

Meeting	POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
Time/Day/Date	6.30 pm on Wednesday, 6 January 2016
Location	Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville
Officer to contact	Democratic Services (01530 454512)

All persons present are reminded that the meeting may be recorded and by attending this meeting you are giving your consent to being filmed and your image being used. You are kindly requested to make it known to the Chairman if you intend to film or record this meeting.

The Monitoring Officer would like to remind members that when they are considering whether the following items are exempt information under the relevant paragraph under part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 they must have regard to the public interest test. This means that members must consider, for each item, whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure outweighs the public interest in making the item available to the public.

AGENDA

Item	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
Under the Code of Conduct members are reminded that in declaring disclosable interests you should make clear the nature of that interest and whether it is pecuniary or non-pecuniary.	
3. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION	
To receive questions from members of the public under rule no.10 of the Council Procedure Rules. The procedure rule provides that members of the public may ask any question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the District, provided that three clear days' notice in writing has been given to the Head of Legal and Support Services.	
4. MINUTES	
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2015	3 - 10



5.	SECTION 106 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HEALTH	
	Report of the Director of Services	11 - 16
6.	PROPOSED LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY	
	Report of the Chief Executive	17 - 106
7.	HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2016/17 (WITH UPDATE)	
	Report of the Director of Housing	107 - 124
8.	DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS AND CAPITAL PROGRAMMES 2016/17	
	Report of the Head of Finance	125 - 150
9.	ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME	
	To consider any items to be included in the work programme. The plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions and the current work programme are attached for information.	151 - 176

Circulation:

Councillor R Blunt (Portfolio Holder)
 Councillor N Clarke
 Councillor J Cotterill
 Councillor J G Coxon
 Councillor T Eynon
 Councillor J Geary
 Councillor D Harrison
 Councillor V Richichi
 Councillor N J Rushton (Portfolio Holder)
 Councillor A C Saffell
 Councillor N Smith (Deputy Chairman)
 Councillor M Specht (Chairman)

MINUTES of a meeting of the POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

Present: Councillor M Specht (Chairman)

Councillors J Cotterill, J G Coxon, T Eynon, J Geary, D Harrison, S McKendrick (Substitute for Councillor N Clarke), V Richichi, A C Saffell and N Smith

In Attendance: Councillors R D Bayliss and J Legrys

Officers: Mr R Bowmer, Ms L Cotton, Mr D Gill, Mr M Harding, Mr G Jones, Mr C Lambert, Mrs C Macrory, Mrs R Wallace and Miss A Wright

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Clarke.

9. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions received.

11. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor J Cotterill, seconded by Councillor D Harrison and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12. UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report to Members. He focused initially on the changes to the Planning Code of Conduct and invited Members to comment.

Councillor A C Saffell asked, referring to the calling in of applications, if 'local concerns' included Parish Council's concerns. The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that to call in an application it would need to be supported by planning grounds and be a matter of local concern; this did include Parish Council concerns. Councillor A C Saffell asked if a Member had a strong planning ground to call in an application was it essential for it to be a matter of local concern also. The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that the change was to prevent Members calling in applications without a valid planning ground, so he would reconsider the wording to make it clearer. All Members agreed.

Councillor A C Saffell also raised concerns that as the District was now separated into single Member Wards, the power to call in applications had been restricted, especially as the constitution stated that 'a call in shall not be exercised by any member with a disclosable pecuniary interest' and also that it was only Ward Members who could call in an application. The Deputy Monitoring Officer reassured Members that public objection would still lead to an application being brought to Committee and that these procedure rules had always been in the constitution, it was only small changes to wording that had been proposed. After further pursuance of this concern by Councillor A C Saffell, the

Deputy Monitoring Officer suggested that the wording could be reconsidered to restrict the calling in of applications to ward members and adjoining Ward Members. This would help on the occasions that the Ward Members were unable to call in an application.

Councillor N Smith believed that the proposed changes were good ones and he was happy that it was only Ward Members who could call applications in as in the past they were called in for no valid reason.

Councillor J Geary made the following comments:

- There had been an incident in the past where a Ward Member had refused to call in an application, because of this the Member of Parliament got involved and Councillor J Geary himself called in the application. If that had not been done, the decision made by officers would have led to a great injustice. An occurrence such as this was Councillor J Geary's concern with single Member Wards and the calling in of applications by Ward Members only.
- He was concerned that the planning process was now all about streamlining and rushing through applications, this had led to public loss of confidence. He reported that there had been accusations that the members of Planning Committee were directed how to vote. This had led to the public perception that decisions were made politically, which of course was not true; he believed that needed to be addressed.
- He felt that all Ward Members should have the opportunity to speak at Planning Committee.
- He referred to many decisions within the code of practice for Members which were 'at the discretion of the Chairman', which did not help to ease the public perception that the Committee was not political.
- He believed that the proportionality of the Planning Committee should be fairer with equal numbers of Members from each political party.
- He was concerned that Members only had 5 working days to call in an application, because if the Ward Member was on leave it could be missed. This could lead to bad decisions being made.

Regarding the membership of the Planning Committee, the Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that it was subject to proportionality rules and it had to reflect the political balance of the authority.

Councillor T Eynon commented that it was important for the Council to be seen as approachable and that the change of a Ward Member only to call in applications did seem restrictive. She stressed that the wording needed to be reconsidered.

Councillor V Richichi expressed strong concerns regarding the proposed changes as he felt that democratic decision making was being taken away from Members. He believed that adjoining Ward Members should also be able to call in applications.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that he would take Members comments forward. He then moved on to present the remaining proposed constitutional changes to Members. He put forward an additional change to the delegations to the Interim Director of Resources in appendix 4 as follows:

In the interest of consistency, paragraph 5.2.9 to read 'Accountancy services (without prejudice to the statutory role and function of the Section 151 Officer)' as it did in paragraph 5.2.13 in reference to the Monitoring Officer role.

RESOLVED THAT:

- a) The report be noted.
- b) The Policy Development Group's comments be considered by Council when they meet to discuss the Update of the Council's Constitution.

13. HOUSING STRATEGY - OUTLINE DRAFT

The Housing Choices Team Manager presented the report to Members.

Councillor S McKendrick queried the housing stock figure detailed within the report as she had recently been given a different figure by officers. The Head of Housing agreed to check the figure and confirm with Councillor S McKendrick.

In response to a further question from Councillor S McKendrick, the Head of Housing reassured Members that before any changes were made to the older person's service, the wider networks which the service would rely on, would be consulted.

Councillor N Smith asked if there were enough care home places to deal with the aging population and if the Council has any input. The Head of Housing reported that it was not within the Council's provision to have an input on care homes, however it did have a role through extra care housing which provided a lower level of care but higher support. This bridges the gap between housing and care homes and is something that is currently being developed.

In response to a further question from Councillor N Smith, the Director of Housing stated that if the area was given an allocation of refugees to house, it could be possible to make the empty flats habitable quickly. The Council was currently waiting for confirmation on what was required nationally and the Leader of the Council wanted to do what was necessary to support the crisis. Councillor N Smith suggested that the preliminary work be carried out now so that it would be less work if housing was required. The Director of Housing took the comment on board.

Councillor T Eynon made the following comments:

- She found it helpful that the problems were highlighted within the strategy but was disappointed that there were no solutions.
- The supply and support information was useful but there should be outcomes. Councillor T Eynon hoped that as the strategy developed measures would be included not targets.
- More information such as waiting lists and affordable homes numbers broken down would be helpful to see regularly.
- Councillor T Eynon was pleased to see the green energy section.
- Councillor T Eynon felt that a 'sustainable' section was missing from the strategy.
- As a lot of housing benefit was being spent in the private renting section, Councillor T Eynon would like to see a reduction in the benefit allocated.

The Housing Choices Team Manager clarified that there would be more detailed outcomes and measures included within the strategy as it progressed.

Councillor S McKendrick supported Councillor T Enyon's comments regarding the importance of introducing measures as she felt it was important to monitor.

Councillor G Geary asked what would happen to the service if the new homes bonus was withdrawn or drastically reduced. The Head of Finance reassured Members that the funding had already been promised by national Government; however the Council did hold money in its reserves. This money would cover the withdrawn amount for approximately one year and in this time alternative plans for the budget would need to be developed with savings found. He recognised the dependency on the new homes bonus but explained that if it was not used how it was currently; savings would need to be found immediately.

Councillor A C Saffell also expressed concerns regarding the use of the new homes bonus as it was originally promised for new homes and after restrictions being relaxed was now used to support services, which would cause issues when withdrawn. He believed that a small increase in council tax would help bring more money into the Authority and he was struggling to justify why this had not already been done.

Councillor D Harrison believed that it was a good strategy and did not agree with Councillor A C Saffell's suggestion of an increase in council tax as the promise to not burden people with more tax was a good one.

RESOLVED THAT:

The comments provided by the Committee be considered by Cabinet when it meets to discuss the Housing Strategy.

14. HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Head of Housing presented the report to Members, highlighting the key outcomes and key issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.35pm for a brief comfort break and re-convened at 7.40pm.

Councillor S McKendrick and J Geary commented that a number of properties still had solid fuel heating systems with the occupant's receiving concessionary coal allowance and expressed concerns regarding the villages that were not connected to the main national gas network. The Head of Housing responded that there was no plan to immediately replace the systems but they would be replaced as part of a programme or as they broke down with a target of having them all replaced by 2025. He added that there were a reducing number of tenants in receipt of the solid fuel allowance but this would be taken into consideration. The suggestion to include reference in the strategy to the small number of properties with oil based systems was agreed.

Councillor T Eynon commented that she would like to see the strategy include worst case, middle case and best case scenarios for comparison purposes and stressed that it was not all about corporate viability. However, she did request that different financial assumptions be looked at and that the future inflation assumption of 2.5 per cent for income may be too optimistic. She also added that she would like to know more about the breakdown of bids for empty properties in her Ward. Regarding the summary of the investment needs and the potential disposal value of the sheltered schemes detailed within section nine of the report, Councillor T Eynon expressed concerns regarding the loss of housing and the cost of building new flats; she felt this cost should be included within the strategy.

Councillor J Coxon commented that there were many garage sites that were in a dilapidated condition and asked if these sites could be used for development of new affordable housing. The Head of Housing explained that sometimes sites were not viable for redevelopment due to their location or size but when they were, redevelopment was something they absolutely wanted to proceed with. Councillor T Eynon referred to the garage site at the end of Wyggeston Road and hoped that something would be done to improve sites such as those. The Head of Housing explained that they were trying to strike a balance between selling the land without any conditions and putting restrictions on them as it reduces the monetary value.

Councillor S McKendrick asked if the change from lifetime tenancies to five year tenancies had been taken into account when drafting the strategy. The Head of Housing responded that it had been considered in terms of rental income. He added that it would be difficult to predict what the affect of the fixed term tenancies would be until they have ended and this would be 2022 at the earliest.

Councillor S McKendrick thanked the officers for the work undertaken to produce the strategy.

RESOLVED THAT:

The comments provided by the Committee be considered by Cabinet when it meets on 20 October to discuss the Housing Asset Management Strategy.

15. ICT SERVICE UPDATE

The ICT Team Manager presented the report to Members.

In response to a question from Councillor J Geary, the ICT Team Manager reported that the movement of users email accounts to cloud servers would be rolled out for officers in October and Members shortly after once initial testing had been conducted.

Councillor N Smith asked why the desk top computers where operating on Microsoft Windows 7 when Microsoft Windows 10 was now available. The ICT Team Manager explained that it was standard practice to upgrade the operating system every other version to reduce costs. By using Microsoft Windows 7, the Council was in line with 95 per cent of other local authorities.

In response to a question from Councillor V Richichi, the ICT Team Manager reassured that even though savings were being made it would not compromise security as the threat of a breach was very real.

Councillor T Eynon commented that it was a very promising update. She asked how the remote access of emails would work and for reassurance that now the Council ICT systems were being brought up to date, they would be kept that way. The ICT Manager explained that emails would be available through a phone or tablet and would be password secured. Moving forward, he reassured that the plan was to keep everything up to date and as there were no radical changes, this was very possible. The ICT Manager's plan was to keep everything up to date with the private sector and by doing so, will keep the Council current.

Councillor A C Saffell commented that in his experience of working in ICT, issuing laptops and introducing 'hot desking' into the work place was very successful. He asked if that was the plan for the Council. The ICT Team Manager responded that it was the overall aim but it was challenging and involved other factors such as an accommodation strategy.

RESOLVED THAT:

The progress against the plan outlined in the Council's ICT Strategy be noted.

16. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The Financial Services Team Manager presented the report to Members.

Councillor T Eynon commented that it was an excellent document but she did have concerns regarding the reference to the monitoring of small and medium enterprises as the conversation she has had with these organisations indicate that they are not supported. She commented that it would be helpful to see more information, figures and costs with the small and medium enterprises. The Financial Services Team Manager replied that this information could be made available as it was something that was monitored internally.

Councillor A C Saffell commented that the suppliers listed had to be of a certain size and have a particular turnover figure to be used by the Council. This raised concerns as from his personal experience as a Parish Councillor, suppliers used by the Council were much more costly than a more local source. He felt that the smaller, local businesses often lost out. Councillor N Smith concurred. The Head of Finance responded that there were a number of reasons why the Council has particular suppliers on the list, including European regulations which a lot of the smaller organisations did not meet. However, small local suppliers could be used on occasion if there was a strong business case to do so.

In response to a question from Councillor J Coxon, the Financial Services Team Manager explained that there were events planned for the near future to encourage local businesses to bid for contracts as part of the Buy Local Scheme and those that have already registered for the scheme would be invited to attend in due course.

In response to a question from Councillor S McKendrick, the Financial Services Team Manager explained that when larger businesses bid for contracts they were asked how they would contribute to the local area. The Director of Housing added that sometimes local businesses did not want to undertake the larger contracts, even though they are encouraged to do so.

RESOLVED THAT:

The comments provided by the Committee be considered by Cabinet when it meets on 20 October to discuss the Procurement Strategy.

17. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the future work programme for the Policy Development Group.

Councillor J Geary asked that when the budget proposals were brought to committee that the portfolio holder be invited to talk to the report.

Councillor J Geary asked for a report regarding the creation of a Leicester and Leicestershire combined authority, and that the Leader of the Council be invited to talk to the report.

Regarding the item on work plan for the next meeting entitled 'Unspent Section 106 Money for Healthcare' Councillor T Eynon asked if, as stated in the previous minutes, the Council's Constitution had been consulted regarding the participation of NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that it had and

currently the Head of Community Services was looking into inviting the appropriate people to attend the meeting.

Councillor A C Saffell thanked the Housing Portfolio Holder for attending the meeting and commented that he believed Portfolio Holders should attend more often when their reports were being discussed.

RESOLVED THAT:

The following item be put on the future work programme:

The Creation of a Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.33 pm

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NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP – 6 JANUARY 2016

Title of report	SECTION 106 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HEALTH
Contacts	<p>Councillor Trevor Pendleton 01509 569746 trevor.pendleton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Director of Services 01530 454555 steve.bambrick@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Planning & Regeneration 01530 454782 jim.newton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	This report is intended to set out the total amount of Section 106 money that is held, the total that is unspent, and the efforts that have been made to enable the money to be spent on health infrastructure
Council Priorities	Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	If Section 106 money is not spent, the developer may request its return, plus interest, to be made by the Council. Unspent money is therefore listed as a liability, not an asset, on the Council's balance sheet
Link to relevant CAT	Not applicable
Risk Management	The risk associated with the content of this report is that developers could require the District Council to return the unspent health contributions, currently totalling £246,901.28
Equalities Impact Screening	Not applicable
Human Rights	Not applicable
Transformational Government	Not applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory

Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	None
Background papers	None
Recommendations	<p>IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NOTES THE AMOUNT OF SECTION 106 MONEY CURRENTLY BEING HELD FOR HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS; AND 2. CONSIDERS THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY OFFICERS TO FACILITATE SECTION 106 HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE SPENT WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE LEGAL AGREEMENTS

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Planning Obligations, or Section 106 Agreements, are entered into by developers and other bodies, including the District Council, in order that the impacts of development, specifically with respect to infrastructure, are adequately mitigated. Section 106 Agreements must address a deficiency of infrastructure that will result from the development. In other words, they enable development to be built that would not otherwise be granted planning permission. In the event that the money remains unspent after a certain period of time has elapsed, it is usual for agreements to include clauses that require, at the request of the developer, return of unspent contributions, plus interest.
- 1.2 The Policy Development Group has requested a report detailing the amount of Section 106 money currently held by the Council for health purposes, and an explanation of the efforts being made by officers to come to an agreement with GPs and Clinical Commissioning Groups to utilise the funds.
- 1.3 Separately to the Policy Development Group's request for this report, a formal request, using the Environmental Information Regulations, was also received from Cllr R Johnson, requesting a breakdown of healthcare contributions. That was provided on 12 August 2015 and is attached at Appendix1.

