

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 10th November 2025****MINUTE EXTRACT****ANNUAL TRADED SERVICES STRATEGY UPDATE AND
PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources the purpose of which was to provide an update on the performance of Leicestershire Traded Services (LTS) during 2024/25. The report also sought the Commission's views on the future direction of Beaumanor Hall and Park, as part of the Council's engagement process. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following comments were made:

- (i) Members acknowledged the reasons for ending the School Food Service. However, recognising the importance of food quality for school children, an area on which the Service had focused, some expressed disappointment that this had been necessary, particularly as the Service had generated a small profit this year.
- (ii) Whilst positive outcomes had been observed over the current financial year, Members expressed satisfaction that the Council was moving away from operating cafés given high costs and stronger private sector competition.
- (iii) Whilst the proposal to sell Beaumanor Hall had not been taken forward by the current administration some expressed concerns about taxpayers continuing to subsidise a facility that was not widely used by residents in their areas. Members commented that whilst a small profit could be achieved from continuing to run the Hall, this would require significant and ongoing investment. Given this was an aging listed building, this was felt to be unsustainable in the long term. It was recognised that the Council had to balance financial considerations against cultural heritage. However, as the lowest funded County Council and in light of the £90m deficit in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, some Members commented that this might need to be revisited again in the future.
- (iv) It was questioned whether running the Century Theatre could be regarded as a strategic fit for the Council and its core business. A Member suggested that the theatre could be better run by the community noting that theatres brought wider health and social benefits. It was noted that this was the only theatre owned and run by the Council.

Members further noted that efforts were being made by the theatre to make it more outward facing, aligning some shows with the school curriculum.

RESOLVED:

That the performance of Leicestershire Traded Services (LTS) during 2024/25 be noted and the Commission's views on the future direction of Beaumanor Hall and Park be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration as part of the Council's ongoing engagement process.