Environment and Transport be authorised to apply to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to transfer the powers granted to the Council under a Transport and Works Act Order 2005 (Statutory Instrument 2005 no. 2786) to the Ashby Canal Association;
- (b) That with regard to the section of Ashby Canal between Snarestone and Measham as identified in the Plan appended to this report, the Director of Environment and Transport be authorised
 - (i) subject to consent of the Secretary of State to (a) above, and in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to negotiate and agree terms and conditions for the transfer of the ownership of land from the Council to the Ashby Canal Association;
 - (ii) to complete the transfer of the land and the powers under the TWAO from the Council to the Ashby Canal Association;

- (iii) to allocate funding, if considered appropriate, to provide interim support to the Ashby Canal Association in taking on ownership of this section of the canal.

12. INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEMS. (pages 181 - 200)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the County Council reiterates its recent message to the NHS and other partners, that the County Council:
 - (i) strongly supports the integration of health and care services wherever possible and to the benefit of those receiving care in any setting,
 - (ii) continues to commit significant resources to that end,
 - (iii) in the case of a move to an Integrated Care System (ICS) in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, as required by NHS England, awaits clarification from the NHS as to what this would actually mean in practice before it can indicate its support;
- (b) That County Council officers continue to take part in various groups set up by the NHS under the Better Care Together banner;
- (c) That in recognition of the County Council's wish to see clarity, the proposal put forward by officers to define 'place' in an Integrated Care System (ICS) as at the level of an upper-tier (social care and public health) authority, with 'system' at the level of the local health economy (Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland) and 'neighbourhood' at the level of the new primary care networks, be supported, whilst noting that any arrangements for decision-making at place level in this context have yet to be determined;
- (d) That clarity in particular is sought from the NHS in respect of decision-making, statutory responsibilities, accountabilities and performance management in an ICS;
- (e) That in respect of a proposed ICS partnership board or group, with an independent chair to be appointed by the NHS, the NHS be asked to explain its value and purpose so that the County Council can take an informed decision on an invitation to join; and
- (f) That the Cabinet's decision be made known to Leicester City and Rutland Councils.

13. LEICESTERSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN 2019 - 2031. (pages 201 - 208) and Appendix Pack

- *The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the matter at its meeting on 5 September and a draft minute is attached to this Order Paper, marked '13'.*

Proposed motion.

- (a) That the comments of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (b) That the key recommendations (main modifications) of the independent examination of the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan as summarised in paragraph 13 of the report be noted;
- (c) That the County Council at its meeting on 25 September 2019 be recommended to:
 - (i) Approve the revised Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2019 - 2031;
 - (ii) Authorise the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, to make any necessary additional modifications that do not materially affect the Plan policies in accordance with Section 23 (3) (b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and
 - (iii) Authorise the Chief Executive to carry out the steps required for adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan up to 2031 in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

14. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2019-2021. (pages 209 - 222)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the role of the County Council in relation to community safety within two-tier local authority arrangements be noted;
- (b) That the draft Community Safety Strategy be approved for consultation with stakeholders;
- (c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet on 17 December 2019 regarding the outcome of the consultation and submitting a revised draft Community Safety Strategy for approval prior to its submission to the County Council.

15. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2019 - 2022. (pages 223 - 244)

Proposed motion

- (a) That the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved for consultation with stakeholders;
- (b) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet on 17 December 2019 regarding the feedback from the consultation and submitting a revised draft Corporate Parenting Strategy for approval prior to its submission to the County Council.

16. LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE. (pages 245 - 268)

- *The Corporate Governance Committee on 26 July 2019 recommended that the Cabinet and Council approve the Code.*

Proposed motion

That the County Council at its meeting on the 25 September 2019 be recommended to:

- (i) Approve the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance;
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for finance, to make necessary future revisions to the Local Code of Corporate Governance to ensure that it is up to date and relevant provided that these do not constitute material changes to the Code.

17. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY.

No items have been referred from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

18. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED TO TAKE AS URGENT.

None.