2.0 THE AMOUNT OF SECTION 106 MONEY, FOR HEALTHCARE, CURRENTLY HELD BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 2.1 The total amount of Section 106 money held by the Council for healthcare purposes is £1,303,274.35, of which £246,901.28 has not been spent within the time period specified within the S.106 agreement. This means that, in the absence of an agreement to the contrary, even if this money were now to be spent on health, the District Council would still

be required to repay the money to the developer, together with interest, if it was requested to do so.

3.0 EFFORTS BEING MADE BY OFFICERS TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH GPs

- 3.1 The Council has been trying for some considerable time to engage with the NHS to consider what plans they have in place to utilise section 106 monies. Unfortunately that engagement has been very difficult. However a meeting was held, on 17 November 2015, between senior officers and representatives of the NHS. At that meeting, the extent of Section 106 contributions for health were discussed, the opportunities and constraints of the funding itself were outlined, and finally it was agreed to follow up with a further meeting to consider further improvements that can be made to the process. It is expected that the further meeting will have been held by the time the Policy and Development Group meets and therefore a verbal update can be given to the meeting.

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S106 - CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED/TO BE SPENT

PLANNING APPLICATION REF NO.	DEVELOPER	SITE	TO BE SPENT ON	AGREEMENT DATED	INCOME RECEIVED	BALANCE AS AT 01.04.15	2015/16 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED	2015/16 EXPENDITURE	2015/16 & Future Years COMMITMENTS	BALANCE AS AT 16.06.15	DATE TO BE SPENT BY	EXPENDITURE CODE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE	CAPITAL/ REVENUE
HEALTHCARE														
08/01556/FULM 05/01794/OUT & 07/01487/REM	Bloors/Jelsons	Former Biscuit factory, Land at Meredith Place, Ashby	Healthcare	17-Jul-2007	04-Mar-09	106,314.69				106,314.69	24-Feb-2014	0945-1707	PCT	CAPITAL
	William Davis Homes	Land at Rosebank View, Measham	Healthcare	16-Oct-2006	27-May-09 17-Nov-08 & 20-May-10	39,521.96				39,521.96	27-May-2014	0945-1707	PCT	CAPITAL
07/00564/FUL 03/009000/FUL 05/01283/REM & 03/01880/OUT & 03/00249/VCU 05/01367/FUL 08/00227 & 07/00308 & 11/00382/REM	D'Zign Uk Ltd Taylor Wimpey	Land at Station Rd, Ashby: Royal Mews Dev Moores Transport, Ashby	Healthcare Healthcare	31-Oct-2006 14-Jun-2006	12-Nov-10	34,424.53 66,640.10				34,424.53 66,640.10	17-Nov-2013 20-May-2015	0945-1707 0945-1707	PCT PCT	CAPITAL CAPITAL
	Barratt Homes Ltd Central Homes	Stephenson's College 50 Tamworth Rd, Ashby	Healthcare Healthcare	2-Mar-2003 14-Feb-2006	07-Jan-11 19-Aug-11	51,311.06 8,352.50				51,311.06 8,352.50	7-Jan-2016 19-Aug-2016	0945-1707 0945-1707	PCT PCT	CAPITAL CAPITAL
	Cadeby Homes	Central Road, Hugglescote Dev of Land at First & Second floor unit 1, 7-9 Marlborough Centre, Marlborough Square.	Healthcare	10-Jun-2008	03-Feb-12	10,530.97				10,530.97	2-Feb-2017	0945-1707	PCT	CAPITAL
08/01596/FULM	Llohmack Ltd (Kanta Enterprises)		Healthcare Healthcare - provision of primary care centre in neighbourhood	22-Mar-2010	02-Mar-12	6,859.90				6,859.90	2-Mar-2017	0945-1707	PCT	CAPITAL
06/01220/OUT & 10/00840/REM 09/00887/FULM	David Wilson Homes David Wilson Homes	Land Adjoining Discovery Park, Ashby Rd, C/V Land off Battleflat Drive, Ellistown	Healthcare	5-Mar-2008 1-Apr-2010	05-Mar-12 16-Mar-12	54,575.62 49,431.75				54,575.62 49,431.75	5-Mar-2017 16-Mar-2017	0945-1707 0945-1707	PCT PCT	CAPITAL CAPITAL
06/00066/FUL & 09/1007/FUL 07/01414/FUL & 09/00061/FUL 10/00064/OUT 11/00380/VCU 11/00678/REM	Linden Homes Midland David Wilson Homes East Midlands	139 Ashby Rd, Coalville Land at Wilsons Grange Site, Leics Rd Ibstock	Healthcare Healthcare	30-Mar-2007 06-Oct-2010 04-Mar-2008 13-Mar-2009	19-Jun-12 14-Sep-12	94,845.72 28,946.59				94,845.72 28,946.59	19-Jun-2017 14-Sep-2017	0945-1707 0945-1707	PCT PCT	CAPITAL CAPITAL
	Bellway Homes	Citrus Grove, Kegworth	Healthcare	13-Jul-2011	11-Mar-13	83,910.70				83,910.70	11-Mar-2018	0945-1707	PCT	CAPITAL
09/01023/FUL 12/00413/FULM 11/00415/FULM 09/01016/FUL 11/00139/FUL 11/00231 12/00118/VCU 12/00646/FULM 13/00517/FULM 07/01844/FUL 09/00296/OUTM 13/00872 12/0074 11/00415/FULM	Sanctuary Group Bellway Homes Bellway Homes Cadeby Homes David Wilson Homes David Wilson Homes David Wilson Homes Ben Bailey Homes Bloors Homes	Malvern Crescent, Ashby Lount Works, Nottingham Rd, Lount, Ashby Rd, Ibstock Land at 117 Chapel Street, Ibstock Development at Towles Pastures Dev of Land at Leicester Rd, Ashby Pickering Nursery Site The Old Soap Factory, The Callis, Development at Park Lane, C/Don	Healthcare Healthcare Healthcare Healthcare Healthcare Healthcare Healthcare Healthcare Healthcare	1-Nov-2012 22-Dec-2011 23-Aug-2010 11-Feb-2011 20-Apr-2012 6-Aug-2013 13-Mar-2013 9-Jan-2014 5-May-2009	18-Apr-13 11-Jul-13 10-Sep-13 20-Feb-14 19-Sep-14 08-Sep-14 10-Nov-14 06-Feb-15 06-Feb-15	8,321.81 1,299.13 116,595.96 8,783.13 6,361.76 308,078.87 25,307.38 12,602.80 61,613.97			8,321.81 1,299.13 116,595.96 8,783.13 6,361.76 308,078.87 25,307.38 12,602.80 61,613.97	18-Apr-2018 11-Jul-2018 10-Sep-2018 20-Feb-2019 18-Sep-2019 8-Sep-2019 10-Nov-2019 6-Feb-2020 6-Feb-2020	0945-1707 0945-1707 0945-1707 0945-1707 0945-1707 0945-1707 0945-1707 0945-1707 0945-1707	PCT PCT PCT PCT PCT PCT PCT PCT PCT	CAPITAL CAPITAL CAPITAL CAPITAL CAPITAL CAPITAL CAPITAL CAPITAL CAPITAL	
	Persimmon Homes Bellway Homes	Haywood Gardens, Kegworth Lount works, Nottingham Rd, Ashby	Healthcare Healthcare	12-Mar-2010 22-Dec-2011	27-Feb-15 20-Feb-15	106,764.25 11,879.20				106,764.25 11,879.20	27-Feb-2020 20-Feb-2020	0945-1707 0945-1707	PCT PCT	CAPITAL CAPITAL
						1,303,274.35								

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NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP – 6 JANUARY 2016**

Title of report	PROPOSED LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
Contacts	<p>Councillor Richard Blunt 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Chief Executive 01530 454500 christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	To provide Policy Development Group with the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority.
Council Priorities	<p>Business and Jobs</p> <p>Homes and Communities</p>
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	Financial issues are contained within the appended Cabinet and Council reports and an update is set out in the body of this report.
Link to relevant CAT	None.
Risk Management	The appended Cabinet and Council reports address the risks associated with the proposed Combined Authority
Equalities Impact Screening	Not completed.
Human Rights	No discernible impact.
Transformational Government	By working together with the other Leicestershire authorities, we will secure more robust strategic decision making on important cross border issues and will be better positioned to take advantage of future devolution opportunities.
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory

Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	As detailed in the attached Cabinet and Council reports.
Background papers	None
Recommendations	THAT THE COMMITTEE PROVIDES ANY COMMENTS IT MAY HAVE TO THE LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR CONSIDERATION WHEN NEGOTIATING AND FINALISING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Reports on the proposed Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority were presented to Cabinet and Council for approval at their meetings of 10 and 17 November 2015, respectively. Policy Development Group is invited to consider these proposals and provide any comments to the Leader and Chief Executive to take into account when implementing the agreed recommendations.

1.2 Further details are included in the attached reports:

- Appendix A Report to Cabinet 10 November 2015, Proposed Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority
- Appendix B Report to Council 17 November 2015, Proposed Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority

2.0 UPDATE

2.1 At the time of drafting this report, all authorities who have considered a report on the proposed Combined Authority have approved the recommendations, with minor local changes in a number of authorities. Two further authorities are due to consider the report week commencing 14 December 2015 and a verbal update as to the progress at these meetings will be provided at meeting of Policy Development Group on 6 January 2016.

2.2 Further discussions have taken place between authorities in relation to the sharing of the costs of the Combined Authority between the constituent authorities. The exact costs of the Combined Authority are to be determined in discussion between the constituent authorities during 2016. In relation to apportionment of costs, the agreement reached is as follows:

- 2.2.1 the costs are to be divided into thirds: one third to be paid by Leicestershire County Council, one third to be paid by Leicester City Council and one third to be paid by the Districts and Boroughs of Leicestershire; and
- 2.2.2 the third to be paid by the Districts and Boroughs shall be split on a per capita basis.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – 10 NOVEMBER 2015

Title of report	PROPOSED LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
Key Decision	a) Financial Yes b) Community Yes
Contacts	Councillor Richard Blunt 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Chief Executive 01530 454500 christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of report	To seek Cabinet's approval to support the County-wide proposal to create a Combined Authority for Leicester and Leicestershire and delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to agree ancillary matters to bring this into effect.
Reason for Decision	To ensure North West Leicestershire District Council can benefit with the other local authorities in Leicestershire, from increased autonomy and funding to support strategic economic, transport and planning decisions.
Council Priorities	Business and Jobs Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	The costs of the Combined Authority shall be met by the Constituent Authorities. Further work on the budget for the Combined Authority will be undertaken in consultation with the Section 151 Officers of the Constituent Authorities.
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	The body of the report addresses the risks associated with the proposed Combined Authority.
Equalities Impact Screening	Not completed.

Human Rights	No discernible impact.
Transformational Government	By working together with the other Leicestershire authorities, we will secure more robust strategic decision making on important cross border issues and will be better positioned to take advantage of future devolution opportunities.
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	A public consultation has been conducted by Leicestershire County Council, the results are summarised in this report. Economic Growth Board – 5 November 2015
Background papers	<u>Initial Combined Authority proposal submitted to the Secretary of State on 3 July 2015</u> <u>Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009</u> <u>Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill</u>
Recommendations	THAT COUNCIL BE RECOMMENDED TO: 1. APPROVE THE SCHEME FOR THE COMBINED AUTHORITY; 2. APPROVE THE GOVERNANCE REVIEW; 3. AUTHORISE THE PUBLICATION OF THE SCHEME AND ITS SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT; 4. AUTHORISE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER, TO MAKE ANY FINAL AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW PRIOR TO THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER 2015 OR JANUARY 2016;

	<p>5. AUTHORISE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER, TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SUCH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER PERSONS AS ARE CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO AGREE THE TERMS OF THE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE COMBINED AUTHORITY AND TO APPROVE THE FINAL FORM OF THE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL; AND</p> <p>6. AUTHORISE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER:</p> <p>(I) TO NEGOTIATE, AGREE AND EXECUTE ALL ANCILLARY DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE OPERATION OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY, INCLUDING (WITHOUT LIMITATION) THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY; AND</p> <p>(II) TO TAKE ALL DECISIONS AND ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY.</p>
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 All nine councils in Leicester and Leicestershire have a strong record of working together and with business and other partner organisations to deliver economic growth. There are numerous examples of effective partnership working, particularly through the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership which has a positive track record of delivery.
- 1.2 The nine councils firmly believe they can build upon their successes by strengthening and formalising partnership arrangements through the creation of a Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority. In particular, this would allow more opportunity to work closely with government and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership to enhance their collective impact on economic growth in the area.
- 1.3 The nine Councils in Leicester and Leicestershire (the “Constituent Councils”) submitted a proposal to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 3 July 2015. This outlined the scope of the Combined Authority and has formed the basis of the actions taken since, outlined below.
- 1.4 All Executives and full Councils of the Constituent Councils are considering similar versions of this report.

2.0 CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 The Constituent Councils have a strong commitment to joint working and working with business and other partner organisations to deliver economic growth. The Governance Review explores the details of current arrangements and their successes.
- 2.2 Notwithstanding the positive outcomes from the current informal arrangements, the lack of formal, cohesive decision making between all the Constituent Councils on matters of strategic importance exposes the potential for growth to risks. Primarily, the current arrangements are not sufficient for the ambitions of the area in terms of long term funding commitments for transport investment and devolution of funding. Nor do they provide for the ability to commission skills programmes locally and manage growth within the area by demonstrating a stronger level of agreement (i.e. the Duty to Co-operate under the Localism Act 2011).

3.0 LEGAL BACKGROUND

The Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 (the “2009 Act”)

- 3.1 The 2009 Act sets out the statutory process for the creation of a Combined Authority. A Combined Authority is a public body with its own legal personality created by existing local authorities in an area, but is not a merger of those authorities.
- 3.2 A Combined Authority Order can be made for an area which meets the following conditions:
 - (i) it consists of the whole of two or more council areas in England;
 - (ii) no part of the area is separated from the rest of the Combined Authority by a non-constituent council (e.g. Leicester and Leicestershire could not be a combined authority area with Nottingham City because Nottinghamshire would be between the two areas);
 - (iii) the Combined Authority area does not surround a non-constituent council (e.g. Leicestershire could not form a combined authority without Leicester);
 - (iv) no part of the area is part of another combined authority, economic prosperity board or integrated transport area (this does not apply to non-constituent membership of another combined authority);
 - (v) all parts of the area were included in the scheme prepared and published;
 - (vi) all Councils in the area must consent (including two-tier area, where the County and Districts must agree).
- 3.3 Prior to submitting a proposal to the Secretary of State, Councils must conduct a governance review of their area, prepare a draft scheme meeting the conditions set out in the 2009 Act and then publish and consult on the proposals.

