

**MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 2.30 P.M.**

**ORDER PAPER**

**EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

In the event of having to evacuate the Council Chamber, please leave by one of the two exits at the rear of the Chamber.

Officers will be on hand to assist any people with disabilities.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The CHAIRMAN will make his announcements.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – MINUTES**

(Pages 5 to 24)

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

‘That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 July 2021, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – 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. 4**

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

**(A) Question by MR BRAY**

“Could the Leader please update me on progress of the weed spraying programme in across Hinckley and Bosworth? A number of residents in my division have contacted me concerned about weeds in gutters, concerned at the impact this will have on surface water drainage as the autumn weather approaches, as well as being an eyesore. Can the Leader please assure me this will be completed soon?”

**Reply by MR O’SHEA**

“Early in the season the treatment programme was put on hold whilst the use of alternative methods and treatments were investigated in response to requests to halt the use of glyphosate. After consideration it was decided that the most cost effective and efficient way to treat weeds in a highway setting was to continue with the use of glyphosate. Our first of two Countywide treatments would normally have started in May, but due to the earlier suspension we were not able to start until early July when

the outcome of the review was known. At that point, the contractor also had commitments with other authorities so could only offer a reduced resource and their workforce has also been further affected by Covid Isolation rules.

The treatment has now been completed in Charnwood, Melton, Harborough, Blaby, Oadby and Wigston, with Hinckley and Bosworth the most recent Borough to be completed on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The contractors have now moved into North West Leicestershire and this should be completed by the end of September.”

**(B) Question by MRS HACK**

“In light of the recent article in the Leicester Mercury about a young person being unable to access his specialist school due to delays in funding for his transport, please could Members have an update on:

1. The number of students who are not able to attend their special school due to the reported backlog?
2. The impact of the delays in terms of average school days lost for this cohort of young people?
3. How this backlog will be avoided in future years?”

**Reply by Mr O'SHEA**

- “1. At the start of the term 1,703 Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport applications had been processed with 125 approved, but not yet provided with transport. Of those 125 without transport, 112 were received late (i.e. after the application deadline date), nine were as a result of Personal Travel Budget (PTB) appeals and four were late being processed.

There were an additional 92 applications for PTBs awaiting processing, 85 of which were received late. Of the remaining, four were delayed by the school/college placement and three required further information.

As of 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1,987 SEN transport applications had been processed with only 37 late applications outstanding. Overall, 574 applications were received late.

2. The average number of school days lost is extremely difficult to calculate given that many schools have varying start dates, some students have part-time timetables and further transport arrangements have been put in place on a daily basis since the start of term. The vast majority of the 1,828 students, whose applications were received by the Transport Service on time, had their applications processed and transport arrangements confirmed prior to the start of the school year. It should also be noted that a proportion of the late applications were due to a delay in school placements by Special Educational Needs Assessment and Commissioning Service (SENA) and those parents were contacted and advised of the assistance that was available.

3. The majority of the backlog was a result of late applications, late parent appeals, late notice of college timetabling, schools changing students site provision, parents changing from a PTB to traditional transport or moving house after the date of their application and after transport had been planned.

While it is very difficult for the County Council to control and therefore prevent the above scenarios, we do propose a further revision of communications around the application deadline date for next year. We will endeavour to make application deadlines as clear as possible for parents and carers. In addition, to help manage expectations, it will be emphasised in our communications that for late applications or, where the service does not have the necessary information to process transport such as college timetables, it is unlikely transport will be in place for the start of the school term and that it may take a number of weeks after that to put in place depending on the volume being dealt with at that time.

Whilst much of the above is outside the Council's control, this year there was also some delay due to late school placements. The SENA service has undertaken significant work to understand the peak times of demand and now have better planning mechanisms in place to ensure transition reviews are undertaken in a timely manner avoiding similar delays in future years."

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – 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.)

(i) **LEADER**

The Leader will make his statement.

(ii) **LEAD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

The Lead Member will make his statement.

(iii) **LEAD MEMBER FOR POST-COVID RECOVERY AND WAYS OF WORKING**

The Lead Member will make his statement.

**TO CONSIDER REPORTS OF THE  
CABINET, SCRUTINY COMMISSION, SCRUTINY COMMITTEES,  
AND OTHER BODIES**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6  
REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**  
(Pages 25 - 34)

Principal Speakers:-  
Chairman (Mr N J Rushton)  
Liberal Democrat Spokesman (Mr M T Mullaney)

**A. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBER ALLOWANCES**

MR RUSHTON will move and MRS TAYLOR will second:-

- “(a) That the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased on annual basis, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, for a two-year period, in line with the Local Government Pay Award;
- (b) That a further review of the indexation of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be undertaken in 2023;
- (c) That the current levels of Travel and Subsistence Allowances remain unchanged;
- (d) That those members who have submitted an Annual Report be thanked for doing so;
- (e) That those members who have not submitted an Annual Report for the municipal year 2020/21 be requested to do at the earliest opportunity.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH ITEMS 11 AND 12 OF STANDING ORDER 4:**  
(Pages 35 – 36)

