



CABINET - TUESDAY 21 JULY 2026

ORDER PAPER

ITEM DETAILS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dr. J. Bloxham CC, Mr. M. Squires CC and Mr. A. Tilbury CC.

1. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 6)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2026 be taken as read, confirmed, and signed.

2. URGENT ITEMS

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. TREE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (Pages 7-56)

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments of the Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- b) That the refreshed Tree Management Strategy 2026-2031 be approved.

5. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTARY JOINT COMMITTEES (Pages 57-66 and supplementary report pages 1-6)

Proposed motion

- a) That the Secretary of State's decision to process with the two-unitary proposal submitted by Leicester City Council, with the requested boundary modification except for the six part-parishes identified in the Secretary of State's letter be noted;

- b) That it be noted that implementation will require a Structural Changes Order, subject to Parliamentary approval, to abolish the existing councils, establish the new unitary authorities and make transitional arrangements;
- c) That the implications for the County Council, as set out in the supplementary report, including the need to engage fully in transitional and implementation arrangements while continuing to discharge its statutory responsibilities until vesting day;
- d) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Monitoring Officer, be authorised to take such steps as are necessary, through the County Council's usual decision making and governance processes, to protect the County Council's interests during the transition, including in relation to governance, service continuity, assets, liabilities, staffing, finance, data and programme implementation;
- e) That it be agreed that further reports be brought to the Cabinet as necessary as the detail of the Structural Changes Order, implementation arrangements and programme governance become clearer.

6. STRATEGIC PLAN (2027-2031) CONSULTATION (Pages 67-88)

Proposed motion

- a) That the draft Strategic Plan (2027-2031) be approved for consultation;
- b) That a further report be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 17 November 2026, presenting the outcomes of the consultation and seeking approval for the revised draft Strategic Plan (2027-2031) to the County Council for approval.

7. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2025/26 (Pages 89 -106)

Proposed motion

That the report be noted.

8. BELONGING IN EDUCATION STRATEGY 2026-2029 (Pages 107 - 160)

Proposed motion

- a) That the outcomes of the public consultation on the Belonging in Education Strategy 2026-2029 be noted;
- b) That the final Belonging in Education Strategy 2026-2029, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved.

9. DOMESTIC ABUSE REDUCTION STRATEGY 2026-2029 (Pages 161-290)

Proposed motion

That the Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy 2026-2029 be approved.

10. RESPONSE TO BLABY REGULATION 19 LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION
(Pages 291-294 and supplementary report pages 1- 46)

Proposed motion

- a) That the proposed timetable for the progression of the Blaby District Council (BDC) Local Plan be noted;
- b) That the County Council's emerging position on BDC's Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation, set out in paragraphs 41 to 88 and the Appendix to the report, be agreed, noting in particular that the County Council:
 - i. Recognises the significant challenges and pressures that Plan Making Authorities, such as BDC, are facing;
 - ii. Does not raise any fundamental issue with the Plan's spatial strategy, subject to a suitable delivery and contribution strategy, and consideration of viability implications over the plan period being set out with necessary modifications to plan policies for identified strategic sites;
 - iii. In its role as Local Transport Authority, the County Council considers that the Plan in its current form fails to meet the National Planning Policy Framework tests of soundness, insofar as its transport evidence and policy approach to mitigating cumulative transport impacts;
- c) That the Director of Growth, Environment and Transport, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Lead Members, be authorised to make amendments to the detailed Regulation 19 response, noting that:
 - i. Amendments will take into account officers' views of the recently published Whole Plan Viability Assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan;
 - ii. The formal response (comprising the Cabinet report and updated Appendix) will be submitted to BDC ahead of the consultation period closing on 24 August 2026;
- d) That, in its role as Local Transport Authority, the County Council undertakes its own separate transport evidence work given the County Council's recognition of the importance of the next Blaby Local Plan to the future delivery of strategic growth and infrastructure across south Leicestershire.

11. HARBOROUGH DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN (Pages 295-298 and supplementary report pages 1 - 10)

- *Mr. P. King CC will make representations at the meeting as a local member.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the proposed timetable for the progression of the Harborough District Council (HDC) Local Plan be noted;

- b) That the Director of Growth, Environment and Transport, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Lead Members, be authorised to work with HDC in preparing for the Plan's Examination in Public (EiP), to demonstrate effective and ongoing joint working. This includes:
 - i. To work through issues to seek to reach a satisfactory resolution to the County Council's transport concerns expressed in its Regulation 19 consultation response;
 - ii. To work with HDC with a view to signing an appropriate Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) on transport matters between HDC and the County Council as the Local Transport Authority, in accordance with the timeframe of 14 August 2026 set by the Plan's examining inspectors. The SoCG would need to include areas of disagreement where there remain unresolved concerns;
- c) That it be noted that, in the event that the County Council's transport concerns cannot be satisfactorily resolved and/or it is not possible to reach agreement on a suitable and appropriate SoCG, this could pose a material risk to the continuation of the Plan through its EiP;
- d) That the Director of Growth, Environment and Transport be authorised where necessary to write to the Plan's Inspectors to update them on the County Council's position.

12. ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE PROCUREMENT OF TWO CONTRACTS IN RELATION TO THE CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND (Pages 299-302)

Proposed motion

That the action taken by the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader to approve the procurement of contracts relating to the Crisis and Resilience Fund be noted.

13. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

None.

14. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED TO TAKE AS URGENT

None.

Officer to contact

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