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill (the “Bill”)

- 3.4 If passed, the Bill proposes to broaden the scope of powers that it is possible to confer on a combined authority, beyond those related to economic development, strategic planning and transport. It will make it possible for the Secretary of State to transfer functions from an existing public authority (a Minister of the Crown or Government Department, but not a County or District Council) to a combined authority. In addition, the Secretary of State will have power to confer on a combined authority the general power of competence, which the Council enjoys under the Localism Act 2011.
- 3.5 The Bill makes changes to governance structures for combined authorities by enabling the Secretary of State to make a statutory order to ‘provide for there to be a mayor for the area of a combined authority’. However, the Minister has explained that this will not be used by the Secretary of State as a condition for agreeing to the transfer of local authority or public authority functions.
- 3.6 At present it is not known what the final changes to the Bill will be and when those changes will be brought into force, however the intention is that the Bill achieves Royal Assent by the end of 2015. The Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority Scheme and proposals set out in this report are therefore based on existing legislation, rather than the Bill.

4.0 GOVERNANCE REVIEW AND SCHEME

Governance Review

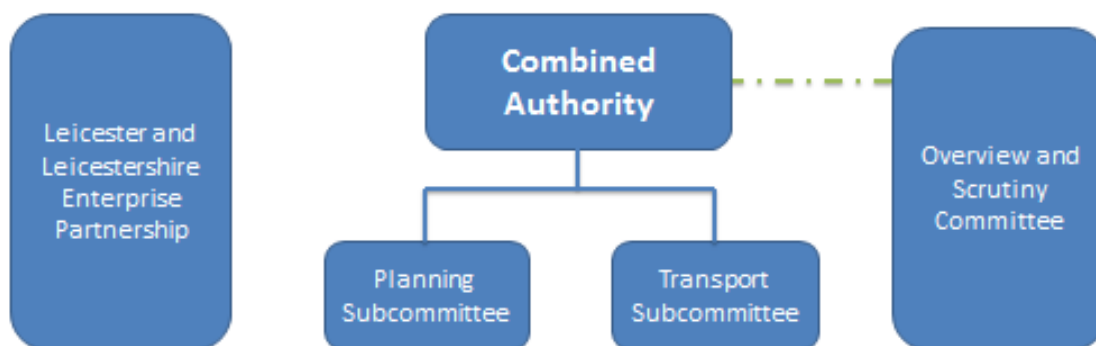
- 4.1 The Governance Review is an assessment of:
 - (i) the effectiveness and efficiency of transport within the review area; and
 - (ii) the effectiveness and efficiency of arrangements to promote economic development and regeneration within the review area.
- 4.2 The Governance Review, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, was undertaken by the Constituent Councils during August and September 2015. The findings of the review are clear that the best governance model to enable economic and transport improvements in the local area is a combined authority.
- 4.3 The benefits of the combined authority model include the provision of a simple means of fully aligning and coordinating transport planning and wider economic development and regeneration, including strategic planning, across a sub-region. This would enable economic development and regeneration and transport initiatives to be aligned, co-ordinated, and delivered swiftly and efficiently by a single body.
- 4.4 The Combined Authority will also enable a shared understanding about Leicester and Leicestershire as a single economic area across the Constituent Councils and will create a strategic framework for economic development and transport which will ensure consistency in local decision making. It will also increase the control and influence of the Constituent Councils across the key drivers of economic growth.

- 4.5 The Governance Review considered alternatives to having a combined authority; for example that the Constituent Councils could continue to work together as they are, or form a joint committee, or an economic prosperity board. However, as analysed in the Governance Review, none of these options would give the full benefits of a combined authority. This is shown in the table below:-

Option	Evaluation
Maintain the Status Quo	Maintaining the status quo would mean difficulties in accessing new funding and powers in line with the ambitions of the area. It would leave Leicester and Leicestershire behind other areas and would therefore be likely to have a detrimental impact on the economy of the area in the future. It would not strengthen the governance processes which largely rely on informal arrangements.
Joint Committee	The establishment of a Joint Committee would strengthen the current partnership arrangements and place them on a more formal basis. However, there is a lack of stability and certainty which is unlikely to secure long term funding commitments. In addition, the lack of legal status and financial accountability means that the same difficulties in accessing new funding and powers presented by status quo are likely to be encountered.
Economic Prosperity Board	An Economic Prosperity Board would provide strategic direction and accountability for economic development and regeneration and would ensure that a single formal decision-making body was in place for this. However, strategic transport would not be included in these arrangements, thus greatly limiting the scope for increased effectiveness and efficiency.
Combined Authority	A Combined Authority with devolved funding would create a clear and effective platform for accelerating economic prosperity in Leicester and Leicestershire through the creation of integrated, strategic frameworks to enable the delivery of investment plans for planning, transport and skills.

Draft Scheme

- 4.6 The Scheme is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. It will form the basis for the Order made by the Secretary of State. Part 1 of the Scheme clarifies arrangements relating to membership, voting, and scrutiny.
- 4.7 The Scheme is based on a concurrent powers model with no transfer of existing powers. No Constituent Council is ceding existing functions to the Combined Authority. This is consistent with established and emerging combined authorities.
- 4.8 The diagram below sets out a proposed governance model for the Combined Authority:-



As the Combined Authority will be a form of local authority in its own right, it will be able to form committees and subcommittees in the same way a Constituent Council would, but could only delegate decisions which the Combined Authority itself could make. The above is a proposed model only and the number and purpose any subcommittees would be subject to agreement between the Constituent Authorities and included in the Combined Authority's Constitution.

- 4.9 Each of the nine Constituent Councils will appoint a full voting member of the Combined Authority, with the Chair of the LLEP being a non-voting Member.
- 4.10 Each Constituent Council will appoint elected members to the joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee as are required to achieve political balance across the area of the Combined Authority. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee cannot also be members of the Combined Authority itself, or a member of the Executive of a Constituent Council. Government advises that the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should not be a member of the major political party represented on the Combined Authority. This has been carried through into the current version of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill.
- 4.11 The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be to review and scrutinise decisions or other actions taken by the Combined Authority, through inviting the relevant members or officers to attend meetings and to make reports or recommendations to the Combined Authority. Further details are included in the Scheme.
- 4.12 Part 2 of the Scheme sets out the powers and duties of the proposed Combined Authority and gives examples of how it might utilise them. In summary, these are:
- (i) **Planning:** Councils working together to agree a clearer, long-term framework to meet future housing and employment needs for the whole area and identify future growth locations.
 - (ii) **Transport:** focussing on long-term investment in road, rail and other public transport infrastructure.
 - (iii) **Skills:** setting the strategic direction for making improvements in skills and training, to give local people the chance to get better qualifications and employment.

- 4.13 Following consultation, part 2 of the Scheme has been updated to remove skills devolution from central Government. This is part of the devolution bid that has been submitted and will be pursued separately to the establishment of the Combined Authority.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Stakeholder and public engagement was undertaken between 21 September and 20 October 2015 to establish the level of support for the Scheme and findings of the Governance Review. This involved a survey of residents, staff and stakeholders, but also included the invitation to submit views by letter or email. The survey was made available on the council website from 21 September 2015. This was accompanied by supporting information which set out the proposals in more detail.
- 5.2 260 responses were received through the Combined Authority consultation. An analysis of the responses is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.
- 5.3 There was a high level of support for establishing a Combined Authority with 68.8% of respondents either 'strongly agreeing' or 'tending to agree' that, to enable economic and transport improvements, a combined authority is the best governance model for Leicester and Leicestershire, on the basis that it would avoid duplication and provide value for money. They also commented that it would improve co-ordination between authorities. Those respondents that either 'tended to disagree' or 'strongly disagreed' with the statement expressed concerns about losing local accountability and highlighted the differences between the city and the county.
- 5.4 There was a similar level of support for the proposed functions of the Combined Authority with 71% of respondents either 'strongly agreeing' or 'tending to agree' that the proposed functions are appropriate, commenting that they are key issues affecting the whole of the Combined Authority area. Just over a fifth of respondents did not support the proposed functions, again expressing concerns that local accountability would be lost.
- 5.5 The supportive nature of the responses to the consultation enables the Constituent Councils to proceed on the basis set out at the start of the consultation period. However, it will be important for the constitution of the Combined Authority to ensure that local accountability is retained through the new structures. The constitution should also include a process for the resolution of disputes.
- 5.6 The responses received through the consultation proceed will also feed into the work of the Combined Authority once established.

6.0 BENEFITS OF A COMBINED AUTHORITY FOR NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE

- 6.1 In summary, it is officers' view that the following represents the economic case for North West Leicestershire pursuing a Combined Authority:
- (i) The District has prospered in recent times as a result of strong demand for employment land and new housing;

- (ii) The District lies within the 'golden triangle', with exceptional juxtaposition of road, rail and air facilities, making the area very attractive to businesses, particularly in logistics and distribution; and
- (iii) The area is at the heart of the National Forest and provides an exceptional quality of life.

6.2 However:

- (i) Local businesses are struggling to find the right number of employees with the right skills;
- (ii) Local employees are finding it difficult to physically access new jobs;
- (iii) Major economic growth planning is not done most sensibly at district level: the market economy does not respect district boundaries; and
- (iv) National policies and funding are failing to address local skills needs: the system is too slow and does not reflect local need.

6.3 What could a Combined Authority offer to North West Leicestershire?

- (i) Aligned with the Strategic Economic Plan and statutory Local Plans the Strategic Growth Plan will provide certainty over planning and delivery;
- (ii) There would be more coordination and co-operation on the planning of land use, transportation and skills development within a clear decision-making framework;
- (iii) Speaking with a strong, single, collective voice will demonstrate strength and confidence, supporting applications for central government funding;
- (iv) Decisions taken within the Combined Authority would be binding (stronger than the partnership model in place now);
- (v) There will be a formal framework which will assist the assessment of major development proposals – one point of call, one response;
- (vi) Genuinely strategic decision-making which understands 'the bigger picture' and the role of Leicester and Leicestershire within a national and global context;
- (vii) Understanding the bigger picture will allow us to identify the need for a plan for major infrastructure projects;
- (viii) Local business will be able to benefit from consistent support across the wider area and benefit from accelerated growth in the local economy;
- (ix) Environmental assets will be conserved and enhanced creating the 'soft' conditions for high skills, high GVA employment opportunities;
- (x) Understanding demographics across a wider field will help to identify potential new growth sectors (e.g. ageing population and the care industry); matching skills, housing

and jobs;

- (xi) Some actions (e.g. major infrastructure) cannot be planned at the local level;
- (xii) We can build skills for the future: target skills funding at growth sectors, the highest value jobs, and at sections of the population that can become more economically active, e.g. women; and
- (xiii) The authority veto would mean that decisions are not made if they are not supported by the 'host' district.

7.0 RESOURCES

- 7.1 Over the last four years, there have been significant reductions in the Government's funding of local authorities. Reductions in local government have been higher than in other parts of the public sector. It is therefore imperative that all future governance models are efficient and reduce duplication and waste wherever possible.
- 7.2 The costs of the Combined Authority that are reasonably attributable to the exercise of its functions relating to economic development and regeneration (and any start up costs) will be met by the Constituent Councils. These will be identified in more detail in due course.
- 7.3 The Combined Authority will agree an annual budget for the purpose of this expenditure to enable it to develop and implement the following:
 - (i) a joint economic vision for the area of the Combined Authority;
 - (ii) a strategic growth plan looking to 2050 for the area of the Combined Authority;
 - (iii) a strategic asset management plan;
 - (iv) a single strategic transport master plan for the area of the Combined Authority and associated transport infrastructure investment strategy;
 - (v) a long term investment strategy for the Combined Authority area; and
 - (vi) a growth deal framework.
- 7.4 The costs relating to the Combined Authority shall be met by the Constituent Councils. The budget for the Combined Authority will be the subject of further detailed work in consultation with the Section 151 Officers from the Constituent Councils.
- 7.5 The staffing and servicing arrangements for the Combined Authority will need to be agreed between the Constituent Councils, which will be supported by a number of supporting contractual arrangements between those parties. These will need to be negotiated and agreed while the DCLG is considering the draft Scheme and preparing the Order.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 If Cabinet agrees with the recommendations, Council will consider the Combined Authority proposal at their meeting on 17 November 2015. All Councils in Leicester and Leicestershire are following a similar process during November and December. The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Board will be considering the Combined Authority at its meeting on 26 November 2015.
- 8.2 If all Constituent Councils agree, the Governance Review and Scheme will be submitted to the DCLG in December 2015 or January 2016. The DCLG will consider the Scheme and if approved will conduct a second period of consultation and draft an Order to create the Combined Authority, before laying this before Parliament. It is hoped that the Order will be made law in October 2016. Officers will work with the DCLG throughout this process.
- 8.3 In the meantime, officers of the Constituent Councils will work together to agree the practical, legal and operational arrangements for the Combined Authority, expanding upon the governance principles outlined in the Scheme. The documentation will include a full Constitution and Standing Orders for the Combined Authority, agreements between the Constituent Councils in relation to resourcing the Combined Authority and any other necessary arrangements.

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NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 17 NOVEMBER 2015

Title of report	PROPOSED LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
Contacts	<p>Councillor Richard Blunt 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Chief Executive 01530 454500 christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	To seek Council's approval to support the County-wide proposal to create a Combined Authority for Leicester and Leicestershire and delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to agree ancillary matters to bring this into effect.
Council Priorities	Business and Jobs Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	The costs of the Combined Authority shall be met by the Constituent Authorities. Further work on the budget for the Combined Authority will be undertaken in consultation with the Section 151 Officers of the Constituent Authorities.
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	The body of the report addresses the risks associated with the proposed Combined Authority.
Equalities Impact Screening	Not completed
Human Rights	No discernible impact
Transformational Government	By working together with the other Leicestershire authorities, we will secure more robust strategic decision making on important cross border issues and will be better positioned to take advantage of future devolution opportunities.
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory.

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Consultees	<p>A public consultation has been conducted by Leicestershire County Council, the results are summarised in this report.</p> <p>Economic Growth Board – 5th November 2015</p> <p>Cabinet – 10th November 2015</p>
Background papers	<p>Initial Combined Authority proposal submitted to the Secretary of State on 3 July 2015</p> <p>Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority: Governance Review [Appendix 1]</p> <p>Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority: Draft Scheme [Appendix 2]</p> <p>Report to Cabinet – 10 November 2015</p> <p>Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009</p> <p>Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill</p>
Recommendations	<p>THAT COUNCIL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APPROVES THE SCHEME FOR THE COMBINED AUTHORITY; 2. APPROVES THE GOVERNANCE REVIEW; 3. AUTHORISES THE PUBLICATION OF THE SCHEME AND ITS SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT; 4. AUTHORISES THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER, TO MAKE ANY FINAL AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW PRIOR TO THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER 2015 OR JANUARY 2016;

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 All nine councils in Leicester and Leicestershire have a strong record of working together and with business and other partner organisations to deliver economic growth. There are numerous examples of effective partnership working, particularly through the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership which has a positive track record of delivery.
- 1.2 The nine councils firmly believe they can build upon their successes by strengthening and formalising partnership arrangements through the creation of a Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority. In particular, this would allow more opportunity to work closely with government and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership to enhance their collective impact on economic growth in the area.
- 1.3 The nine Councils in Leicester and Leicestershire (the “Constituent Councils”) submitted a proposal to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 3 July 2015. This outlined the scope of the Combined Authority and has formed the basis of the actions taken since, outlined below.
- 1.4 All Executives and full Councils of the Constituent Councils are considering similar versions of this report. On the 10 November 2015, North West Leicester District Council’s Cabinet agreed to refer the above recommendations to Council for approval.

2.0 CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 The Constituent Councils have a strong commitment to joint working and working with business and other partner organisations to deliver economic growth. The Governance Review explores the details of current arrangements and their successes.
- 2.2 Notwithstanding the positive outcomes from the current informal arrangements, the lack of formal, cohesive decision making between all the Constituent Councils on matters of strategic importance exposes the potential for growth to risks. Primarily, the current arrangements are not sufficient for the ambitions of the area in terms of long term funding commitments for transport investment and devolution of funding. Nor do they provide for the ability to commission skills programmes locally and manage growth within the area by demonstrating a stronger level of agreement (i.e. the Duty to Co-operate under the Localism Act 2011).