**A. TO APPOINT PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON  
THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

MR SHEPHERD will move and MR CHARLESWORTH will second:-

“That Mr Robert Martin be appointed as co-opted member of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or other appropriate scrutiny committee dealing with Education) for the period ending May 2025.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 - NOTICE OF MOTION****(A) COP26 – Revised Motion - Mr Max Hunt CC**

The mover of the motion with the agreement of the seconder and the consent of the Council will move the following revised motion:-

MR HUNT will move and MR BOULTER will second:

“Leicestershire County Council has declared that climate change has become an emergency for all of us and therefore:

(a) Notes that:

- (i) The County Council has a strong Environment Strategy; significant progress is being made to fulfil its Action Plan in Tranche 1 within the Council’s direct sphere of influence across the county and the Council is working towards Tranche 2;
- (ii) The UK has led the world through its system of carbon budgets under the Climate Change Act in its requirement to increase renewable energy;
- (iii) The UK Climate Change Committee has set out a high level plan to meet the sixth Carbon Budget which has yet to be supported by policy;
- (iv) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is calling for stronger measures in order to keep global temperature rises below a level of 1.5 degrees Celsius and above which life would become unsustainable in many areas of the globe.

(b) Remains concerned that:

- (i) The major world economies are still not acting with sufficient urgency;
- (ii) Mitigation measures, such as flood defences, will not hold back further climate change or the devastating effects on poor countries.

(c) Agrees to:

- (i) Write to the Prime Minister urging substantive proposals to meet targets set by and the UK Climate Change Committee and informing him that whilst the target of Net Zero Carbon on Leicestershire County Council activities can be met by 2030 the wider Leicestershire target of Net Zero Carbon by 2045 cannot be met without action by central Government;
- (ii) Hold an event in 2022 to support practical measures in support of the outcomes of COP26.”

(B) Prevention Services, Public Health and Cancer – Mr M T Mullaney CC

MR MULLANEY will move and MRS RICHARDSON will second:

“(a) This Council notes that:

- (i) Preventable disease and mortality continue to have a massive impact on the public’s health, the NHS and the economy. This has only come into sharper focus since the emergence of COVID-19, with preventable causes of cancer such as obesity being associated with a higher risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19. Further disruption caused by COVID-19 has also had a detrimental effect on the diagnosis of cancer cases; Cancer Research UK estimates that 3 million fewer people were screened in the UK between March and September 2020.
- (ii) Investment in disease prevention and the public health grant must be a priority for the UK Government. The grant funds vital services and functions that prevent ill health, reduce health inequalities, and contribute to the future sustainability of the NHS. Local authorities are responsible for improving the health of their populations and do this through services such as stop smoking services, tobacco control and action on diet, exercise, and obesity. But their ability to do so is compromised by continued reductions to the Public Health grant.
- (iii) In 2021/21, the public health grant was given a small uplift of £45 million by the UK Government – equivalent to a cash increase of 0.67%. In reality, however, this represents a 24% reduction, equivalent to £1 billion on a real term basis since 2015/16.
- (iv) Taking funds away from prevention is a false economy. Without proper investment in public health, people suffer, demand on local health services increases, and the economy suffers. This uplift does not consider the impact of COVID-19 on local government budgets, nor their response to the unprecedented challenge of the pandemic. As well as working hard to safely deliver normal public health functions, councils have also had to respond to the pandemic by supporting national efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, protect vulnerable members of the community and support local businesses and communities. In consequence, local preventive action has suffered.
- (v) Unless funding to improve public health is increased, our health and care system will remain locked in a ‘treatment’ approach, which is neither economically viable nor protects the health of residents. Deprived areas suffer the worst health outcomes, so it is also vital that areas with the greatest need receive sufficient funding to meet their local challenges. An estimated 27,000 cases of cancer a year in England are associated with socioeconomic deprivation.

- (b) This Council further notes that in Leicestershire, there are around 4,000 cancer cases per year, and around 2,000 deaths from cancer per year. Around four in ten cancers are preventable, largely through avoidable risk factors, such as stopping smoking, keeping a healthy weight and cutting back on alcohol. In 2017, smoking was estimated to account for 80,000 early deaths every year in England and it remains the largest preventable cause of cancer in the world. Smoking-related ill health costs local authorities £883.5 million every year in social care costs. Additionally, obesity and alcohol account for 30,000 and 7,000 early deaths each year respectively.
  
- (c) This Council therefore supports Cancer Research UK's calls for increased and sustainable public health funding, which will also help to level up unfair health inequalities, bolster our health and social care system and the economy, and help us rebuild and recover from COVID-19. In turn, Leicestershire County Council will continue to support and fund locally-delivered prevention services and other public health initiatives to the best of our abilities - to prevent ill-health, reduce inequalities and support a health and social care system that is fit for the future."

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