



CABINET - FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2024

ORDER PAPER

ITEM DETAILS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1. MINUTES (Pages 3 -14)

Proposed motion

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2023 be taken as read, confirmed, and signed.

2. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman has agreed to take one urgent item - a report of the Chief Executive titled "Gas Outage: Major Incident Affecting Ratby and Kirby Muxloe".

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Cabinet are asked to declare any interests in the business to be discussed.

4. PROVISIONAL MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 - 2027/28 (Pages 15 - 262)

- *Appendix Q to this report, setting out the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny bodies, was circulated separately and is attached to this Order Paper, marked "4".*
- *With the agreement of the Chairman, Mr. J. T. Orson CC will speak on this item.*

Proposed motion

- i) That the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Commission be noted;
- ii) That the following be recommended to the County Council:
 - a) That subject to the items below, approval be given to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which incorporates the recommended revenue budget for 2024/25 totalling £567.6m as set out in Appendices A, B and E of the report and includes the growth and savings for that year as set out in Appendix C;

- b) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28, 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, engagement and equality and human rights impact assessments, as may be necessary to achieve the savings specified for those years including savings under development, set out in Appendix D;
- c) 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;
- d) That the level of the general fund and earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix K be noted and the use of those earmarked reserves as indicated in that appendix be approved;
- e) That the amounts of the County Council's Council Tax for each band of dwelling and the precept payable by each billing authority for 2024/25 be as set out in Appendix M (including 2% for the adult social care precept);
- f) 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;
- g) That approval be given to the 2024/25 to 2027/28 capital programme, totalling £447m, as set out in Appendix F;
- h) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the 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;
- i) That the financial indicators required under the Prudential Code included in Appendix N, Annex 2 be noted and that the following limits be approved:

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m
Operational boundary for external debt				
i) Borrowing	220	219	243	273
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	221	220	244	274
Authorised limit for external debt				
i) Borrowing	230	229	253	283
ii) Other long term liabilities	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	231	230	254	284

- j) 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;
- k) That the following borrowing limits be approved for the period 2024/25 to 2027/28:

(i) 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

(ii) An upper limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days is 20% of the portfolio.

- l) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to enter into such loans or undertake such arrangements as necessary to finance capital payments in 2024/25, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix N;
- m) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25, 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;
- n) That the Capital Strategy (Appendix G), Investing in Leicestershire Programme Strategy (Appendix H), Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Appendix I), Earmarked Reserves Policy (Appendix J) and Insurance Policy (Appendix L) be approved;
- o) That it be noted that the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool will continue for 2024/25;
- p) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources, be authorised to make any changes to the provisional MTFs which may be required as a result of changes arising between the Cabinet and County Council meetings, noting that any changes will be reported to the County Council on 21 February 2024;
- q) That the Leicestershire School Funding Formula be subject to capping and scaling to continue to reflect the National Funding Formula for 2024/25;

- r) That the Director of Children and Family Services, following consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Family Services, be authorised to agree the funding rates for early years providers for 2024/25;
 - s) That in light of the Council's financial position, the proposal to revise the Council's net zero targets for its own operations, from 2030 to 2035, and for the wider County, from 2045 to 2050, be approved;
 - t) That the proposed changes to the Recycling and Household Waste Site service as outlined at paragraph 37 of the report be noted, to be funded from the Service Investment budget, and subject to the outcome of further consultation;
- iii) That subject to the Council's approval of ii) above, the Director of Environment and Transport be authorised to carry out a further consultation on proposed changes to the Recycling and Household Waste Site service as outlined at paragraph 37 of the report, with a further report to be submitted to the Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation.

5. CHARGING FOR SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT POLICY - OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION (Pages 263 - 332)

Proposed motion

- a) That the outcome of the consultation on the proposed changes to be made to the Council's Charging for Social Care and Support Policy, be noted;
- b) That the Council's Charging for Social Care and Support Policy be approved for implementation from 8 April 2024.

6. FUTURE OF THE TRANSITIONAL LEARNING PROGRAMME (Pages 333 - 356)

Proposed motion

- a) That the issues affecting the sustainability of the Transitional Learning Programme be noted;
- b) That a formal six-week consultation on the future of the Transitions Learning Programme be approved;
- c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in June, presenting the outcome of the consultation alongside recommendations on the future of the Transitions Learning Programme.

7. CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2024-2026 (Pages 357 - 368)

Proposed motion

That the Children and Family Services Departmental Plan 2024 to 2026 be approved.

8. LEICESTERSHIRE'S POLICY ON ADMISSIONS TO MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS: DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS (Pages 369 - 472)

Proposed motion

- a) That Leicestershire's Policy on Admissions to Mainstream Schools and associated arrangements and co-ordinated schemes are amended to
 - (i) offer five school preferences,
 - (ii) include a single tiebreaker criterion, plus distance,
 - (iii) remove ambiguity and improve clarity around the process;
- b) That the catchment area of Little Bowden Primary School be expanded with effect for entry from 2025/26 onwards as illustrated in Appendix B to the report;
- c) That the Admissions Number at the following primary schools be reduced with effect from entry in 2025 as follows:
 - (i) Foxton Primary School - from 17 to 15 (permanent change),
 - (ii) Hallaton C of E Primary School - from 18 to 15 (permanent change),
 - (iii) Newbold Verdon Primary School - from 45 to 30 (temporary change),
 - (iv) St. Bartholomew's C of E Primary School, Quorn - from 75 to 60 (temporary change).

9. REVIEW OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH TO FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME - OUTCOME OF ENGAGEMENT AND PROPOSED NEW MODEL (Pages 473 - 532)

Proposed motion

- a) That the feedback from the engagement exercise on the proposed delivery model for the Whole School Approach to Food and Nutrition Programme in Leicestershire primary schools be noted;
- b) That the new model for the Whole School Approach to Food and Nutrition Programme, to include targeted support for schools most in need and a universal offer for all primary schools in the County, be approved.

10. EQUALITIES, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY 2024-2028 (Pages 533 - 552)

Proposed motion

- a) That the draft Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2028 be approved for consultation;
- b) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in June 2024 regarding the findings of the consultation exercise and presenting the final Strategy for consideration.

11. RESPONSE TO HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN - ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION (Pages 553 - 592)

- *Comments have been received from Mrs R. Page CC and are attached to this Order Paper, marked "11".*

Proposed motion

- a) That the County Council's response to Harborough District Council's New Local Plan Issues and Options Regulation 18 consultation, as set out in paragraphs 31 to 68 inclusive and in the appendix to this report be approved;
- b) That the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, be authorised to make any minor amendments to the consultation response prior to its submission to Harborough District Council by 27 February 2024.

12. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

None.

13. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED TO TAKE AS URGENT - GAS OUTAGE: MAJOR INCIDENT AFFECTING RATBY AND KIRBY MUXLOE (Supplementary Paper, Pages 3- 8)

Proposed motion

- a) That the incidents, their significant impacts on the local communities, and the very positive response of those communities and their representatives, including volunteers, to an unprecedented situation, be noted;
- b) That the very positive response of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and its partner organisations in support of the local communities be noted;
- c) That Severn Trent Water be asked to provide an explanation of the cause of the burst pipe, the speed of its response and the repair effected to the first incident on January 29th/30th;
- d) That Severn Trent Water be asked to provide an explanation of the cause of the burst pipe, the speed of its response and the repair effected to the second incident on February 3rd;

- e) That Cadent be asked to confirm their observations when they attended the consequence of the first burst water pipe incident on January 29th/30th ;
- f) That Cadent be commended for the steps and actions it has taken to address the gas outage and to mitigate its worst impacts on the local communities;
- g) That Severn Trent Water and Cadent be asked to provide a detailed account of the repair work and new installations undertaken by both organisations in the Ratby and Kirby Muxloe areas in the last two years, noting those works have led to significant local disruption and the concern that the most recent incidents could be related;
- h) That the Council fully participates in the recovery process to be overseen by the LRF, including to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to speedily compensate residents and businesses, repair/replace damaged appliances and put right any damage to the public realm;
- i) That the LRF be asked to co-ordinate an assessment of the total cost to local public agencies contributing to the response and recovery with a view to recovering the costs from those responsible for the incident; and
- j) That volunteers and council staff who went 'over and above' in response to the incident including by helping co-ordinate the response and supporting response activities within the local communities be formally thanked for their efforts.

Officer to contact

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