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- 3.6 At present it is not known what the final changes to the Bill will be and when those changes will be brought into force, however the intention is that the Bill achieves Royal Assent by the end of 2015. The Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority Scheme and proposals set out in this report are therefore based on existing legislation, rather than the Bill.

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Governance Review

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 - (ii) the effectiveness and efficiency of arrangements to promote economic development and regeneration within the review area.
- 4.2 The Governance Review, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, was undertaken by the Constituent Councils during August and September 2015. The findings of the review are clear that the best governance model to enable economic and transport improvements in the local area is a combined authority.
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- 4.4 The Combined Authority will also enable a shared understanding about Leicester and Leicestershire as a single economic area across the Constituent Councils and will create a strategic framework for economic development and transport which will ensure consistency in local decision making. It will also increase the control and influence of the Constituent Councils across the key drivers of economic growth.
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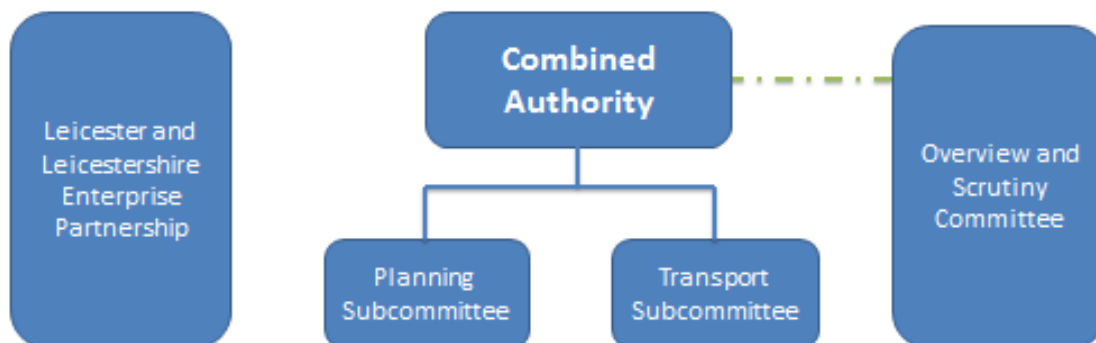
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Joint Committee	The establishment of a Joint Committee would strengthen the current partnership arrangements and place them on a more formal basis. However, there is a lack of stability and certainty which is unlikely to secure long term funding commitments. In addition, the lack of legal status and financial accountability means that the same difficulties in accessing new funding and powers presented by status quo are likely to be encountered.
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Combined Authority	A Combined Authority with devolved funding would create a clear and effective platform for accelerating economic prosperity in Leicester and Leicestershire through the creation of integrated, strategic frameworks to enable the delivery of investment plans for planning, transport and skills.

Draft Scheme

- 4.6 The Scheme is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. It will form the basis for the Order made by the Secretary of State. Part 1 of the Scheme clarifies arrangements relating to membership, voting, and scrutiny.
- 4.7 The Scheme is based on a concurrent powers model with no transfer of existing powers. No Constituent Council is ceding existing functions to the Combined Authority. This is consistent with established and emerging combined authorities.

4.8 The diagram below sets out a proposed governance model for the Combined Authority:-



As the Combined Authority will be a form of local authority in its own right, it will be able to form committees and subcommittees in the same way a Constituent Council would, but could only delegate decisions which the Combined Authority itself could make. The above is a proposed model only and the number and purpose any subcommittees would be subject to agreement between the Constituent Authorities and included in the Combined Authority's Constitution.

4.9 Each of the nine Constituent Councils will appoint a full voting member of the Combined Authority, with the Chair of the LLEP being a non-voting Member.

4.10 Each Constituent Council will appoint elected members to the joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee as are required to achieve political balance across the area of the Combined Authority. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee cannot also be members of the Combined Authority itself, or a member of the Executive of a Constituent Council. Government advises that the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should not be a member of the major political party represented on the Combined Authority. This has been carried through into the current version of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill.

4.11 The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be to review and scrutinise decisions or other actions taken by the Combined Authority, through inviting the relevant members or officers to attend meetings and to make reports or recommendations to the Combined Authority. Further details are included in the Scheme.

4.12 Part 2 of the Scheme sets out the powers and duties of the proposed Combined Authority and gives examples of how it might utilise them. In summary, these are:

- (i) **Planning:** Councils working together to agree a clearer, long-term framework to meet future housing and employment needs for the whole area and identify future growth locations.
- (ii) **Transport:** focussing on long-term investment in road, rail and other public transport infrastructure.
- (iii) **Skills:** setting the strategic direction for making improvements in skills and training, to give local people the chance to get better qualifications and employment.

- 4.13 Following consultation, part 2 of the Scheme has been updated to remove skills devolution from central Government. This is part of the devolution bid that has been submitted and will be pursued separately to the establishment of the Combined Authority.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Stakeholder and public engagement was undertaken between 21 September and 20 October 2015 to establish the level of support for the Scheme and findings of the Governance Review. This involved a survey of residents, staff and stakeholders, but also included the invitation to submit views by letter or email. The survey was made available on the council website from 21 September 2015. This was accompanied by supporting information which set out the proposals in more detail.
- 5.2 260 responses were received through the Combined Authority consultation. An analysis of the responses is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.
- 5.3 There was a high level of support for establishing a Combined Authority with 68.8% of respondents either 'strongly agreeing' or 'tending to agree' that, to enable economic and transport improvements, a combined authority is the best governance model for Leicester and Leicestershire, on the basis that it would avoid duplication and provide value for money. They also commented that it would improve co-ordination between authorities. Those respondents that either 'tended to disagree' or 'strongly disagreed' with the statement expressed concerns about losing local accountability and highlighted the differences between the city and the county.
- 5.4 There was a similar level of support for the proposed functions of the Combined Authority with 71% of respondents either 'strongly agreeing' or 'tending to agree' that the proposed functions are appropriate, commenting that they are key issues affecting the whole of the Combined Authority area. Just over a fifth of respondents did not support the proposed functions, again expressing concerns that local accountability would be lost.
- 5.5 The supportive nature of the responses to the consultation enables the Constituent Councils to proceed on the basis set out at the start of the consultation period. However, it will be important for the constitution of the Combined Authority to ensure that local accountability is retained through the new structures. The constitution should also include a process for the resolution of disputes.
- 5.6 The responses received through the consultation proceed will also feed into the work of the Combined Authority once established.
- 5.7 Cabinet considered a similar version of this report on 10 November. Draft minutes of that meeting will be circulated to Members prior to this meeting of Council.

6.0 BENEFITS OF A COMBINED AUTHORITY FOR NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE

- 6.1 In summary, it is officers' view that the following represents the economic case for North West Leicestershire pursuing a Combined Authority:

- (i) The District has prospered in recent times as a result of strong demand for employment land and new housing;
- (ii) The District lies within the 'golden triangle', with exceptional juxtaposition of road, rail and air facilities, making the area very attractive to businesses, particularly in logistics and distribution; and
- (iii) The area is at the heart of the National Forest and provides an exceptional quality of life.

6.2 However:

- (i) Local businesses are struggling to find the right number of employees with the right skills;
- (ii) Local employees are finding it difficult to physically access new jobs;
- (iii) Major economic growth planning is not done most sensibly at district level: the market economy does not respect district boundaries; and
- (iv) National policies and funding are failing to address local skills needs: the system is too slow and does not reflect local need.

6.3 What could a Combined Authority offer to North West Leicestershire?

- (i) Aligned with the Strategic Economic Plan and statutory Local Plans the Strategic Growth Plan will provide certainty over planning and delivery;
- (ii) There would be more coordination and co-operation on the planning of land use, transportation and skills development within a clear decision-making framework;
- (iii) Speaking with a strong, single, collective voice will demonstrate strength and confidence, supporting applications for central government funding;
- (iv) Decisions taken within the Combined Authority would be binding (stronger than the partnership model in place now);
- (v) There will be a formal framework which will assist the assessment of major development proposals – one point of call, one response;
- (vi) Genuinely strategic decision-making which understands 'the bigger picture' and the role of Leicester and Leicestershire within a national and global context;
- (vii) Understanding the bigger picture will allow us to identify the need for a plan for major infrastructure projects;
- (viii) Local business will be able to benefit from consistent support across the wider area and benefit from accelerated growth in the local economy;

- (ix) Environmental assets will be conserved and enhanced creating the 'soft' conditions for high skills, high GVA employment opportunities;
- (x) Understanding demographics across a wider field will help to identify potential new growth sectors (e.g. ageing population and the care industry); matching skills, housing and jobs;
- (xi) Some actions (e.g. major infrastructure) cannot be planned at the local level;
- (xii) We can build skills for the future: target skills funding at growth sectors, the highest value jobs, and at sections of the population that can become more economically active, e.g. women; and
- (xiii) The authority veto would mean that decisions are not made if they are not supported by the 'host' district.

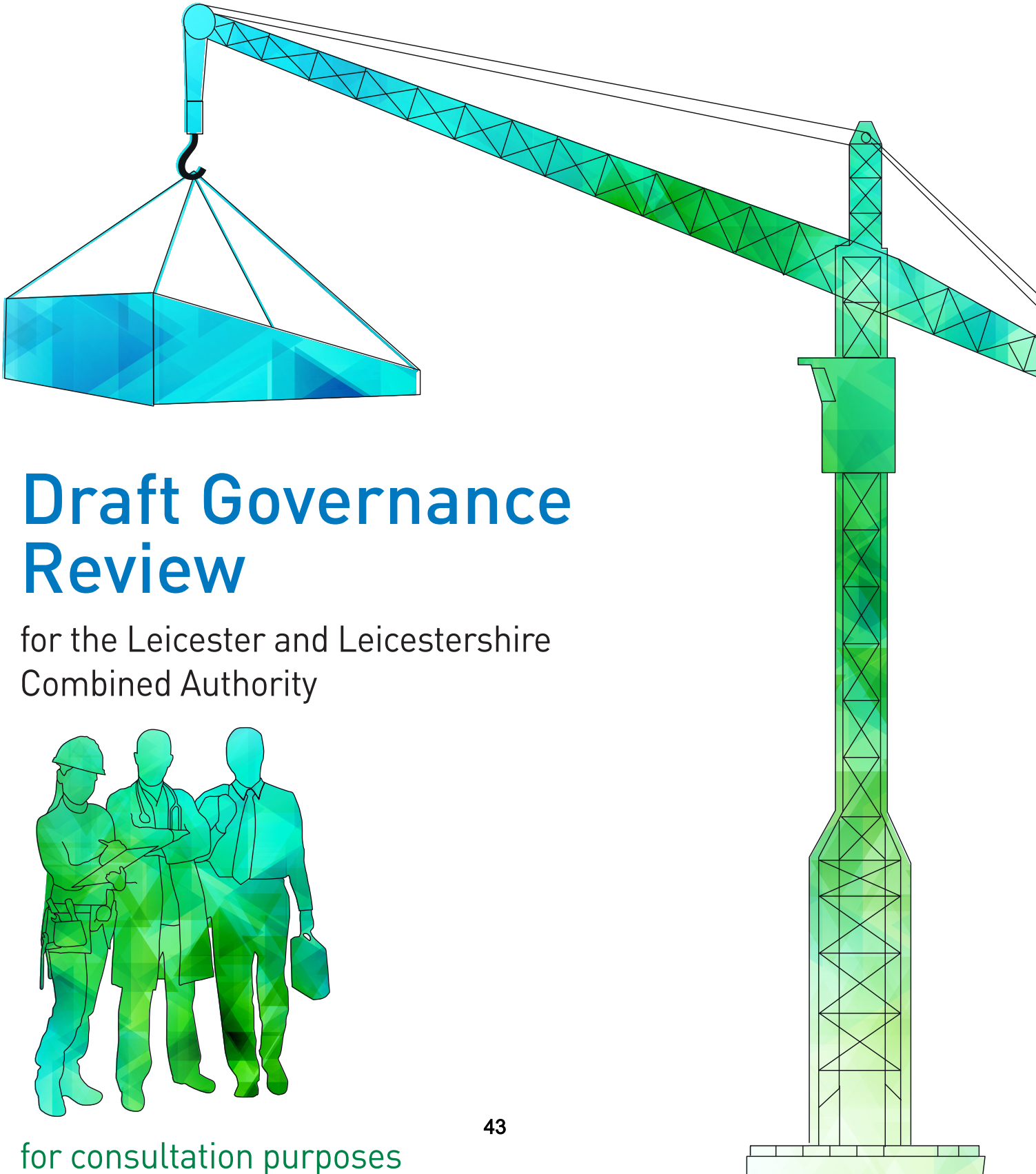
7.0 RESOURCES

- 7.1 Over the last four years, there have been significant reductions in the Government's funding of local authorities. Reductions in local government have been higher than in other parts of the public sector. It is therefore imperative that all future governance models are efficient and reduce duplication and waste wherever possible.
- 7.2 The costs of the Combined Authority that are reasonably attributable to the exercise of its functions relating to economic development and regeneration (and any start up costs) will be met by the Constituent Councils. These will be identified in more detail in due course.
- 7.3 The Combined Authority will agree an annual budget for the purpose of this expenditure to enable it to develop and implement the following:
 - (i) a joint economic vision for the area of the Combined Authority;
 - (ii) a strategic growth plan looking to 2050 for the area of the Combined Authority;
 - (iii) a strategic asset management plan;
 - (iv) a single strategic transport master plan for the area of the Combined Authority and associated transport infrastructure investment strategy;
 - (v) a long term investment strategy for the Combined Authority area; and
 - (vi) a growth deal framework.
- 7.4 The costs relating to the Combined Authority shall be met by the Constituent Councils. The budget for the Combined Authority will be the subject of further detailed work in consultation with the Section 151 Officers from the Constituent Councils.
- 7.5 The staffing and servicing arrangements for the Combined Authority will need to be agreed between the Constituent Councils, which will be supported by a number of supporting contractual arrangements between those parties. These will need to be negotiated and agreed while the DCLG is considering the draft Scheme and preparing the Order.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 All Councils in Leicester and Leicestershire are passing a similar form of report through the Executives and full Councils during November and December. The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Board will be considering the Combined Authority at its meeting on 26 November 2015.
- 8.2 If all Constituent Councils agree, the Governance Review and Scheme will be submitted to the DCLG in December 2015 or January 2016. The DCLG will consider the Scheme and if approved will conduct a second period of consultation and draft an Order to create the Combined Authority, before laying this before Parliament. It is hoped that the Order will be made law in October 2016. Officers will work with the DCLG throughout this process.
- 8.3 In the meantime, officers of the Constituent Councils will work together to agree the practical, legal and operational arrangements for the Combined Authority, expanding upon the governance principles outlined in the Scheme. The documentation will include a full Constitution and Standing Orders for the Combined Authority, agreements between the Constituent Councils in relation to resourcing the Combined Authority and any other necessary arrangements.

