

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 9 JUNE 2025****QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 35****Question asked by Mr. Adam Stares**

“Given that the Council’s new leadership has pledged to bring in outside auditors to audit the council’s finances, does the council have a projection for how much this service is likely to cost, and is there money set aside for this in the current 2025/26 budget?”

**Reply by the Chair**

The Budget for 2025/26 was set in advance of the recent County Council elections, hence it is not possible for any new initiatives to be specifically incorporated at this stage. Leicestershire County Council has a significant savings challenge, and expenditure will continue to be required, on an invest to save basis, to investigate and implement efficiency initiatives. If new approaches such as the use of external auditors are proposed they will either replace or complement existing activity with the aim of meeting the savings challenge and would need to be commissioned through the Council’s decision making process.”

This page is intentionally left blank