



COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 8 JULY 2009

POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEADER

Local Government Council Worker of the Year Award

- I am sure that the whole Council will be delighted to know that Andy Hollingshead, Health and Safety Advisor with Adult Social Care won the Transformation Award at the Local Government Council Worker of the Year Awards on 2 July for his ground breaking work here in Leicestershire.
- Andy has made an outstanding contribution to the transformation of health, safety and wellbeing within the Council and to the wider community in Leicestershire. He has shifted the approach from being risk averse to the management of positive risk-taking which enables people using our services to have opportunities that most people expect and take for granted.
- Through sensible assessments and advice which emphasises positive risk-taking, many unique and inspiring projects have taken off including:-
 - a woodwork group at Millfield breaking the barriers project in **Hinckley** where people with learning disabilities run a business making and selling bird boxes and furniture using power tools and equipment;
 - an allotment project at Roman Way Day Centre in **Market Harborough** where people with learning disabilities earn an income growing and selling local produce;
 - a recycling project in **Loughborough** and **Wigston** where people recycle cans and foil, benefiting the environment.

Go Awards

- The Council was successful in the national Government Opportunities (GO) awards at the beginning of July, winning the 'Best Collaborative Procurement' award. This was against stiff competition from the Department of Work and Pensions, the NHS and other agencies.

- The award was down to work of the Highways, Transportation and Waste Management and Corporate Resources Departments in developing an innovative partnership with other councils and the Highways Agency, called the Midlands Highways Alliance (MHA). The Alliance was set up to share best practice, to arrange bulk-buying of highways materials and carry out joint purchasing.
- Since it was launched in January 2007, the MHA is estimated to have saved in the region of £1.4million. These savings are forecast to rise to nearly £11 million by 2011.

Birstall Park and Ride

- I am pleased to announce that funding has been secured for Birstall Park & Ride and that a report on the matter will be going to the next meeting of the Cabinet. The Government allocated £2.75 million from its Community Infrastructure Fund to the construction of a park & ride site at Hallam Fields, Birstall but this was not enough to enable the project to go ahead. I am pleased to report that my colleagues on the Leicester and Leicestershire Leadership Board agreed with me that this is exactly the sort of scheme that we need to deliver our transport objectives of tackling congestion in the principal urban area of the City and County. £2.13 million of New Growth Point money has been allocated by the Board and this means that the scheme can start on site next spring to follow on from the Enderby Park & Ride which is presently under construction. This will mean that in less than two years, we will have doubled and doubled again the number of park & ride spaces in Leicestershire.
- Members may be worried that we are “bailing out” the developer, but I can assure you that no County Council money is involved and all the money is Government grant. In this way, we have secured the best deal for Leicestershire at no cost to the local taxpayer.

‘Total Place’ Project

- Leicester and Leicestershire was one of 13 pilot areas named by the Chancellor in his last Budget for an initiative which is commanding a lot of support across all parties and for which I am acting as LGA Champion. Members will be aware that Total Place has been attracting a lot of interest within local government at all levels.
- The project is basically about two things:
 - a local count of all public sector expenditure in a given area, in our case Leicester and Leicestershire;
 - a separate exercise to count the cost of public sector expenditure on a locally chosen theme, in our case the management of drug and alcohol abuse,

- with the twin aim of efficiency savings and more effective public services.
- Certainly it is hard to do anything other than support the concept given the fragmented nature of the public sector, and I was keen that our area was chosen as a pilot. It is also important to stress that Total Place offers the County Council – and the City Council – further opportunities to lead the public sector locally. It is, however, early days, although a progress report has to be made to Government in the autumn. We have established a project group involving all local partners, with external support funded by Government, and it is working well. I will ensure that the Council is kept informed of progress and am considering how best that can be done.

The 21st Century Councillor

- The County Council has been working closely with the Leadership Centre to make sure it has the best possible arrangements in place for the induction of new members together with a modern ongoing programme of learning and development.
- This is part of a national initiative and Leicestershire is one of 12 exemplar authorities. A promotional leaflet produced by the Leadership Centre has been circulated to all members.
- I would encourage all members to take up the learning and development opportunities which are on offer and to feedback any views to our all-party Member Learning and Development Working Party which is chaired by David Snartt.