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Draft Governance Review

for the Leicester and Leicestershire
Combined Authority

for consultation purposes

1. Introduction

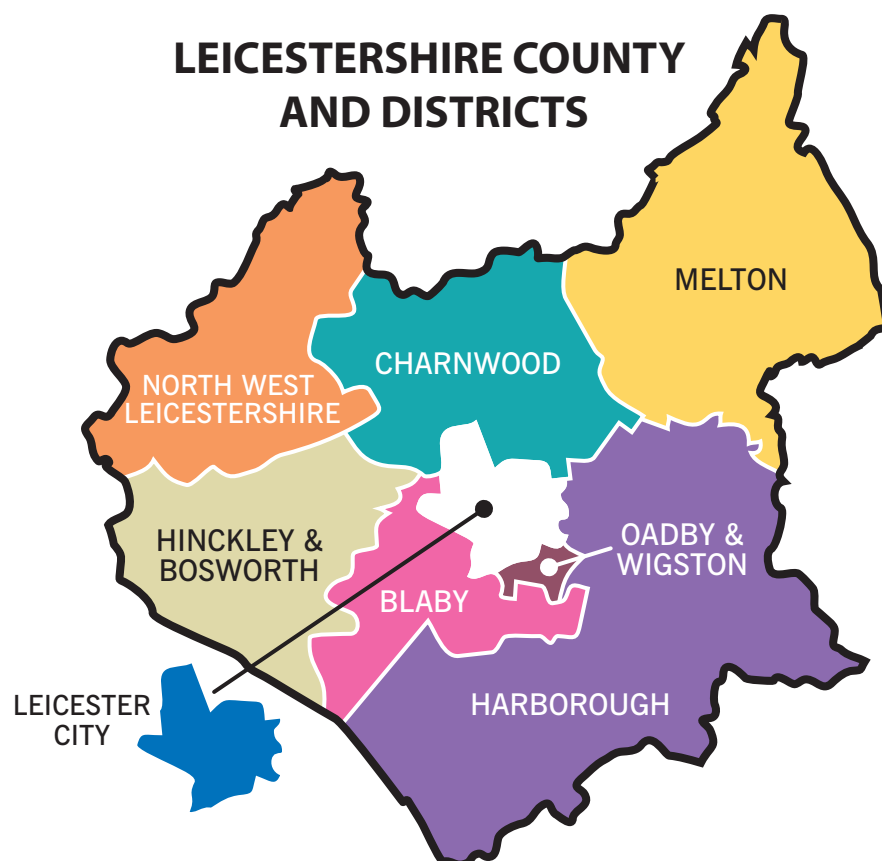
On 25 June 2015 the Leaders of Leicester and Leicestershire's nine local authorities met as the Economic Growth Board for Leicester and Leicestershire and agreed proposals to review their governance arrangements in order to deliver their ambitious plans for growth in Leicester and Leicestershire.

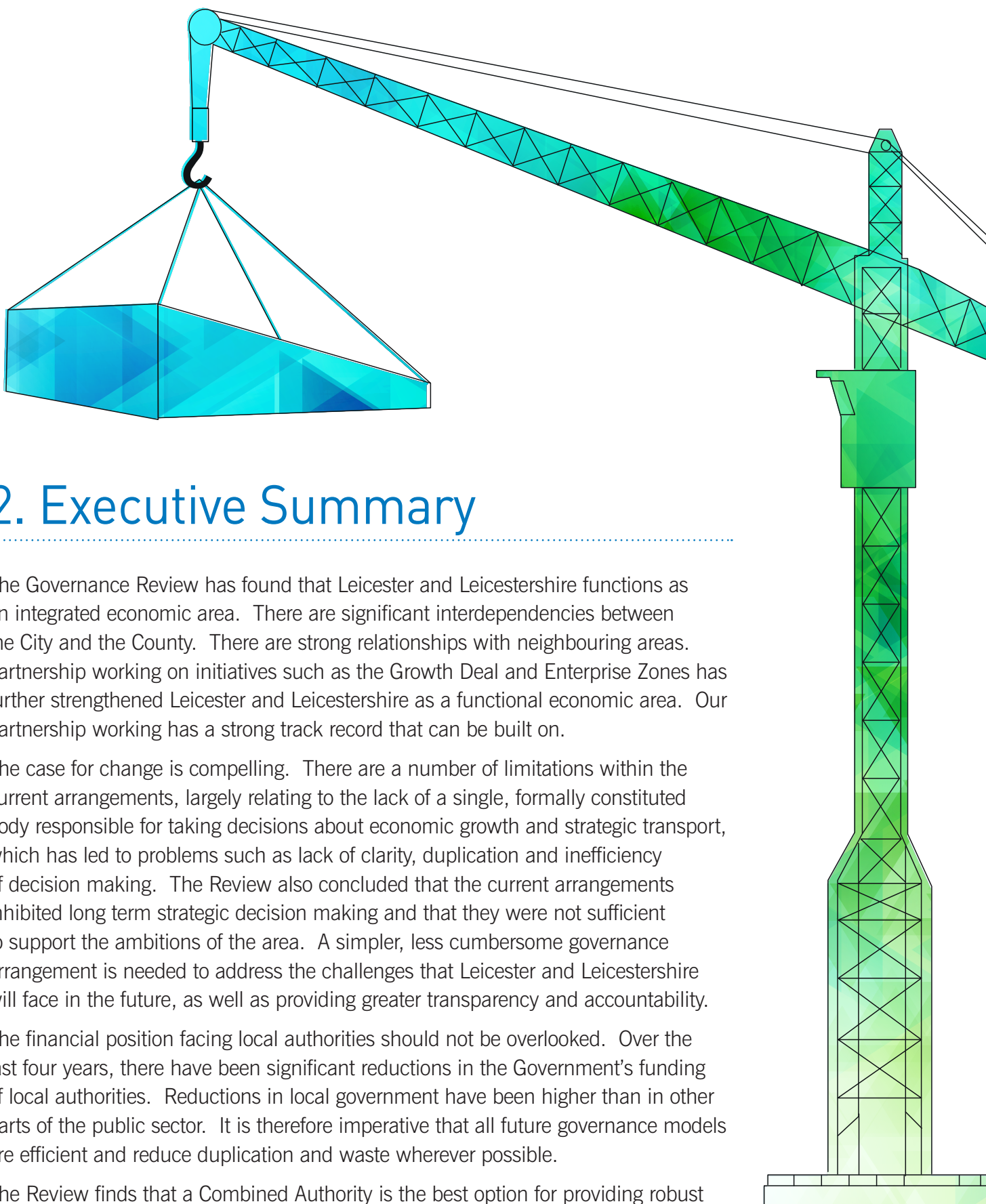
This document details the findings of the governance review undertaken in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, to review the effectiveness and efficiency of transport within the area and the arrangements to promote economic development and regeneration. The review aims to identify the most effective way in which policy and strategy on these major functions can be joined up across geographical boundaries. It has included consideration as to whether a Combined Authority or Economic Prosperity Board would be most likely to improve the overall economic conditions in Leicester and Leicestershire.

A period of consultation will be undertaken before a final decision is made by the nine local authorities regarding the governance model.

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2. Executive Summary

The Governance Review has found that Leicester and Leicestershire functions as an integrated economic area. There are significant interdependencies between the City and the County. There are strong relationships with neighbouring areas. Partnership working on initiatives such as the Growth Deal and Enterprise Zones has further strengthened Leicester and Leicestershire as a functional economic area. Our partnership working has a strong track record that can be built on.

The case for change is compelling. There are a number of limitations within the current arrangements, largely relating to the lack of a single, formally constituted body responsible for taking decisions about economic growth and strategic transport, which has led to problems such as lack of clarity, duplication and inefficiency of decision making. The Review also concluded that the current arrangements inhibited long term strategic decision making and that they were not sufficient to support the ambitions of the area. A simpler, less cumbersome governance arrangement is needed to address the challenges that Leicester and Leicestershire will face in the future, as well as providing greater transparency and accountability.

The financial position facing local authorities should not be overlooked. Over the last four years, there have been significant reductions in the Government's funding of local authorities. Reductions in local government have been higher than in other parts of the public sector. It is therefore imperative that all future governance models are efficient and reduce duplication and waste wherever possible.

The Review finds that a Combined Authority is the best option for providing robust governance across Leicester and Leicestershire. It will act as a clear and effective platform for accelerating economic prosperity in Leicester and Leicestershire through the creation of integrated, strategic frameworks to enable the delivery of investment plans for planning, transport and skills.

3. Methodology for the Governance Review

The governance review has comprised the following:-

- A review of the economic evidence in order to assess the effectiveness of current arrangements (August 2015 – October 2015);
- Desk research of possible future governance structures and an analysis of their advantages (August 2015);
- Stakeholder engagement on the draft review (September – October 2015);
- Final version submitted to the constituent councils for approval (November – December 2015).

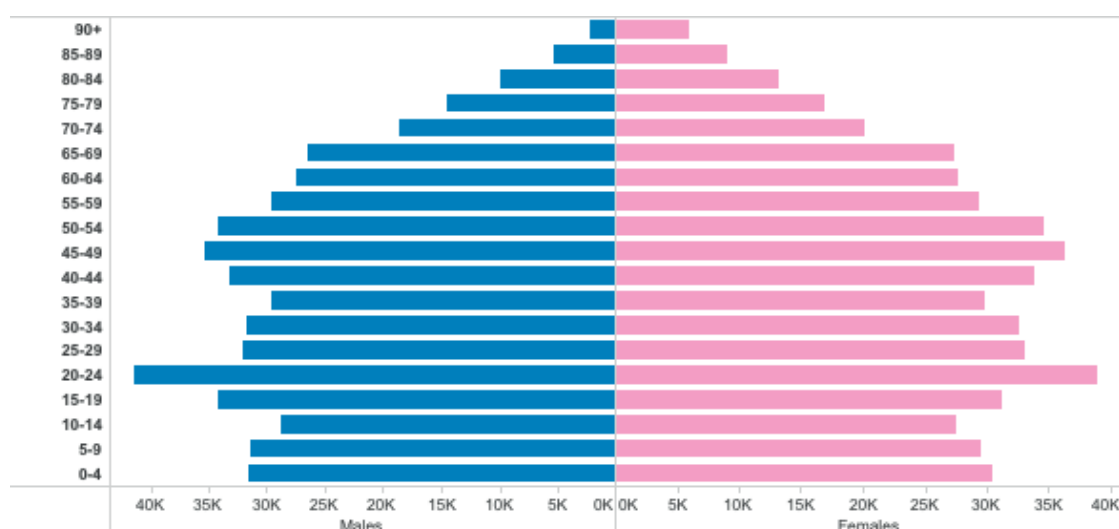
4. Review of Economic Evidence

The full economic review is available as part of the Strategic Economic Plan and can be accessed via www.llep.org.uk/strategies-and-plans/our-strategic-economic-plan-sep/

(a) Workforce Information

The total population of the combined authority area in 2014 was 1,005,600 people of which, 644,700 were of working age (16-64).¹ The population pyramid below shows the total population of the combined authority area by sex and quinary age band.

Figure 1 - Mid-2014 population estimate by sex and quinary age band, combined authority area



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2015.

¹2014 mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics. Available online: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pop-estimate/population-estimates-for-uk--england-and-wales--scotland-and-northern-ireland/mid-2014/rft---mid-2014-uk-population-estimates.zip>

Of the 386,600 resident working age population in employment in the combined authority area², 134,400 (35 percent) worked in Leicester City, followed by Charnwood with 46,800 (12 percent) and Blaby with 38,200 (10 percent). Overall, 326,100 people (84 percent) lived and worked in the combined authority area, while 60,400 (16 percent) lived in the area but travelled outside for work. Of these, 4,400 people travelled to work in Nottingham, while 4,300 commuted to Coventry (both 1 percent). This in itself demonstrates a high level of labour market self-containment, with such a high percentage of people both living and working in the combined authority area.

A total of 64,100 people of working age in employment at the time of the 2011 Census lived outside the combined authority area and travelled into the area for employment, meaning that the area has a small positive net commuting figure (approximately 4,300 people). Of the people travelling into the area for employment, 18,400 people (29 percent) travelled to North West Leicestershire, while 11,300 (18 percent) travelled to Leicester City. The largest number of employees travelled into the area from South Derbyshire (5,200 employees, 8 percent), followed by Nuneaton and Bedworth (4,800 employees, 8 percent) and Rushcliffe (4,000 employees, 7 percent).

In the combined area in the year to December 2014, there were 460,700 people (73 percent of the 16-64 population) with NVQ Level 2 equivalent qualifications³ and above in the combined authority area⁴. This is compared with 71 percent for the East Midlands and 73 percent for Great Britain. The rate for the combined authority area has increased gradually since 2004, when it stood at 60 percent; this has been broadly consistent with the region and national pattern. In comparison, there were 209,100 people (33 percent) with NVQ Level 4 equivalent qualifications⁵ and above in the area, compared with 31 percent for the East Midlands and 36 percent for Great Britain. This rate has increased gradually from 24 percent in 2004 and has increased at a similar rate as the region and national rates. Whilst the change has been broadly consistent with the regional rate, it has lagged slightly behind the national rate.

Finally, in the year to 2014, there were 50,300 people (8 percent) with no qualifications in the combined authority area, compared with 9 percent for both the East Midlands and Great Britain. This rate had fallen steadily since 2004, when it stood at 18 percent. Historically, the rate for the combined authority area has been marginally higher than the regional and national rate, however in 2014; the percent of working age population with no qualifications in the combined authority area dropped below both for the first time since 2004. It is also worth noting that the proportion of the Leicester City population with 'other' qualifications (9.5 percent) is significantly higher than the regional (6 percent) and national (6.2) percent.

The 2015 LLEP Business Survey⁶ noted that a quarter of all employers (25 percent) had experienced difficulties in recruiting staff in the last 12 months, rising to 39 percent of those that have recruited. A lack of the right skills in applicants was the most significant cause of recruitment difficulties (39 percent of those experiencing recruitment difficulties) followed by a lack of the required character traits, and a lack of work experience (24 percent and 22 percent respectively). Overall, 15 percent of all employers report skills shortage vacancies. This increased to 30 percent of businesses with 10-49 employees and 43 percent of businesses with over 200 employees. Skills shortage vacancies were higher than average in the manufacturing sector (22 percent, compared with 15 percent).

Nearly half of all employers (47 percent) have arranged or funded training for employees in the last 12 months. A third of all employers (31 percent) have arranged or funded off-the-job training, while a higher proportion than this (37 percent) have arranged or funded on-the-job or informal training. The majority

²2011 Census, Office for National Statistics. Available online: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/wu01uk>

³GCSE grades A*-C, NVQ level 2 or equivalent

⁴ONS Annual Population Survey, 2015. Available online: www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/lep/1925185552/report.aspx#tabquals

⁵Certificate of higher education, NVQ level 4 or equivalent

⁶Leicester and Leicestershire Business Survey 2015, BMG Research, LLEP. Available online: www.llep.org.uk/our-economy/research-reports/business-survey/

of employers that have not trained cite a lack of need amongst their staff. More than half of all employers (57 percent) plan to train or up-skill their staff in the next 12 months. This proportion increases with business size and includes all businesses with 200+ employees.

(b) Summary of the Local Economy

Leicester and Leicestershire together make up the largest economy in the East Midlands. It is central to the prosperity of the Midlands as it is worth £19.4 billion per year, providing 435,000 jobs and hosting 33,000 trading businesses, many of which are in the manufacturing and logistics sectors.

As highlighted above, Leicester and Leicestershire function as an integrated economic area in terms of travel-to-work patterns, in addition to retail and cultural catchments and transport links. Although it has strong relationships with neighbouring counties, the economic interdependencies and unique transport infrastructure and needs across Leicester and Leicestershire serve to make it a separate economic area.

The area benefits from a diverse industrial structure and is not dependent on the fortunes of any one sector or employer.

Although the service sector has grown in significance over the last 20 years, the economy was built upon a strong manufacturing base which remains a distinctive feature, accounting for the highest number of jobs in the area. The area also benefits from an excellent strategic location at the heart of the UK road and rail network and has the second largest freight handling airport in the UK, reflected in the high numbers of employees in logistical sectors. The table below shows the top ten employment sectors locally in terms of total number of jobs.

Figure 2 - Top ten LLEP area employment sector total (jobs), 2014⁷.

