

County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2019/20

Name of Councillor

Mr Blake Pain CC

1) Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

In addition to my primary role as the elected County Councillor for the Bruntingthorpe Division, my main activities throughout the year have been as a Member of the LCC cabinet with responsibility for the Environment and Transport department.

During March 2020, I was appointed acting Deputy Leader of the Council, with a new portfolio focussing on the Council's commitment to take action on climate change, deliver our aim to be carbon neutral by 2030, the Environment and recycling agenda, superfast broadband delivery, Trading Standards and Regulatory Services and Minerals and Waste planning.

In July 2020 I was elected Deputy Leader of the County Council.

The COVID 19 crisis has had a profound impact upon the annual programme of work at LCC and has needed all of mine and my colleagues' focus and attention since March. The human, environmental and financial implications of the pandemic will also have a changing and lasting impact upon the business of LCC moving forward, particularly our finances and £600M capital infrastructure programme.

Whilst as lead member for the E&T department over the past year, I'm pleased to report the following achievements:

- Preparation of a new Environment Strategy that pledges to commit the authority to achieve 'net zero carbon' by 2030.
- Delivery of a new service level offer and extra resources to benefit Leicestershire Parishes and Communities through a new initiative called 'Keeping it Local'
- Delivery of a new Recycling and Household Waste site offer with a focus on setting up new 'Re-Use' centres.
- The enablement of various successful schemes which have been bid for and delivered locally, which can also be claimed as achievements, by colleagues and councillors from other organisations.
- A departmental focus cracking down on speeding and irresponsible parking outside schools, keeping our communities safer.
- Maintaining Leicestershire's status as having some of the best-maintained roads in the country despite reducing resources.

I have proactively engaged and helped support or resolve concerns that have been raised with me by my divisional constituents relating to the following issues throughout the year:

- Bus services (particularly services 44,58,661)
- Highway Closures and Traffic Regulation Orders across the division
- Road Condition and Improvements
- Speeding Traffic Concerns
- Street Lighting
- School Admissions
- Passenger Transport
- School Transport and Parking
- Road Traffic Accidents
- Highways Maintenance
- Flooding
- Land Contamination Problems
- Tree Maintenance and planting
- Environmental Concerns
- Grass cutting
- Condition of road verges particularly during the winter
- Gully Cleansing
- Wildflower verge planting
- Awards of Leicestershire County Council 'Shire' Grants

Community Leadership Role

In addition to the above, I am aware and continue to be actively engaged with the following areas of concern that have been raised with me by residents and businesses:

- A new application for the reintroduction of a recycling facility at Shawell/Cotesbach
- Concerns from existing residents within Willoughby Waterleys about a new Junction 20a on the M1
- The future of the Average Speed Camera pilot sites across Leicestershire
- Community Transportation impacts arising from Bruntingthorpe Aerodrome's commercial activity
- Local Government reform in Leicestershire.

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

N/A

Priorities for the immediate future are:

My main priority is to ensure that residents of the Bruntingthorpe Division are properly represented at County Hall. The impact to services will be high, particularly extra costs for protecting vulnerable people, children's social care, SEND services, school transport, disposing of waste and investing in people and infrastructure projects. This means we will have to maintain our lobbying of MPs to ensure fair funding for Leicestershire. I also support a single unitary authority for the county to prioritise outcomes for people rather than structures of government. I'm very proud to lead the

£16M project to reduce our carbon footprint, take action on climate change and become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.

2) Council Activities

Committees you serve on at County Hall

Deputy Leader of the Council.

Cabinet- Lead Member for Action on Climate Change, Recycling, Environment, Superfast Broadband, Trading Standards and Regulatory Services, Minerals & Waste Planning.

Cabinet Briefing- member.

Cabinet Strategy & Co-ordination Group- member.

Constitution Committee- member.

Local committees/Outside Bodies

Local Government Association General Assembly- member.

Leicester and Leicestershire Transport Board- member.

County Councils Network- member.

East Midlands Councils- member.

Cotesbach/Shawell Liaison Committee.

Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc

N/A

3) Learning and Development

I always look at ways to better my understanding and appreciation of issues and the people affected by the decisions we take at the County Council. I continue to learn from experience and undertake training and seek advice as and when needed. The Coronavirus pandemic has forced a new way of working and I've found using virtual communication platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Skype invaluable in keeping in touch with residents and officers in my council duties.

4) Other Matters:

Leicestershire's funding position remains the worst of any county council in the country. Whilst we work hard to maintain great services and have achieved the award from *Impower* as the most efficient and productive upper tier local authority in England for the past 3 years, we cannot become complacent. The COVID 19 pandemic has changed our lives forever, and how we all respond to its impact on all our communities is an "unknown unknown". But rest assured, we will work hard on your behalf and protect people and our communities as best we can.

Communications

Virtual meetings using Microsoft Teams/Zoom/Google Meets with constituents and other stakeholders.

I have set up a 'Bruntingthorpe' data base where I forward a weekly LCC Members' 'News in Brief' news letter to all representatives' of Bruntingthorpe Parish organisations.

www.facebook.com/LeicsConservatives

Twitter- @LeicsCC_Cons or @blakepain

Instagram- @blakelewispain

www.leicestershireconservatives.org.uk

Signed by Councillor Blake Pain

Date 17th July 2020