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

- Approval for Loan Funding for Foster Carers (Connected Carers).
(Exempt under paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 10)
- Purchase of Property for Proposed Supported Living Scheme.
(Exempt under paragraphs 3 and 10)

Officer to contact

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**Draft minute of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
3 September 2019**

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL
REPORT 2018/19**

The Committee considered a report of the Independent Chair of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board presenting the draft Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) for 2018/19. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8' is filed with these minutes. Any comments or proposed additions and amendments would be addressed in the final report before it was published.

Arising from the discussion, the following comments were made:

- i) The LRLSCB would cease on 25 September 2019 and would be replaced by multi-agency safeguarding arrangements which would be managed through a new Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership. Operationally, it was the intention that there would be little difference to what was currently in place; the most significant change was that there would now be equal and joint responsibility between the statutory partners. The final details were currently being agreed but the aim was to build on existing practices and to streamline these to avoid duplication. A report had been presented to the last meeting of the Committee around the new arrangements – this would be recirculated.
- ii) In response to a query, it was stated that the new Partnership arrangements would build on what was already being undertaken well and, should any disagreements between the core partners occur, mechanisms would be in place to prevent this. It had also been agreed to continue to have an Independent Advisor and their role would be to provide independent advice and scrutiny and to chair the Partnership meetings.
- iii) Concern was expressed by a member around the increase in the number of children who were electively home educated. It was noted that this increase could be attributed to a number of reasons, not least because the department was now better at collecting information about the young people. The way this was recorded had changed and the department was able to access the information more readily. It was noted that parents made a decision or moved their child as a result of feeling that schools weren't meeting their child's needs; this could raise concern within the department but the additional monitoring enabled the department to work with schools and parents to better meet the child's needs. Reassurance was given around the robust monitoring and the work being undertaken

with schools by the Inclusion Team, but this would continue to be an area of focus.

- iv) Concern was also raised that over a fifth of children who went missing in Leicestershire and Rutland were looked after children placed in the county from other areas. It was noted that this group of children provided a significant challenge and work continued with partners to ensure awareness of these children when they were placed, the potential challenges that they may be experiencing and to ensure that there was a joint approach to support the children. Lots of partnership working currently took place with the Police as a large number of young people were subject to vulnerabilities such as going missing and links to child sexual exploitation. The new partnership arrangements would seek to enhance the existing joint working with the Police and Health. The issues of missing and elective home education had been identified as key areas that would continue to be considered and monitored by the new Partnership.
- v) In response to a query, a key focus was to improve engagement with schools and the voluntary sector. Discussions were currently taking place around how this could be achieved and how to promote messages within schools. In terms of the voluntary and community sector, consideration was being given to identifying the best way to engage with this diverse group.
- vi) It was noted that the Board budget for 2019/20 no longer included funding for Serious Case Reviews. Confirmation was given that the Board had sufficient reserves to support any current Serious Case Reviews. Under the new arrangements, these would be replaced by Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and there would be different approaches to ensure that any learning was received and distributed in a more timely manner. Agreement had been reached for the 2019/20 budget for the new Partnership and this included an agreed amount for Reviews. Discussions were currently taking place between partners around the budget for future years. It was stated that there was a rigorous process to determine the route for a case and to disseminate the learning from cases, and the Cabinet Lead Member provided reassurance that potential cases were discussed prior to them reaching the formal Serious Case Review stage.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

**Draft Minute of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny – 2
September 2019**

**Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board
2018/19**

The Committee considered a report of the newly appointed Independent Chair of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adult Board (LRSAB) presenting the draft Annual Report of the Board for 2018/19. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8', is filed with these minutes.

A Member queried if there was a particular reason why no representatives from the National Probation Service and Care and Voluntary Sectors had attended any of the LRSAB meetings in 2018/19 and how often the representatives were required to attend. The Independent Chair of the LRSAB advised that it was acceptable for them to attend some rather than all meetings, but that the reason for their non-attendance was unclear at this time. It was thought that conflicting priorities could play a part. It was confirmed that this matter was being followed up with the relevant organisations to ascertain the reason for the lack of representation and to establish a way forward to ensure these organisations were appropriately represented at future meetings.

