

MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 5 JULY 2023 AT 2.00 P.M.

ORDER PAPER

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of having to evacuate officers will be able to advise and 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 28)

The CHAIRMAN will move and MR RUSHTON will second:

'That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17th May 2023, 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 MULLANEY

"Given the news that the County Council is to get an additional nearly £2million towards bus service improvements, would the County Council please reconsider the decision to withdraw funding for the 159 bus service from Hinckley to Coalville? The Service was one that was used by people in many rural areas like Newbold Verdon, Market Bosworth and Barlestone as well as Hinckley and Coalville. Restoring the subsidy to get the 159 bus service running again would be welcomed by people in many towns and villages in the County."

Reply by MR O'SHEA

"The County Council has been awarded £1.78m Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus (BSIP+) funding in the current financial year and as a result, the Passenger

Transport Policy Strategy (PTPS) review work on the supported bus services has been paused to allow a light touch refresh of the PTPS approach that better reflects the Government's aspirations for this additional funding.

Following that, the review of the current contracted services against this revised policy approach will restart from late 2023 into early 2024.

The objective is to continue to support services that align to our revised policy approach (reflecting the additional funding) while ensuring we do not continue to pay for the lowest value services. It is not our intention to reinstate any services already withdrawn or to revisit subsidy arrangements for services that have ceased prior to the BSIP+ funding award. The BSIP+ funding will allow us to retain our existing subsidised bus services, the cost of which significantly exceeds the current budget while giving us the opportunity to help reshape our public transport model to a more sustainable one appropriate for a rural county like Leicestershire.

A briefing on this matter was issued to members on 1st June and has been appended to the response to this question.”

(B) Question by MR HUNT

- “1. Understanding that our school meals service, like others across the country, is under severe cost pressures, is this the opportunity to seize the moment and take another step to meet our Net Zero Carbon target by replacing red meat with alternative proteins?
2. What alternative proteins do we currently use to replace meat?
3. As well as helping to meet Net Zero, and the more healthy diet that climate change will impose on younger generations, do we know what cost savings might be achieved by such a switch?
4. Do these meet Government standards?”

Reply by MR BRECKON

- “1.&2. Our current menu only includes red meat three times in the two-week cycle, this is organic beef mix which is used to create bolognaise, as well as pork in sausages and roast pork.

We already use alternative protein sources (lentils) to reduce our red meat content in our bolognaise recipes.

As part of our vegetarian option which is available daily to all schools (should they select it) we use a beef free mince (meat free product made of soya) in items such as vegetarian bolognaise. However, we also offer a cottage pie which is produced with a creamy white sauce

and vegetables.

We currently do not widely use mycoprotein ingredients because they are a more costly alternative.

Each week on our menu we offer a meat free day.

3. At this time, we do not believe there would be any significant cost saving benefit in further reducing our level of red meat – in part this is because of the infrequency of serving it and the comparative expense of certain alternative products.
4. All our menus meet the government standards, including our vegetarian options. As a Local Authority Provider, we will always ensure that this is the case. A meat free alternative would continue to meet these standards if the levels of protein met the standards.”

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.)

LEADER

The Leader will make his statement.

LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Lead Member will make her statement.

LEAD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

The Lead Member will make his statement.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6
REPORTS OF THE CABINET**

(Pages 29 – 40)

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

(A) Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange

MRS RICHARDSON will move and MR O'SHEA will second: -

“That the Relevant Representation of the County Council on the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange proposal, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

(Pages 41 – 66)

Principal Speakers:
Leader of the Opposition (Mr M T Mullaney)
Leader of the Council (Mr N J Rushton)

(A) Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

MR MULLANEY will move and MRS PAGE will second:

“That the information contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23, attached as Appendix A to this report, on its activities, be noted.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8
REPORTS OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

(Pages 67 – 78)

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

(A) Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances

Mr RUSHTON will move and MRS TAYLOR will second:

“(a) That Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased by 3.88%, for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024;

- (b) That the Panel reconvenes in March 2024 to review the indexation of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances from 1st April 2024;
- (c) That further research be carried out during 2023 with regard to the indexing of allowances in other local authorities.”

(B) Appointment of Independent Members of the Corporate Governance Committee

Mr RUSHTON will move and MRS TAYLOR will second:

“That Mr G. Grimes and Mr A. Maxfield be appointed to serve as independent members of the Corporate Governance Committee for a term of two years up to the May annual Council meeting in 2025.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9
REPORTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND REGULATORY BOARD
 (Pages 79 to 92)

Principal Speakers:
 Chairman (Mr L Phillimore)
 Liberal Democrat Spokesman (Mr M H Charlesworth)

(A) Leicestershire County Council Country Parks Byelaws

MR PHILLIMORE will move and MR LOVEGROVE will second:

“That the Director of Law and Governance be authorised:

- (a) to make and seal Byelaws as appropriate for each of the Country Parks listed in accordance with the details set out in Appendix A to this report and to revoke all previous byelaws on those sites; and
- (b) to advertise the making of and to seek confirmation by the Secretary of State of these Byelaws.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10
APPOINTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM 11 OF STANDING ORDER 4

(A) To appoint such Cabinet Support Members as the Council considers appropriate

MR SHEPHERD will move and MRS FRYER will second: -

“That Mr C Smith CC be appointed as Cabinet Support Member until the next Annual Meeting of the County Council, as provided for in Article 7 of the Council’s Constitution.”

Appendix to Question A**1st June 2023: 'Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus' Funding**

The County Council has been awarded £1.78m 'Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus' (BSIP+) funding in the current financial year as part of a Department for Transport (DfT) settlement to more than 60 local transport authorities in the country.

The Leicestershire allocation comes from a £80m national pot with the same amount available (£80m) in 2024/25, although allocations to individual authorities have not yet been confirmed for the second year of funding.

This short-term funding boost is welcome and presents a great opportunity to help better shape the public transport offer across the county, but it is vital that services offer value-for-money.

In using this additional money, we will ensure it is directed to offer greater connectivity for our communities rather than continuing to subsidise low value services.

It is therefore intended to pause the current Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy (PTPS) review of services which the council currently subsidises (see list attached).

This will allow us to fine tune our PTPS and better align it with the Government's aspirations, while ensuring continued emphasis on value-for-money service provision and access to essential services.

However, the receipt of this funding will not mean it being used towards the reinstatement of commercial bus services already withdrawn.

Following revision of our PTPS, it is anticipated that we will start to review the position on our contracted services from late 2023 into Spring 2024, with any planned changes being subject to a transparent engagement process with Local Members and affected communities.

The BSIP+ funding will allow us to retain our existing subsidised bus services, the cost of which significantly exceeds the current budget, while giving us the opportunity to reshape our PTPS into supporting a more sustainable rural public transport model. To help us with this, we would also ask you to encourage your residents to make use of the DfT's current £2 fare cap which has been extended until the end of October this year, and rising to £2.50 for the rest of the year and into 2024.

Getting on a bus is a great way to get out and about and will help our work to reshape our public transport offer and understand where bus services are really valued by our communities.

For further enquiries, please email ptps@leics.gov.uk
Janna Walker, Assistant Director, Environment and Transport
Leicestershire County Council