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20th June 2023

County Councillor O'Shea,
Lead Member, Highways, Transportation & Flooding
Members' Secretariat
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RA

Dear County Councillor O'Shea,

In my previous letter to you of 12 June 2023 I outlined the importance of the County Council and Borough Council working together to evidence the draft Local Plan so it can be moved quickly towards adoption. I explained this is the only way to bring control to unplanned development occurring in the Borough and to ensure that the impact of growth on our communities is appropriately mitigated. I also warned that the County Council's delay in responding to the Planning Inspectors' requests of 23 May 2023 was illogical and was exacerbating the problem of unplanned growth.

I have now seen the published report for the County Cabinet meeting on 23 June 2023 that relates to the Charnwood Local plan and its recommendations seeking formal commitment from the Borough Council. Given all the written commitments that have been given on this subject to you and your officers in the last few weeks and the excellent track record of joint officer working on this plan across Leicester and Leicestershire, I am surprised that your Cabinet feels the need for a formal resolution of the Borough Council before it can have confidence to re-engage and commit its resources. Our next scheduled meeting of Council is 4 September, and I cannot understand why the County Council believes delaying a decision until then is in the best interests of communities in Charnwood and Leicestershire. Furthermore, passing a formal resolution indicating support for the Local Plan could be seen as predetermination and risk legal challenge.

At the Borough's Council meeting on 19 June, the Leader provided a position statement on the draft Local plan and clarified the Labour manifesto commitment. I have copied that statement to this letter for your convenience but in summary it expresses the administration's commitment to progressing the draft local plan through to adoption later this year. It also commits to working with the County Council in developing and implementing its transport strategies, including the Interim Transport Strategy for Charnwood, and the collection of appropriate developer contributions for transport and education infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of growth.



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For its part, the Borough Council has finalised the Planning Inspectors' requests. The only outstanding information is that from the County Council shown in bold below:

1. **the broad contents of the Transport Strategies for Loughborough Urban Centre, Shepshed Urban Area, North of Leicester and Soar Valley**
2. Updates to the Viability Assessment reflecting **updated school build costs and indicative costs of Transport Strategies**
3. The Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (Exam 57)
4. The proposed approach to increasing housing land supply as set out in Exam 56
5. Updated completions/housing land supply monitoring data to 31.3.23

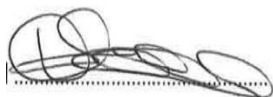
I cannot stress enough the importance of the Charnwood Local Plan being found sound and adopted. If this plan fails, it is likely to undermine efforts to plan the wider Leicester and Leicestershire area and delay the progress of local plans for other authorities. This would have consequential impacts on economic growth, the coordination of infrastructure and the delivery of much needed homes.

I therefore believe it is in everyone's interests to withdraw the County Cabinet report from the agenda or at the very least to amend its recommendations to acknowledge the commitments made to date and to confirm re-engagement.

I have copied this letter to all Leicestershire County Council Cabinet Members and to Charnwood County and Borough Councillors given the serious implications of the Leicestershire County Council cabinet report for plan-making in Charnwood and Leicestershire.

I hope we can overcome this issue and work collaboratively together and I would be pleased to meet with you to help build trust and confidence in our shared agenda.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Kanchan Jadeja
Lead Member for Planning

CC: All Borough Councillors
County Cabinet Members
Charnwood County Council Members
John Sinnott CEO of LCC