In response to a question around how people trafficking is monitored in Leicestershire, it was confirmed that this was captured by the Police and then reported to national bodies. However, as the issue, which continued to grow in prevalence, affected multiple areas including Safeguarding, it was the intention of the Independent Chair of the LRSAB to work together with organisations, especially Healthwatch, to assist in the strategic join-up of services.

It was noted that Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire was keen to ensure that the public voice was heard in relation to adult safeguarding matters and would work with the Independent Chair of LRSAB on this issue.

The Committee was assured that, regardless of funding arrangements for the LRSAB, statutory reviews would always be carried out. The statutory partners on the LRSAB had a pragmatic approach in this regard.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board be noted.



SCRUTINY COMMISSION: 4 SEPTEMBER 2019

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

MINUTE EXTRACT

29. Medium Term Financial Strategy Update.

The Commissioned a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which explained the approach to updating the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 13' is filed with these minutes.

In his introduction to the report, the Director advised that, whilst officers had not yet had the opportunity to analyse the Spending Review which had been announced earlier that day, his first impression was that it was positive and put the County Council in a better than anticipated position. The roll forward of one-off monies, such as the improved Better Care Fund and Troubled Families Grant, was particularly welcome. However, the Spending Review only covered the next financial year so did not provide any long-term certainty. In addition, the commitments were funded by increased borrowing which increased the risk of recession.

Arising from discussion and questions the following points were raised:-

- (i) A decision regarding the future of funding allocated to deal with the development of HS2 in Leicestershire would be taken until the outcome of the Government's review was known.
- (ii) It was not yet known whether the County Council's bid for funding from the Housing Infrastructure Fund had been successful. It was confirmed that information would be shared via the Members' Weekly Digest once the outcome was known.
- (iii) The review of single person council tax discounts was being carried by the district councils to ensure that people receiving the discount were doing so legitimately. It was hoped that the review would result in additional levels of council tax being collected.
- (iv) Members noted that commercial services were generating an income of over £1 million but expressed some disappointment that they were not delivering the anticipated level of savings. However, members were reminded of the positive performance of the Corporate Asset Investment Fund, which was part of the same agenda. The recently opened café at Beacon Hill was also exceeding expectations. It was acknowledged that the national living wage had had a negative impact on the service.

- (v) The County Council had established a Growth Unit to strengthen the internal co-ordination and management of growth projects. It was expected that the Unity would also generate additional income for the County Council. The Director undertook to consider how the work of the Growth Unit was reported to the Commission.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the comments now made be reported to the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 September;
- (b) That the Director be asked to consider how to report the work of the Growth Unit to the Scrutiny Commission.



SCRUTINY COMMISSION: 4 SEPTEMBER 2019

**CORPORATE ASSET INVESTMENT FUND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE 2018-19
AND STRATEGY FOR 2019 TO 2023**

MINUTE EXTRACT

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which set out the annual performance of the Corporate Asset Investment Fund (CAIF) for the 2018/19 financial year and sought the Commission's views on the revised CAIF Strategy for 2019 to 2023 which set out the Council's approach to future asset investments using the CAIF. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 11' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion and questions the following points were made:-

- (i) Members welcomed the performance of the CAIF and the major contribution that it made to the County Council finances. The cautious approach, including not borrowing to fund capital investments, was also supported.
- (ii) It was confirmed that the budget for each project comprised build costs and development costs, including all associated costs. The yield for projects was 'all risk' which gave security across the terms of the lease and took into account the risk of voids.
- (iii) Value could be added to County Council land through gaining planning consent, developing the land or acquiring new assets such as the Citroen Dealership in Leicester. The performance of the Dealership, which was generating a 6.5% rental yield, was welcomed.
- (iv) Developers working with the County Council would need to sign up to the principles in the CAIF Strategy. The intention was that housing developments would be a higher standard than building regulations currently required and, where possible, promote biodiversity, to ensure that developments were as sustainable and energy efficient as possible.
- (v) The County Council would consider establishing a property company on a needs-driven basis. A housing or development company could enable delivery of the Lutterworth East Strategic Development Area and could also support the social care investment programme. However, it was not currently possible for the County Council to have a Housing Revenue Account. It was suggested that officers should lobby the Government on this issue.
- (vi) The CAIF included County Farms and Industrial Properties. It did not include operational properties such as offices and museums. The rural sector of the

CAIF had increased in value through acquisitions, grants of planning permission and investment in properties.