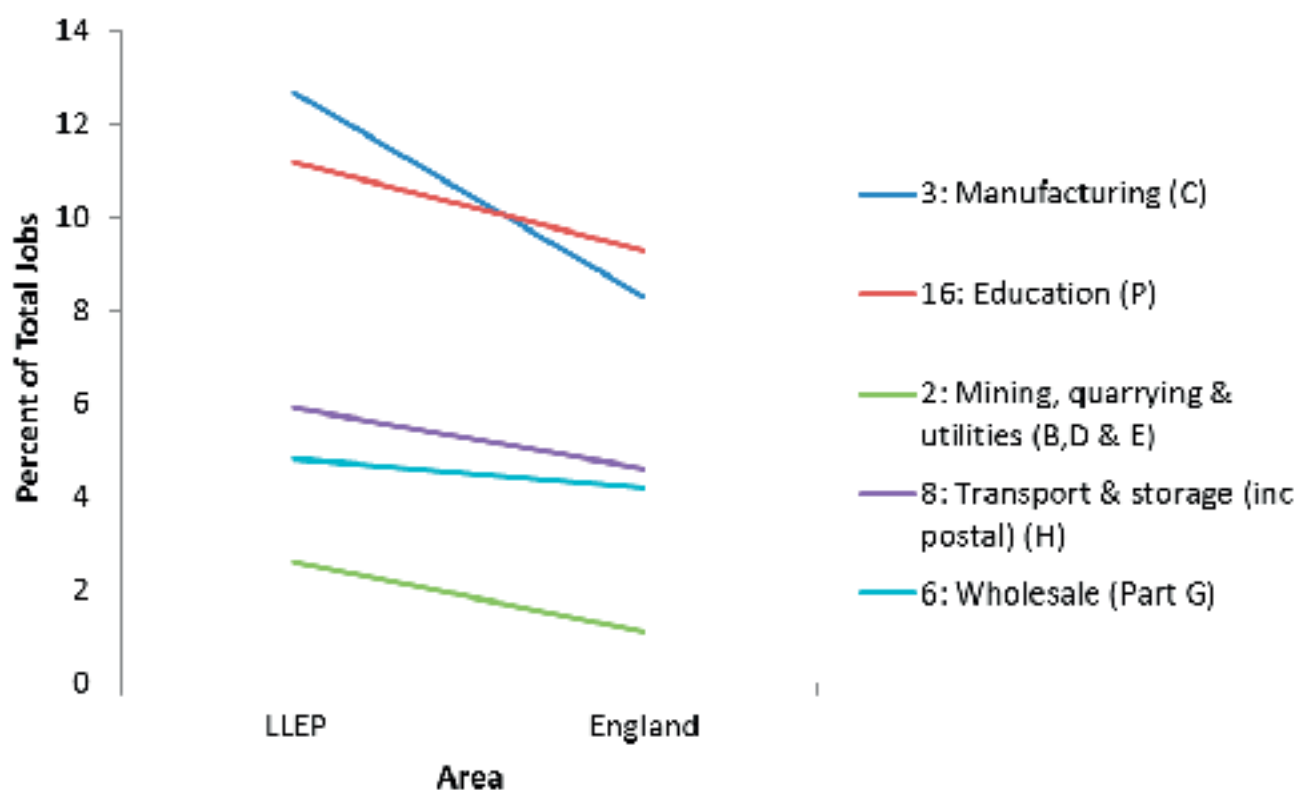
Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)	Employees
Manufacturing (C)	55,800
Education (P)	49,400
Health (Q)	49,400
Retail (Part G)	40,300
Business admin & support services (N)	37,000
Professional, scientific & technical (M)	35,800
Transport & storage (inc. postal) (H)	25,800
Accommodation & food services (I)	24,100
Wholesale (Part G)	21,000
Arts, entertainment, recreation etc (R-U)	19,500

Source: BRES, Office for National Statistics, 2015.

⁷Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2015. Available online: https://public.tableausoftware.com/views/BRESData/BRESDashboard?:embed=y&:display_count=no:showVizHome=no

The combined authority area significantly out performs the national share in various areas. The chart below shows the top five employment sectors that are more important locally than nationally (in terms of the difference between the percentage rates for the combined area and England).

Figure 3 - Top five LLEP area employment sectors by percentage point difference from England, 2014.



Source: BRES, Office for National Statistics, 2015.

The above table and chart demonstrate the importance of the Manufacturing and Transport and Storage sectors in terms of local employment and also shows a relatively high dependency on public sector related employment (specifically Health and Education) which is especially marked in Leicester City, where almost two in every five jobs (38.1 percent) are in public sector related employment (Public Administration and Defence, Health and Education).

Leicestershire is a desirable location for the Logistics and Distribution sector, as noted in the corresponding LLEP Sector Growth Plan⁸. The East Midlands has the largest combined floor space and the largest mean size of warehouse floor space of any region, housing 20 percent of the national total. The combined authority area is home to 46,800 jobs in the sector; over 2 percent of the total sector jobs in England. The sector constitutes 11 percent of all jobs in Leicester City and Leicestershire, almost 2 percentage points higher than England as a whole. While this figure is higher for Leicestershire (13 percent), it is much lower for Leicester City (6.5 percent). This is most likely a reflection of land availability - given the county's larger area - as well as proximity to major transport links such as the M1, M42 and M69 motorways and East Midlands Airport.

⁸LLEP, June 2014. Available online: www.llep.org.uk/content/uploads/2015/07/LLEP-Logistics-Distribution-Sector-Growth-Plan.pdf

It is also interesting to note those sectors where Leicester and Leicestershire have employment shares that are below the national levels. These include sectors which are associated with above average earnings and make a high contribution to GVA (Gross Value Added) including:

- Information and communications (-2 percentage points), especially in Leicester City (-4.1);
- Finance and insurance (-1.7);
- Property (-0.6); and
- Professional, scientific and technical sectors (-0.3).

The Professional and Financial Services Sector is a part of the economy that is of interest to the combined authority area given its higher GVA, as mentioned above. Analysis of sector structure indicates that there is a slightly lower proportion of professional and financial sector employment than is the case nationally (10 percent compared to 11 percent for England). It is important to close this gap to provide a more resilient platform for growth and generate higher workplace earnings that will help to underpin service sector growth. The overall figure for the area disguises the fact that the share of jobs within Leicester City is particularly low (6 percent) when compared to the county (12 percent) and national (11 percent) figures. Within the county, while a number of areas lag behind the share at a national level, Head Office and Management Consultancy activities (group 70) boast a share 2 percentage points higher than England. The presence of three major universities each with their own area of distinct expertise provides Leicester and Leicestershire with an excellent opportunity to build a stronger knowledge economy. In addition the universities are hosts to a number of national centres.

Further Information

A more detailed breakdown of employment figures for the combined authority area can be found at the link below:

https://public.tableau.com/views/BRESData/BRESDashboard?:embed=y&:display_count=no:showVizHome=no

The LLEP has recently published eight 'sector growth plans' (including a focus on; Textiles; Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering; Low Carbon; Food and Drink Manufacturing; Tourism and Hospitality) that will help shape and focus future funding and investment programmes to support economic growth and development in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Between 2009 and 2014, the number of people in employment increased from 428,300 to 441,200, an increase of 12,900 (2 percent), higher than the increase for the East Midlands as a whole (2 percent), but lower than the increase for England (5 percent). The unemployment rate in Leicester City has been above the national average for many years and there are some pockets of higher than average unemployment in Leicestershire (especially in Coalville and Loughborough).

Further Information

A more detailed breakdown of the unemployment data for the combined authority area can be found at the link below:

https://public.tableausoftware.com/views/UnemploymentBulletin/HeadlineData?:embed=y&:display_count=no:showVizHome=no#

The area faces substantial future demographic changes which will require the provision of substantial numbers of additional homes. Housing needs up to 2028 have been agreed by the nine local authorities in a memorandum of understanding, and work is underway to consider housing requirements beyond then as part of the preparation of a Strategic Growth Plan looking to 2050. A key aspect of this exercise will be to consider an appropriate spatial distribution of new housing which will support economic growth and which can be supported by appropriate infrastructure provision.

(c) Summary of Transport Evidence

There are two highway authorities delivering transportation services within the area: Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council. The nine local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire are collaborating to produce strategic transport evidence looking to 2031. This will inform local planning and set the baseline for strategic planning to 2051.

The transport network is expected to see a 20% growth in traffic over the next 15 years. This could present a substantial barrier to growth if not tackled through a range of major transport initiatives and smaller scale integrated transport interventions. Leicester City

Council and Leicestershire County Council have worked closely together to deliver major corridor improvements and a very successful Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) programme. In the short to medium term, a further programme of corridor schemes and targeted smaller scale interventions, including proposed LSTF initiatives, will be required to help to manage the existing transport network effectively and prevent city development and growth across the urban area being frustrated. In addition, measures will be required to ensure Leicester can continue to have effective access to the Strategic Road and Rail Network, including the M1, M69, A5 and Midland Mainline and HS2.

With regard to the Strategic Rail Network, the two transport authorities, the LLEP and North West Leicestershire District Council are undertaking work to determine the future rail provision up to 2050. This links to the work on HS2 and Midlands Connect.

(d) Summary of Economic Successes through the LLEP

The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) has the full support and commitment of its public, private and voluntary sector partners and has built a strong spirit of partnership and sense of common purpose. It has a strong track record and is well placed to deliver at pace and provide value for money. Significant successes have already been achieved, including:-

- MIRA (located in Hinckley and Bosworth) has attracted the likes of Ashok Leyland and Bosch and created over 250 jobs;
- investing the Growing Places Fund to unlock the development of thousands of new homes and employment land and secure the location of Formula E (electric motorcar racing) to new international headquarters at Donington Park in North West Leicestershire;
- the City Mayor's Economic Action Plan which is investing over £60m in a range of regeneration, business support and skills programmes to transform Leicester's economy, and the County Council's Enabling Growth Plan which is investing £38m in activities to boost the county economy;
- securing £100m local growth funding to support development in infrastructure, including faster broadband, connectivity and skills, as well as £111m European Structural and Investment Funds to enable investment in 'place, people and business';
- through the City Deal, creating a flagship Business Growth Hub and running one of the most successful business grant programmes in the country; supporting the development of Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Parks and establishing the Leicester and Leicestershire to Work Programme;
- improving the Leicester North West (A50) transport corridor to facilitate mixed use urban extension in the regeneration area and mitigate the impacts of growth in the Coalville area and reduce congestion;
- the development of the Leicester and Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model (LLITM). Working in partnership with relevant authorities such as Highways England and the local planning authorities, LLITM has been successfully used to provide the evidence needed to underpin two adopted core strategies (Blaby and Harborough) and to underpin bids to secure over £25m to deliver schemes in Loughborough, Coalville, Leicester and Hinckley. Through the Strategic Planning Group LLITM is also being used to inform future strategic spatial planning beyond the current timeframe for core strategies (i.e. 2030 and beyond to 2050);
- the recent commencement of work on the Strategic Growth Plan to 2050, providing a longer term spatial strategy for Leicester and Leicestershire beyond the current planned growth (which extends to 2031). To lead this work, a Joint Strategic Planning Manager (funded by all Leicestershire Districts, the City Council, the County Council and the LLEP) has been appointed.

(e) Risks to the Economy

The following risks have been identified:-

- lack of suitable land for the most land intensive priority employment sectors (logistics and manufacturing);
- poor quality public realm and derelict sites requiring land assembly and infrastructure;
- inadequate transport infrastructure causing congestion and resulting in increased business costs;
- 70% SMEs have growth plans but need support;
- recruitment difficulties and skills shortages in key sectors and insufficient young people attracted to careers in sectors such as engineering, manufacturing and logistics.
- Lack of integration between growth and transport, which is necessary in order to shape the location of sites for employment and housing, particularly post 2031.

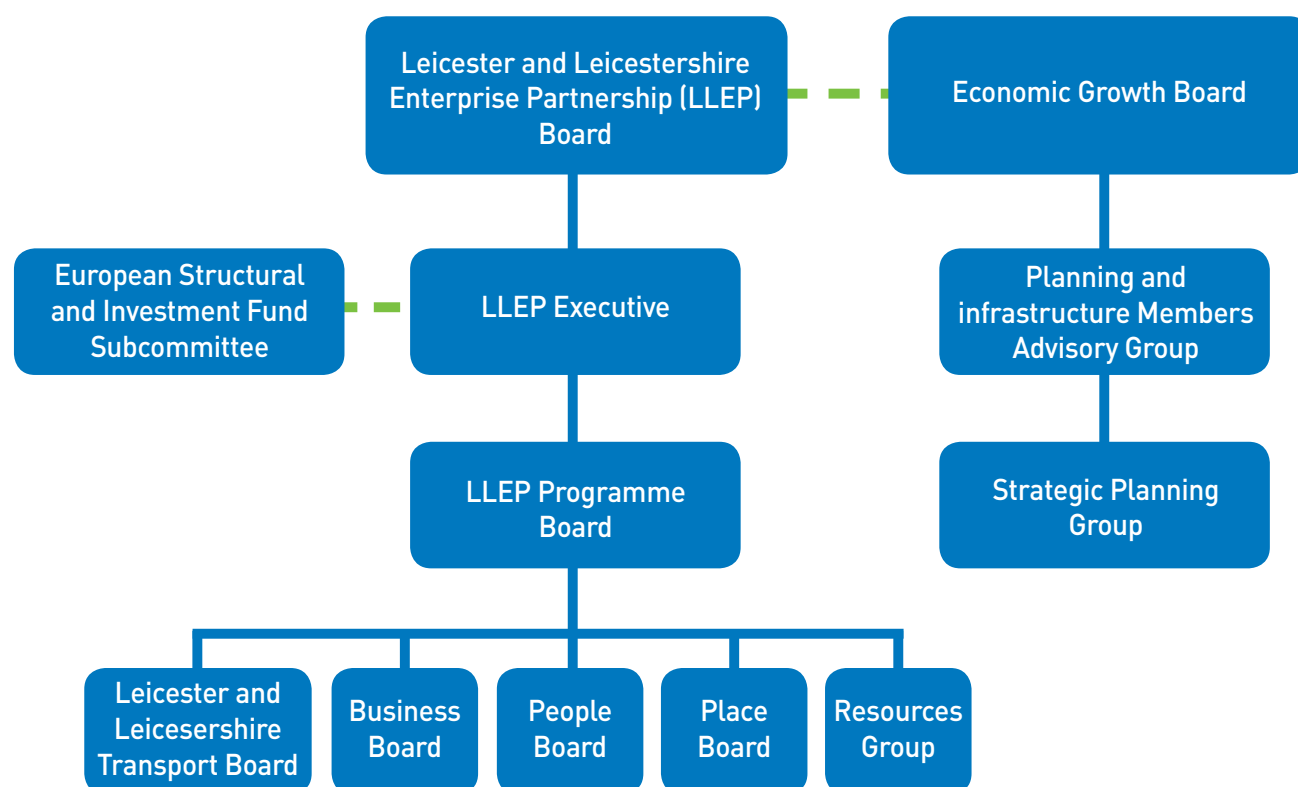
5. Current Strategic Governance Arrangements

The City of Leicester sits at the heart of the county and is governed by a unitary city council which has been managed under the directly elected mayor model of governance since 2011. The surrounding county is managed through a two-tier form of local government, with a county council and seven district councils. The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) operates co-terminously with the city and county boundary.

All nine councils in Leicester and Leicestershire have a strong commitment to joint working with business and other partner organisations to deliver economic growth. There are numerous examples of effective partnership working, particularly through the LLEP which has a strong track record of delivery.

(a) Existing Arrangements to Promote Economic Development and Regeneration

The diagram below summaries the current governance arrangements for the delivery of economic development and growth, as set out in the LLEP's Strategic Economic Plan.



Strategic governance of the programme for economic development and growth is provided through the Economic Growth Board and the LLEP Board. To ensure alignment between these two Boards, there is a degree of shared membership, with the Chairman of the LLEP sitting on the Economic Growth Board in an observer capacity and four local authority Leaders who are members of the Economic Growth Board sitting on the LLEP Board.

The remit of each of the above bodies involved in economic development and regeneration is set out below, along with some other bodies that are not part of this structure but contribute to this area of work:-

(i) Economic Growth Board for Leicester and Leicestershire

The Economic Growth Board provides strategic oversight of economic development delivery by the local authorities. It informs objectives and prioritisation for investment programmes and the management of pooled local authority resources to support the projects outlined in the LLEP's Strategic Economic Plan.

