

**MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 2.00 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 3 to 18)

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

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 December 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.

It will be assumed that all members who are members of District Councils will wish to declare a registerable interest in relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26.

The Chairman has been advised that the following members wish to declare a non-registerable interest in the MTFs: -

- Mr Pain CC in relation to passenger transport issues as his family operate a taxi business.
- Mr Phillimore CC in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) issues due to his wife’s employment.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**  
**QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1) (2) & (5)**

**(A) Question by MR HUNT**

- “1. “Many people, particularly those of a certain age or vulnerability, will have been struck by the interview on East Midlands BBC (13/2/22) with a gentleman from the County who could not obtain timely treatment due to rising waiting lists, worse than elsewhere in the East Midlands. Could the Chair of Scrutiny Commission provide some reassurance that we are positively scrutinising these key rising waiting lists, not tinkering at the edges but identifying ways in which Leicestershire can improve against other areas, and publishing our findings, which can all too easily be buried in minutes?”

**Reply by MR MULLANEY**

- “1. Can I begin by thanking Max for his question. The pandemic has had a significant impact on an already stretched health and social care service and this has been acknowledged by all. It now appears that we may be over the worst of the large surge in cases that occurred as a result of Omicron and Christmas gatherings with Covid pressures easing on acute and community services.

Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been aware of the concerns and worry of people who have had delays in treatment which have been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic and it has raised these concerns with NHS colleagues.

On 10th November the Committee received very informative reports and presentations on (link to meeting below):

- (i) Current data access to primary care services, the challenges being faced by GP practices and initiatives being introduced to improve access;
- (ii) The Restoration and Recovery Plans of health care providers, particularly on dealing with the significant backlog that has built up in terms of diagnosis and elective care.

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1045&MId=6431&Ver=4>

NHS managers who attended the meeting acknowledged the significant backlog that had built up and had prepared the plans so that there was transparency in the way in which they would seek to prioritise and deal with this. They, along with the members of the Committee, were aware that the task ahead was monumental and would require significant investment of resources and staff, and even then it was unlikely that significant reductions in the backlog and waiting times could be achieved in the short term.

The Government has made promises of significant new resources as a result of raising National Insurance contributions. Most of these resources are to be directed to the NHS with very little to support the social care sector. This I believe is a mistake as the ability of the NHS to deliver will be dependent upon hospitals being able to discharge patients to a social care setting for after care and rehabilitation. Without significant national investment in social care the social care market cannot develop and function on a sustainable level and this will impede the NHS in its delivery. The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 1st November was advised of significant demand pressures. The financial impact of the increased need and demand is such that the Department is forecasting a significant overspend against budget in this financial year and this is likely to grow in subsequent years. As a consequence the Council is allocating £25m growth for social care within the MTFS for 2022/23 rising to £35m over the four year period.

Over the coming year the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be monitoring the position and members will be raising issues and concerns. I am sure that the County Council as the social care authority will be working closely with NHS colleagues on this.

Finally, I think you make a valid point regarding publishing our findings. The next edition of our residents' newsletter, Leicestershire Matters, will include an update on the work of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and I am sure that the Chair and Spokespersons of that Committee working with the Lead Member and our comms team will want to look at anything further for the future."

## **TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5** **REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE** **(Pages 19 – 20)**

Principle Speakers: -  
Chairman (Mr N J Rushton)  
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Mr M Mullaney)

#### A. **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS (MEETING PROCEDURE RULES)**

MR RUSHTON will move and MRS TAYLOR will second: -

"That the changes to Standing Orders (the Meeting Procedure Rules), as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Constitution Committee, be approved."

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – 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.)

**LEADER**

- (i) The Leader will make his statement.
- (ii) An informal discussion may then take place.

**LEAD MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

- (i) The Leader Member will make his statement.
- (ii) An informal discussion may then take place.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7  
REPORT OF THE CABINET**

(Pages 21 – 288)

Principal Speakers: -  
Mover of motion (as appropriate)  
Leader of the Opposition (Mr M Mullaney)

A. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 – 2025/26**

MR BRECKON will move and MR SHEPHERD will second: -

- “(a) That the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Commission as set out in Appendix Q to the report be noted;

- (b) That subject to the items below, approval be given to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which incorporates the recommended revenue budget for 2022/23 totalling £471.7m as set out in Appendices A, B and E of this report and includes the growth and savings for that year as set out in Appendix C;
- (c) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, set out in Appendix B to the report, including the growth and savings for those years as set out in Appendix C, allowing the undertaking of preliminary work, including business case development, consultation, and equality and human rights impact assessments, as may be necessary towards achieving the savings specified for those years including savings under development set out in Appendix D;
- (d) That approval be given to the early achievement of savings that are included in the MTFS, as may be necessary, along with associated investment costs, subject to the Director of Corporate Resources agreeing to funding being available;
- (e) That the level of the general fund and earmarked funds as set out in Appendix K be noted and the use of those earmarked funds as indicated in that appendix be approved;
- (f) That the amounts of the County Council's Council Tax for each band of dwelling and the precept payable by each billing authority for 2022/23 be as set out in Appendix M (including 1% for the adult social care precept);
- (g) That the Chief Executive be authorised to issue the necessary precepts to billing authorities in accordance with the budget requirement above and the tax base notified by the District Councils, and to take any other action which may be necessary to give effect to the precepts;
- (h) That the 2022/23 to 2025/26 capital programme as set out in Appendix F be approved;
- (i) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Resources, be authorised to approve new capital schemes, including revenue costs associated with their delivery, shown as future developments in the capital programme, to be funded from funding available;
- (j) That the financial indicators required under the Prudential Code included in Appendix N, Annex 2 be noted and that the following limits be approved:

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Operational boundary for external debt				
i) Borrowing	263	263	311	340
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	264	264	312	341
Authorised limit for external debt				
i) Borrowing	273	273	321	350
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	274	274	322	351

- (k) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to effect movement within the authorised limit for external debt between borrowing and other long-term liabilities;
- (l) That the following borrowing limits be approved for the period 2022/23 to 2025/26:
- (i) Upper limit on fixed interest exposures 100%;
  - (ii) Upper limit on variable rate exposures 50%;
  - (iii) Maturity of borrowing: -

	<u>Upper Limit</u>	<u>Lower Limit</u>
	%	%
Under 12 months	30	0
12 months and within 24 months	30	0
24 months and within 5 years	50	0
5 years and within 10 years	70	0
10 years and above	100	25

upper limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days is 10% of the portfolio.

- (m) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to enter into such loans or undertake such arrangements as necessary to finance capital payments in 2022/23, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix N;
- (n) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix N, be approved including:
  - (i) The Treasury Management Policy Statement, Appendix N; Annex 4;
  - (ii) The Annual Statement of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision as set out in Appendix N, Annex 1;
- (o) That the Capital Strategy (Appendix G), Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy (Appendix H), Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Appendix I), Earmarked Funds Policy (Appendix J) and Insurance Policy (Appendix L) be approved;
- (p) That it be noted that the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool will continue for 2022/23;
- (q) That the Leicestershire School Funding Formula remains unchanged, reflecting the National Funding Formula for 2022/23.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**  
**JOINT REPORT OF THE CABINET AND THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**  
(289 - 293)

Principal Speakers: -  
Mover of motion (as appropriate)  
Leader of the Opposition (Mr M Mullaney)

A. **BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST ORGANISATION**

MRS POSNETT will move and MR BRECKON will second: -

“That Leicestershire County Council makes a clear commitment to becoming an anti-racist organisation.”

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