- (vii) The County Council did not yet have the grant of planning permission for the Lutterworth East Strategic Development Area but had now acquired the majority of the land required for the delivery of the scheme. The valuation of the assets in the Lutterworth East project was expected to increase next year to take into account the acquisition of the outstanding parcels of land and the granting of planning permission. A proportion of the development would be affordable housing and consideration was being given to whether some of this could be for key workers. However, it was intended that the County Council would sell the freehold of the land to house owners, including in the case of affordable housing to a Registered Housing Landlord, rather than letting the land on long leaseholds. It was envisaged that the majority of the freeholds of the commercial elements would be retained within the Fund as income producing assets.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the performance of the Corporate Asset Investment Fund and revised Strategy for 2019 to 2023 be welcomed;
- (b) That that comments now made be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 13 September.

Cabinet - 13 September 2019

Item 9 – Potential Strategic Development Area – M69 Junction 2

Comments from Mrs M Wright CC

“So much is happening without us having a say”.

I have been asked to speak to Cabinet members regarding this agenda item by my residents, the Parish Councils of Stoney Stanton and Sapcote and District Councillors who represent the Division. Some representatives are here today. Many residents are now aware of this proposal through media coverage but are very disappointed there has been no direct consultation with them or myself as the Division representative on this or indeed the HIF bid. I am named in the published report but had no influence on its contents.

Residents are already concerned by the proposed National Rail Freight Interchange application on their doorstep which is compounded now by these LCC ambitions. The impact of LCC proposals even without the Rail Freight Interchange would be **enormous** and the local community therefore feel it only reasonable for consultation to take place. After all the County hold these land assets on behalf of the residents and it seems inconceivable that resident’s voices should not be heard even at this early stage. I quote, “So much is happening without us having a say”. Consultation and transparency are seen as essential factors but are so far absent. I have a very active community within my division which is demonstrated by the progress of delivering a collective Neighbourhood Plan. Residents want a say in shaping their area. These proposals will obviously be subject to Blaby District Council’s Local Plan Process and normal local planning procedures will apply. It is acknowledged consultation will take place as part of this procedure but at a much later date. For these reasons it is important to reiterated that these 2 villages (Sapcote and Stoney Stanton) have already exceeded their housing numbers and Blaby DC have a good 5-year land supply.

I know we have to make provision for housing but Blaby DC is taking extensively more numbers than others. To conclude I wish to highlight a particular area of immediate concern but must say there are several others. The concern relates to areas of separation and individual settlement identity. These are seen as a high priority amongst residents and is referenced in the Blaby Growth Plan. No consideration is given to this in the report. This proposal could ultimately see the joining of the two villages. Green Wedges, Green Lungs and a clear band of separation is essential for my residents. I recognise it will be several years before any formal plans are presented and therefore early engagement as suggested above will help to shape decision making. We all have a duty to protect the distinct character of our local communities whilst recognising the need to provide housing. I therefore request a Lead Officer engages on a regular formal basis to update and brief my Parish Councils, District

Councillors and myself on this matter going forward. Information can then be cascaded to residents and partner Parishes also impacted within the Fosse Villages.

End

Cabinet - 13 September 2019

Item 9 – Potential Strategic Development Area – M69 Junction 2

Comments from Mr D. C. Bill MBE CC

The report gives no indication of the sheer size of the proposal other than in a reference to 1000 acres and of course in the title to the report. In order to judge the scale of the proposal you need to look at the map which also shows the extent of the rail freight depot. This depot which in reality is yet another large scale warehouse development rather than a rail facility, will cover 500 acres and so this latest proposal is twice that size. To give some idea of what 500 acres looks like, this is comparable to most of the area occupied by Burbage.

We can only assume therefore that the proposal will cover the same area as that approved by the County Cabinet in December when it submitted its proposal to the Housing Infrastructure Fund. This proposal indicated that the development would cover all the area between Burbage, Aston Flamville, Stoney Stanton and Sapcote, although the map has never been released.

