

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 3rd DECEMBER 2025

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

Good afternoon, Mr Chairman, fellow councillors and members of the public. I'm delighted to deliver my inaugural position statement as lead member of Finance and Resources here at Leicestershire County Council. It's been a busy couple of months to say the least, but I feel very confident that despite facing challenges, the department is heading in a promising direction.

Today I'd like to briefly report on our highly anticipated efficiency review that's currently being undertaken here at County Hall.

Before I was even elected as a county councillor for Bruntingthorpe, it was clear that public finances were spread incredibly thinly- both on a local level and within the wider national context. That was why in my election manifesto, my first pledge was to find efficiencies within the organisation. This was both to improve the long-term prosperity of the authority and get residents the best value for their hard-earned tax contributions.

Of course, there are external factors that contribute to the financial difficulties that local authorities face. Unfortunately, we know this all too well here in Leicestershire where regrettably, we receive the worst funding per head out of all upper tier authorities.

That aside, my team and I can only deal with the cards we have been dealt. Therefore, the leader, myself and the rest of cabinet decided to go out to tender for a contract with a business consultancy in order to find the necessary savings needed to bridge the gap.

After this process, we decided to work with a reputable company called Newton. They have worked with LCC in the past and delivered some savings at a departmental level. However, what they are doing now is a far more comprehensive and ambitious.

I hear and understand some of the concerns that fellow members have raised about the nature of these savings and what they may mean for the people of the county.

The truth is, we are still in the very early stages of the review process, with quite literally millions of data points needing to be reviewed, analysed and evaluating. That said, I want to assure my colleagues and members of the public that we are going about the delivery of this programme with the right balance of decisiveness and diligence. This is a job for a scalpel, not a chainsaw.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

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