The Economic Growth Board is comprised of the City Mayor, the County Council Leader and the seven District Council Leaders. The Chairman of the LLEP also attends the Board in an observer capacity.

(ii) Planning and Infrastructure Members Advisory Group

The purpose of the Members Advisory Group is to oversee strategic land-use planning work in Leicester and Leicestershire and support fulfilment of the Duty to Co-operate, as required by the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework March 2012, which states that Local Planning Authorities, when preparing a development plan document such as a Local Plan must demonstrate effective and collaborative working.

The Member Advisory Group delivers its role through:-

- facilitating the sustainable growth of Leicester and Leicestershire by assisting in the discharge of the statutory Duty to Cooperate (section 110 of the Localism Act 2011) and advising on the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan;
- providing Member-level advice to the Strategic Planning Group (the officer-level group tasked with preparing a non-statutory Strategic Growth Plan for consideration by Members) on all matters relating to the preparation of the Plan including its nature, form, content and programme;
- conveying the views held by constituent authorities on matters relevant to a non-statutory Strategic Growth Plan and have regard to the aspirations of the wider stakeholder group in the preparation of the Plan including matters relating to the Combined Authority proposal and the refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan prepared by the LLEP;
- ensuring that the preparation of a non-statutory Strategic Growth Plan fully integrates with existing or emerging spatial provisions of all up-to-date, National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) compliant local plans across the Leicester and Leicestershire area in every strategic and spatial interest of acknowledged importance.

The membership comprises the City Mayor, Planning Portfolio Holders and District Leaders, the County Council's Lead Member for Highways also attends. This is currently an informal group without any decision making powers.

(iii) Strategic Planning Group

The Strategic Planning Group is an officer group which steers and manages strategic planning collaboration and co-operation across Leicester and Leicestershire. It is chaired by a District Council Chief Executive and comprises senior council officers and officers from the Homes and Communities Agency. It is supported by the newly appointed Joint Strategic Planning Manager.

(iv) Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) Board

The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) was formed in May 2011. It is a strategic body led by a Board made up of 15 local government and business leaders as well as senior education and third (voluntary) sector representatives. It is chaired by a leading business representative. The local government representatives are elected members.

The LLEP's vision is to "Create a vibrant, attractive and distinctive place with highly skilled people making Leicester and Leicestershire the destination of choice for successful businesses."

Its aim, by 2020, is to have:

- Created 45,000 new jobs;
- Leveraged £2.5bn of private investment;
- Increased GVA (Gross Value Added) by £4bn from £19bn to £23bn.

It will do this by driving forward regeneration and growth of the local economy, by:

- Working with Government to set out key investment priorities for Leicester and Leicestershire;
- Engaging with business, local authorities, Higher Education, Further Education, the voluntary sector and other stakeholders;
- Facilitating local partnership working and relations with national Government
- Influencing national Government economic policy and spending;
- Investing LLEP funding and aligning partner resources;
- Through its investments, influence and activities ensure positive outcomes for the local economy.

(v) LLEP Executive

The LLEP Executive Group is an officer group which ensures implementation of the Board's strategic priorities, programmes and projects, including oversight of the development of the City Deal, European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy and the LLEP's Strategic Economic Plan. It also provides advice to the Board and surety that resources are being managed effectively.

Membership of the LLEP Executive comprises the LLEP Director (Chairman of the Executive), senior local authority officers, senior Higher Education, Further Education, third sector representation and a business

representative nominated by the Business Council, an umbrella organisation for business organisations, with appropriate officer input from national Government.

(vi) LLEP Programme Board

The Programme Board has only recently been established through the Local Assurance Framework. It reports to the LLEP Board and has the following purpose:-

- To maintain the integrity of the LLEP Programme, as defined by the Strategic Operational Plan of the LLEP, which considers projects in relation to the Strategic Economic Plan;
- To agree with the Resources Group on particular routes to funding for the programme, in line with the LLEP finance strategy;
- To make recommendations to the LLEP Board on projects and programmes to approve for funding;
- To oversee the quality of business cases required for project approvals;
- To ensure the integrity of the wider Local Assurance Framework process.

Membership comprises both private sector and public sector member and officer representatives with a private sector chair.

(vii) People Board

The People Board supersedes the former Employment and Skills Board and is responsible for:

- Overseeing the development and review of the People Chapter of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and leading the strategy and direction for skills development and employment support;
- Overseeing and co-ordinating the delivery of key projects and programmes
- Providing delivery assurance to the LLEP Executive of the delivery of projects and programmes;
- Making recommendations to and advising the LLEP Executive and Board about future investment opportunities;
- Directing and managing individual project boards and teams;
- Managing risks and issues, escalating to the LLEP Executive where appropriate;
- Engaging stakeholders in the development and review of the SEP and delivery of programmes.

Membership comprises senior local authority officers and representatives of Higher Education, Further Education, the third sector, business and the Department for Work and Pensions

(viii) Business Board

The Business Board is accountable to the LLEP Executive and is responsible for

- Overseeing the development and review of the Business Chapter of the SEP and leading the strategy and direction for business support and innovation;
- Overseeing and co-ordinating the delivery of key projects and programmes including the Growth Deal and ESIF programmes;
- Providing delivery assurance to the LLEP Executive of the delivery of projects and programmes;
- Making recommendations to and advising the LLEP Executive and Board about future investment opportunities;
- Directing and managing individual project boards and teams;
- Managing risks and issues, escalating to the Executive where appropriate;
- Engaging stakeholders in the development and review of the SEP and delivery of programmes.

Membership comprises senior local authority officers, senior Higher Education, Further Education, and third sector representation and business representatives.

(ix) Place Board

The Place Board is accountable to the LLEP Executive and is responsible for:

- (i) Overseeing the development and review of the Place Chapter of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and leading the strategy and direction for physical infrastructure to support growth:

LLEP Strategic Economic Plan 2014 – 2020

- Growth Areas
- Leicester Urban Area;
- East Midlands Enterprise Gateway;
- Coalville Growth Corridor;
- Loughborough;
- South West Leicestershire.

Transformational Priorities

- Leicester Launchpad;
- East Midlands Gateway Strategic Rail Freight Interchange;
- Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Parks;
- MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone.

Growth Programmes

- Market Towns and Rural Leicestershire;
- Infrastructure, Workspace and Cultural Development.

(ii) Overseeing and co-ordinating the delivery of key projects and programmes including the Growth Deal and EU Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) programmes;

(iii) Providing delivery assurance to the Executive of the delivery of projects and programmes;

(iv) Making recommendations to and advising the LLEP Executive and Board about future investment opportunities;

(v) Directing and managing individual project boards and teams;

(vi) Managing risks and issues, escalating to the Executive where appropriate; and

(vii) Engaging stakeholders in the development and review of the SEP and delivery of programmes.

Membership comprises officers from the nine local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire, the Homes and Communities Agency and the LLEP.

(x) Resources Group

The Resources group is accountable for the funding the LLEP receives from Central Government. It also manages the LLEP's own budget and distributes funds as appropriate.

Membership comprises officers from the LLEP and from the nine local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire.

(xi) European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Sub-committee

The ESIF Committee governs the LLEP's ESIF programme. The Committee comprises business partners and representatives from the voluntary and public sectors. Public sector representatives include both elected members and officers.

(b) Arrangements to Ensure the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Transport within the Area

(i) Leicester and Leicestershire Transport Board (LLTB)

The LLTB was established in response to the national Government's intention to devolve funding for local major transport schemes to Local Transport Bodies from 2015. Its primary role is to decide which transport investments should be prioritised, to review and approve individual business cases for those investments, and to ensure effective delivery of the programme. Its role is to ensure value for money and sound decision making.

The LLTB pre-dates the LLEP but has been integrated into the LLEP substructure and is currently overseen by the LLEP Programme Board. It is a voluntary partnership between the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and elected members from Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council. A Leicestershire District Council member has also been invited to join the Board, but in a non-voting advisory capacity.

6. Limitations of the Current Arrangements

The current partnership arrangements described above have delivered a significant number of development and growth projects - 5000 new jobs and support to the growth of 3000 new businesses across the city and county - within the last three years. An effective framework has been developed to manage and commission the £100m Local Growth Fund which will unlock a further £160m of investment and create at least a further 2500 jobs and 1300 homes.

However, the current partnership arrangements have a number of constraints, namely:-

- There is no single formally constituted body with responsibility for taking decisions related to strategic economic growth and strategic transport across the sub-region. This has led to a lack of clarity about decision making processes and responsibilities.
- The current bodies that are in place are voluntary and rely on good relations between partners and a mutual interest in working collaboratively.
- As none of the current bodies are formally constituted, it has not been possible for any of the constituent authorities to delegate powers to them. This means that any decisions related to economic growth and transport need to be taken by all the relevant local authorities. This results in longer decision making timescales, duplication of effort and a lack of transparency leading to a potential for confusion.
- The current governance arrangements are not sufficient for the ambitions of the area in terms of long term funding commitments for transport investment, devolution of funding and the ability to commission skills programmes locally and enhanced funding and finance powers through the establishment of new enterprise zones to help deliver priority growth areas.
- As there is no single entity with responsibility for taking strategic decisions on spatial planning and transport at a sub-regional level, there is no straightforward mechanism for coherent long term strategic planning decisions to be made collectively by all local authorities about the future direction of growth, including distribution of employment and housing land in the city and county and key

infrastructure investment. Similarly, there is no cohesive long term approach to strategic transport planning which is a distinct function. It also inhibits shared understanding about the sub-region as a single economic area and a risk that each council acting alone will have limited control or influence over the key drivers of economic growth. This is particularly important in the case of developing relationships with neighbouring LEPs and Housing Market Areas.

- There is no vehicle to provide a single, coherent response to major, national infrastructure investments such as strategic road and rail projects.
- There is no arrangement for binding decisions on strategic land use planning to be taken collectively. This will not give investors, central government and other agencies assurance and confidence in the deliverability of the sub-region's plans for economic growth. There is also no single mechanism for discussing strategic planning and infrastructure with adjacent local authority areas.
- The skills agenda is not at the forefront of current arrangements and existing governance structures have not prioritised it. There is no single, strategic commissioning body to drive and deliver locally-led solutions to improve the delivery of skills training and development.

7. Case for Change

The nine local authorities of Leicester and Leicestershire firmly believe that they can build upon their successes by strengthening and formalising partnership arrangements. In particular, this would allow them to work more closely together with Government and the LLEP to enhance their collective impact on economic growth.

Strengthened partnership arrangements would also create a clear and effective platform for accelerating economic prosperity in Leicester and Leicestershire through the creation of integrated strategic frameworks to enable the delivery of investment plans for planning, transport and skills.

In the current financial climate, where there have been significant reductions in the Government's funding of local government over the last four years which are set to continue in the medium term, it is imperative to have governance arrangements in place that are efficient and reduce both duplication and the timescales for delivery of investment in economic growth.

A Combined Authority will represent clear and co-ordinated governance for Leicester and Leicestershire and will form the foundation for an ambitious devolution deal for the area.

8. Options for Change

This review considers the following options:-

1. Maintaining the status quo;
2. Establishing a Joint Committee;
3. Establishing an Economic Prosperity Board;
4. Establishing a Combined Authority.

These options are considered in the light of the requirement that the Governance Review determines whether the existing governance arrangements for economic development, regeneration and transport in the area are effective or whether the area would benefit from changes, including establishing a new Economic Prosperity Board or Combined Authority.

Option 1: Maintaining the Status Quo

Maintaining the status quo means that the governance arrangements will not be sufficient for the ambitions of the area. These ambitions are:-

- Long term funding commitments for transport investment;
- Devolution of funding and the ability to commission skills programmes locally;
- Enhanced funding and finance powers through the establishment of new enterprise zones to help deliver priority growth areas.

Under the current arrangements, there is no single body which could hold devolved funding and undertake commissioning on a sub-regional basis.

In addition, the lack of a single decision-making body with responsibility across the spectrum of economic development, regeneration and transport means that there is no binding forum where a long term view on policy and strategy can be taken. Without this, it would not be considered prudent for third parties to make long term funding commitments.

Maintaining the status quo would also mean that the area would miss out on the benefits of more efficient partnership working and would leave Leicester and Leicestershire behind a number of other parts of the country which have already, or are in the process of, strengthening and aligning their decision making process in relation to transport and economic development and regeneration. In addition, it would mean that Leicester and Leicestershire would be unable to pursue a devolution deal.

The current arrangements would not allow the sub-region to benefit from a single democratic and financially accountable model which is a legal entity in its own right and can provide the necessary certainty, stability and democratic accountability to allow for long-term, strategic economic decisions to be made.

In conclusion, maintaining the status quo would mean difficulties in accessing new funding and powers in line with the ambitions of the area, leaving Leicester and Leicestershire behind other areas economically with all the attendant implications for local residents. It would also perpetuate the inefficiencies in the current system.

Option 2: Establishing a Joint Committee

Background

Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables two or more local authorities to set up a Joint Committee to discharge their functions jointly. These arrangements must comply with the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012. Joint Committees may be decision-making or advisory. The councils concerned determine the numbers of councillors, terms of office and geographic areas of operation of joint committees. It would be possible to co-opt a non-local authority member to a Joint Committee; however they would not be able to vote.

Most Joint Committees appoint a 'lead/accountable' council; some do this on a rotating basis. They have no legal status, cannot impose financial obligations on their constituent authorities, and have no powers to levy council tax. They do not require the involvement of national Government or Parliament and so can be set up within a matter of months.

The Joint Committee model allows an area to demonstrate effective decision making and political oversight for the management of funding that is allocated to the LEP.

The County Council currently manages two joint Committees operating in the area, the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) and East Midlands Shared Services (EMSS) and has considered the operation of these in the analysis below.

Analysis

The functioning of a Joint Committee depends upon goodwill and the desire for collaboration which characterises the current arrangements and therefore will not address the deficiencies associated with the status quo. Each authority would need to authorise and delegate functions to the Joint Committee. Councils are also able to withdraw the delegation at any point in the future which poses a significant risk in terms of a lack of stability and certainty which is required to enable long term, strategic economic decisions to be made.

Joint Committees cannot be accountable bodies for funding purposes, nor can they employ staff due to their lack of legal status. Ultimate responsibility for finances remains with the host council. This will not meet the ambitions of Leicester and Leicestershire, which include both the devolution of funding and enhanced funding and finance powers.

Securing new investment and responding to a rapidly changing landscape requires local authority partners in Leicester and Leicestershire to be able to act with agility and pace. If circumstances require further functions to be delegated to a Joint Committee than were originally agreed then it would not be possible for it to act in such a way because of the need for this to be agreed through the formal decision making processes at each of the constituent councils.

In conclusion, the establishment of a Joint Committee would not meet the ambitions for Leicester and Leicestershire. The model represents a significant risk to partnership working which will impact on the ability to secure long term funding commitments. In addition, the lack of legal status and financial accountability means that the same difficulties in accessing new funding and powers presented by status quo will be encountered.

Option 3: Establishing an Economic Prosperity Board.

Background

Economic Prosperity Boards were introduced under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to enable the integration of economic development (but not transport functions). As a statutory body, an Economic Prosperity Board would have legal personality and is thus considered by central government to provide a strong basis for taking on devolved powers and funding relating to economic development and regeneration, for example accountable body status for an economic development single pot or European Union funding.

Economic Prosperity Boards cannot impose levies on constituent authorities and do not have borrowing powers. The establishment of an Economic Prosperity Board is subject to the same process as for Combined Authorities.

Analysis

An Economic Prosperity Board could strengthen current partnership arrangements by providing a formal structure to lead collaboration between the Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities on sub-regional economic development and regeneration. It could also provide a stable mechanism for strategic decision making on economic issues across the sub-region. This would be of some benefit because it would enable long term funding commitments to be made.

Economic Prosperity Boards can take a strategic view of economic development and where investment should be made to support long-term, sustainable economic growth across the area. They also enable trade-offs to be made at a strategic level, taking into account what is best for the area as a whole.