The sheer scale is thus totally unacceptable in terms of the loss of countryside, the impact on local roads, the impact on air quality and the impact on local people. The scheme will have a considerable adverse impact on the neighbouring Hinckley & Bosworth area and I submit that the Borough Council should be consulted before this proceeds any further.

The immediate communities of Burbage, Aston Flamville, Stoney Stanton and Sapcote deserve particular consideration.

I submit that the accumulative impact of the proposed freight depot, the A46 Expressway and now this 1000 acre development will adversely change the countryside of this most attractive corner of the county for ever and that all the affected communities affected should be consulted before any further action is taken.

David Bill
Liberal Democrat Environment Spokesman
23rd May 2019

Cabinet - 13 September 2019

Item 11 – Potential Transfer of Part of the Ashby Canal

Comments from Mr S Sheahan CC

Local member submission, edited from verbal comments to E & T Scrutiny, 6th June 2019

The restoration of the Ashby Canal into Measham is widely acknowledged to be the key to the regeneration of this former North West Leicestershire mining village which still contains substantial pockets of deprivation.

The most recent section of canal near Snarestone was restored in around 2015, using UK Coal money under a s106 agreement on the nearby opencast coal mine. That gave us about 500 metres of canal and a bridge, at a cost of around £1m. Completing the restoration into Measham requires anything up to £15m. About £3m would come as part of a development of 450 houses in Measham. That would give us the canal basin and an attractive wharfside development in the centre of the village.

To carry forward the momentum of the progress made in 2015, the various supporters of the Ashby Canal restoration decided to step up the effort on fundraising. Ashby Canal Association have raised over £100k for an aqueduct over the Gilwiskaw Brook, which is tremendous, but looks rather modest compared to the £12m we still need to bring the canal into Measham.

As discussions progressed it gradually became clear that Leicestershire County Council were no longer in the best position to fulfil the role of the lead agency on fundraising. By and by, the idea emerged of vesting the land for the canal route in a suitable voluntary organisation, to put them in prime position to make applications for larger grants.

The Ashby Canal Association are well established and have supported the canal restoration over many, many years. There are no doubts in my mind about their commitment to the canal. The one question I have is whether they have the capacity to sustain a major fundraising effort for a large project over a long period. I would not want the County Council to form the view that they can walk away from the canal and just leave a group of volunteers to get on with it. The ACA and the Ashby Canal Trust will need ongoing support from the County Council in order to deliver on this project.

I would further ask that any unresolved issues on the ownership of canal land not under consideration for transfer, for example the water supply lake owned by Harworth Estates and plots 21, 21a, 23 & 23a, owned by Measham Parish Council and CISWO are dealt with as quickly as possible.

Sean Sheahan
County Councillor
Forest and Measham Division

12th September 2019



**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING: 5 SEPTEMBER 2019**

DRAFT LEICESTERSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

The Committee considered a report outlining the draft Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan as part of the adoption process. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8', is filed with these minutes.

The Committee was advised that the Plan would run to 2031 but is expected to be revised in five years' time, or earlier depending upon how quickly sites are brought forward (as evidenced within the annual monitoring report).

The Committee welcomed the Plan but raised concerns regarding the section dealing with the extraction of unconventional hydrocarbons (shale gas). Officers advised that:-

- i) The inclusion of a policy on unconventional hydrocarbons (shale gas) was necessary to ensure that the Plan was legally compliant and deemed sound. The Plan would not have been found sound had a policy not been included.
- ii) The government policy is that Plans should be positively prepared in all respects, including the need to plan for unconventional hydrocarbons (shale gas).
- iii) The Plan sets out measures and factors to be taken into account if a planning application to drill for shale gas were to be received and this would seek to ensure any such activity was undertaken in an environmentally sound way. The County Council's Development and Control Regulatory Board would consider any such application and could impose conditions. It should be noted that the role of the Board would be in relation to above ground activity. The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Health and Safety Executive would be the licensing and monitoring body in relation to below ground, seismic matters.

Members noted the comments made but remained concerned that given the Government's policy on shale gas extraction, the concerns of local communities and environmental impacts of shale gas extraction may not be given due consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the comments made in respect of the draft Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan be brought to the attention of the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 September 2019.