An Economic Prosperity Board would be a single body that could represent the economic needs and strengths of Leicester and Leicestershire to partners and investors. It would also enable partnerships of authorities to demonstrate that they are committed to long-term joint working. It would facilitate transparency, accountability and visible leadership for sub-regional areas.

However, the major disadvantage of an Economic Prosperity Board is that it does not include transport functions. Transport is essential to the ambitions for growth in Leicester and Leicestershire. The interdependencies between economic growth and transport are so significant that it would be irrational to establish a governance arrangement that addressed one area but not the other as it would prevent a fully integrated approach to the two areas. The need for separate governance arrangements to address transport issues would be cumbersome and would create a wasteful duplication of effort.

It is also worth noting that no Economic Prosperity Boards have been created to date, which means that there is no opportunity to learn for experience in other areas.

Option 4: Establishing a Combined Authority

Background

Combined Authorities were introduced under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to enable councils to integrate economic development and transport functions and decision-making across a functional economic area. A Combined Authority operates as a public body with its own legal personality, can impose a levy on constituent authorities and can borrow money for transport purposes.

It is important to note that Combined Authorities are not a merger of existing Local Authorities; they can only take on certain functions with a very specific remit. In addition, the legislation allows for flexibility in establishing Combined Authorities.

Analysis

The advantages of an Economic Prosperity Board previously outlined all apply to a Combined Authority as both options are formally constituted legal entities and would provide a stable mechanism for long term strategic decision making and a single body that can represent the needs of Leicester and Leicestershire to investors and partners.

Both options enable a streamlining of arrangements, reduce duplication, would be able to take on developed powers from national Government and can have additional powers delegated to them from constituent councils if they choose to do so.

The significant difference between a Combined Authority and an Economic Prosperity Board, which makes the Combined Authority option much more attractive for Leicester and Leicestershire, is that a Combined Authority would have powers relating to both economic development and strategic transport. The Combined Authority model would provide a simple means of fully aligning and coordinating transport planning and wider economic development and regeneration, including strategic planning, across a sub-region. This would mean that economic development and regeneration and transport initiatives could be aligned, co-ordinated and delivered swiftly and efficiently by a single body.

The creation of a Combined Authority will allow Leicester and Leicestershire to realise its ambitions by bringing together, in a single legally recognised body, the key decision making powers for strategic transport and economic development and planning. It is impossible to separate these two functions, given their high level of interdependency and being able to present a coherent, long term vision across the two areas would facilitate long term planning designed to improve the economic conditions and performance of the area including an improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of transport. This vision will be based on a single evidence base for the whole area, ensuring data and analysis relating to economic, planning and transportation matters are consistently defined, collected and applied.

A Combined Authority will enable a unified approach to insight, evidence and intelligence which will ensure that the understanding of the complex interdependencies between individuals businesses, jobs, skills, housing, health and financial dependence is of a higher quality thereby ensuring better use of resources on a local level.

A Combined Authority will enable a shared understanding about Leicester and Leicestershire as a single economic area across the nine local authorities and would create a strategic framework for economic

development and transport which would ensure consistency in local decision making. It would also increase the control and influence of the constituent councils across the key drivers of economic growth.

A further advantage to the Combined Authority model is that it would provide a framework for a single, coherent response from Leicester and Leicestershire to be made to national initiatives relating to planning or infrastructure. As a single entity, it would also enhance Leicester and Leicestershire's ability to liaise with neighbouring areas on issues of mutual interest, particularly as a number of neighbouring areas are in the process of becoming Combined Authorities.

Indeed, a number of areas in the country have already established Combined Authorities, or are in the process of doing so. If Leicester and Leicestershire choose not to establish a Combined Authority they risk getting left behind other areas and missing out on crucial government funding, such as devolution deals, due to not having sufficiently robust governance arrangements in place.

9. Summary of Preliminary Findings

The following table sets out an assessment of the options that have been considered by this review:-

Option	Evaluation	Rationale
Maintain the Status Quo	No	Maintaining the status quo would mean difficulties in accessing new funding and powers in line with the ambitions of the area. It would leave Leicester and Leicestershire behind other areas and would therefore be likely to have a detrimental impact on the economy of the area in the future. It would not strengthen the governance processes which largely rely on informal arrangements.
Joint Committee	No	The establishment of a Joint Committee would strengthen the current partnership arrangements and place them on a more formal basis. However, there is a lack of stability and certainty which is unlikely to secure long term funding commitments. In addition, the lack of legal status and financial accountability means that the same difficulties in accessing new funding and powers presented by status quo are likely to be encountered.
Economic Prosperity Board	No	An Economic Prosperity Board would provide strategic direction and accountability for economic development and regeneration and would ensure that a single formal decision-making body was in place for this. However, strategic transport would not be included in these arrangements, thus greatly limiting the scope for increased effectiveness and efficiency.
Combined Authority	Yes	A Combined Authority with devolved funding would create a clear and effective platform for accelerating economic prosperity in Leicester and Leicestershire through the creation of integrated, strategic frameworks to enable the delivery of investment plans for planning, transport and skills.

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Leicester Leicestershire

Delivering Growth Together



Draft Scheme for the Establishment of a Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority

Part 1 - Intention to establish a Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority

1. Establishment of Authority

- 1.1 A Combined Authority shall be established pursuant to Section 103 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (“LDEDCA”). It shall come into existence on the 1st October 2016.
- 1.2 The Scheme is intended as a summary of the matters with which the Combined Authority will be concerned. Following the establishment of the Combined Authority, the members of the Combined Authority will agree and adopt a full constitution which will expand upon matters referred to within this Scheme.

2. Name of Authority

- 2.1 The name of the Combined Authority shall be the ***Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority (“the Combined Authority”)***.

3. Area of Authority

- 3.1 The Combined Authority area shall be the whole of the following local government areas:-
- (a) Blaby District Council
 - (b) Charnwood Borough Council
 - (c) Harborough District Council
 - (d) Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
 - (e) Leicester City Council
 - (f) Leicestershire County Council
 - (g) Melton Borough Council
 - (h) North West Leicestershire District Council
 - (i) Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
- 3.2 The nine councils listed above shall be referred to as the “*constituent councils*”.

4. Membership of Authority

- 4.1 Membership of the Combined Authority will be drawn from the constituent councils listed in section three and from the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP).

- 4.2 The constituent councils will appoint a total of nine elected members to the Combined Authority. Each constituent council will appoint one member. The LLEP will appoint the Chair of the LLEP to the Combined Authority as a non-voting member (in the event the Chair of the LLEP is an elected member of one of the constituent councils then the LLEP will appoint another member of its board who is not such an elected member).
- 4.3 In respect of elected members, membership of the Combined Authority will be a decision for each constituent council.
- 4.4 The constituent councils shall each appoint another of its elected members to act as a member of the Combined Authority in the absence of the elected member appointed under paragraph 4.2 above including where that absence is as a result of the circumstances in paragraph 4.6. The LLEP shall appoint another member of its board (who is not an elected member of a constituent council) to act as a member of the Combined Authority in the absence of the Chair of the LLEP. Individuals appointed to the Combined Authority under this paragraph 4.4 are referred to as a “substitute member”.
- 4.5 Subject to 4.6 below, each constituent council and the LLEP may at any time terminate the appointment of a member or substitute member appointed by it to the Combined Authority and the constituent council and the LLEP (as appropriate) may appoint a replacement member. Written notice must be given to the Combined Authority within one week of the change for the changeover to take effect. Changes to the member or substitute member appointed by a constituent council/the LLEP to the Combined Authority are a matter for the relevant constituent council/the LLEP and do not need to be voted on by the Combined Authority.
- 4.6 Where a member or substitute member of the Combined Authority ceases (for whatever reason) to be an elected member of the constituent council that appointed them or, in the case of the LLEP member or substitute member, ceases to be a member of the LLEP board, the member shall cease to be a member of the Combined Authority, and the relevant constituent council/LLEP shall appoint a replacement member as soon as practicable and in any event within one month from the member or substitute member ceasing to be a member of the relevant constituent council/LLEP board.
- 4.7 The Combined Authority shall, in each year, appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its members. The appointments shall be the first business transacted at the first meeting of the Combined Authority following establishment.
- 4.8 A majority of the constituent councils will normally appoint a member to the Combined Authority at their annual general meeting in May/June of each year. The constitution of the Combined Authority will make provision for an election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman to take place in the June following the establishment of the Combined Authority and each June thereafter (an annual election). Incumbents will be eligible for re-election.
- 4.9 A person ceases to be Chair or Vice Chair if they cease to be a member of the Combined Authority. Any vacancy must be filled at the next ordinary meeting of the Combined Authority unless such meeting is within 14 days of the vacancy arising, when it will be

the meeting following the next ordinary meeting. Where, at any meeting of the Combined Authority, the Chairman is absent, the Vice Chairman shall assume the Chairman's role for that meeting. Where the Chairman and Vice Chairman are not present or are unable to act, the Combined Authority members will elect one of the members present to preside for the meeting or part of the meeting.

- 4.10 No remuneration shall be payable by the Combined Authority to its members other than allowances for travel and subsistence. A constituent council may, on the recommendation of its independent remuneration panel, pay a special responsibility allowance to any elected member appointed by it to the Combined Authority in respect of duties and responsibilities undertaken as a member of the Combined Authority.
- 4.11 The Combined Authority may co-opt additional, non-voting representatives and further detail in respect of such co-opted representatives shall be agreed by the constituent councils and detailed within the constitution of the Combined Authority.

5A. Voting

- 5A.1 In the full spirit of partnership working the constituent councils will endeavour to reach decisions by consensus.
- 5A.2 The following will apply to any vote of the Combined Authority:-
- (a) The constituent council members of the Combined Authority shall have one vote each.
 - (b) Subject to paragraphs 5A.3 to 5A.5 below and the provisions of any enactment, all questions coming or arising before the Combined Authority shall be decided by a simple majority of the members of the Combined Authority present **and** voting.
 - (c) In the case of a tied vote on any motion or amendment, the motion or amendment shall be deemed to have been lost. The Chair of the Combined Authority (which includes any other member presiding at a meeting) shall **not** have a second or casting vote.
 - (d) On the requisition of any one member, made before the vote is taken, the voting on any matter shall be recorded so as to show how each member voted and there shall also be recorded any member abstaining from voting.
 - (e) Where any member abstains from voting then they shall be deemed to have consented to the decision of the majority such that:
 - a. in any decision with reserved status (for which see paragraph 5A.3) and where the abstaining member represents a council directly affected by the decision the matter may pass notwithstanding that the abstaining member

does not form part of the majority provided that all other directly affected councils (through their appointed member) vote in favour or abstain; and

- b. in any decision requiring unanimous support (for which see paragraph 5A.4) the abstention of a member will not prevent the matter passing provided all other members vote in support or abstain (if all members abstain the matter shall not pass).

5A.3 In recognition of the significant impact that some decisions made by the Combined Authority could have on the Combined Authority's constituent councils, and to ensure that the existing democratic mandate of each constituent council is respected and preserved, decisions concerning a number of matters will qualify for 'reserved status'. Decisions made by the Combined Authority regarding matters with 'reserved status' will require a 'special majority' in order to carry. The special majority will operate on the principle that the constituent councils who are directly affected by a decision must be a part of the deciding vote's majority for that decision to carry (unless they abstain). In practice, this will require that:

- (a) for a vote on a transport related matter, both Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council – as the two existing transport authorities – must form a part of the deciding vote's majority for that decision to carry. Where a transport related matter affects only the City of Leicester or only the County of Leicestershire then the relevant transport authority must form part of the deciding vote's majority.
- (b) for a vote on a planning matter (including planning for future housing and employment land provision), then the planning authority for the area or areas directly affected must form part of the deciding vote's majority for that decision to carry.
 - i. In the case of a planning matter affecting the City of Leicester then Leicester City Council must form part of the majority.
 - ii. In the case of a planning matter affecting an area of the County of Leicestershire then the relevant district council or, where the matter would be dealt with by Leicestershire County Council as a planning authority, Leicestershire County Council must form part of the majority or where the matter could be dealt with by either the relevant district council or the Leicestershire County Council then both must form part of the majority.

Where the Combined Authority establishes a committee or subcommittee then that committee can make decisions that have reserved status provided that the membership of the committee includes those constituent councils directly affected by the decision. For example a transport committee comprising Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council.

5A.4 Where a matter for decision (other than a transport matter) affects the entirety of the Combined Authority area then it will require unanimous support from the constituent

councils. Matters requiring unanimous support include (without limitation) the following:

- (a) Decisions relating to the creation, adoption and review of the documents listed at paragraph 8.8(a) (except 8.8(a)(iv));
- (b) Approval of the Combined Authority's annual budget including decisions on any levies (except transport levies), precepts or other demands for financial contribution from the constituent councils;
- (c) Approval of borrowing limits, Treasury Management Strategy including reserves, Investment Strategy and Capital Budget of the Combined Authority;
- (d) Approval of the Combined Authority's constitution and any changes thereto;
- (e) Adoption of any freedoms or flexibilities offered by central Government;
- (f) Future expansion of the Combined Authority's functions (including by delegation);
- (g) Approval of growth schemes set out in any adopted strategic growth plan;

5A.5 Further detail on the decisions attracting reserved status and those requiring unanimity together with relevant procedures will be included in the Combined Authority's constitution. The Combined Authority will be able to designate a decision as having reserved status and to remove reserved status in accordance with more detailed provisions in the constitution.

5A.6 The LLEP member will be a non-voting member of the Combined Authority acting as an advisor to the Combined Authority.

5B. Quorum

5B.1 The quorum of any Combined Authority meeting will only be calculated by reference to voting members of the Combined Authority.

5B.2 Subject to paragraph 5B.3, the quorum for the meeting of the Combined Authority will be six members.

5B.3 The following additional rules for quorum will apply:

- (a) Where any decision is to be taken with reserved status then the meeting will only be quorate for the purposes of that decision where the relevant constituent council(s) is present; and

- (b) Where any decision is to be taken that requires unanimous approval then the meeting will only be quorate for the purposes of that decision where all constituent councils are present.

5B.4 The quorum of any committee of the Combined Authority will be determined by the Combined Authority.

6. Administrative Arrangements

6.1 Executive arrangements (within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2000) shall not apply to the Combined Authority. However, the discharge of the functions of the Combined Authority will be subject to the scrutiny arrangements set out in section 7 below.

6.2 Decisions of the Combined Authority will be taken by the full meeting of the Combined Authority save where any committee of the Combined Authority has been established or power to take a decision has been delegated in accordance with the Combined Authority's constitution.

6.3 The Combined Authority may establish (or join/participate in as the case may be) committees, sub-structures, sub-committees and other arrangements (including a joint committee under the Local Government Act 1972) for delegating any powers and/or functions as it considers appropriate.

7. Scrutiny Arrangements

7.1 The nine constituent councils of the Combined Authority will establish a joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to exercise scrutiny functions over the Combined Authority. Each constituent council will appoint such elected members to the joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee as are required to achieve political balance across the area of the Combined Authority. Overview and Scrutiny membership must not include a Combined Authority member or a member of the Executive of a constituent council.

7.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have the power to-

- (a) Invite Combined Authority members and officers to attend meetings and answer questions
- (b) Invite others to attend the meetings
- (c) Review or scrutinise decisions or other actions taken by the Combined Authority
- (d) Make reports or recommendations to the Combined Authority
- (e) Require that a decision that has not been implemented be reconsidered by the members of the Combined Authority

7.3 Where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee makes a report it may also publish it and require a response from the Combined Authority.

- 7.4 The notice published must give the Combined Authority two months to consider the report.

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Part 2 – Functions of the Combined Authority

8A. Introduction

- 8A.1 The prime purpose of the Combined Authority is to improve the exercise of statutory functions in relation to economic development, regeneration and transport in the Leicester/Leicestershire area leading to an improvement in the economic conditions and performance of the area including an improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of transport.
- 8A.2 In pursuit of this prime purpose, the Combined Authority will have the functions set out in this paragraph 8 in relation to strategic economic development and transport. These include functions in relation to strategic planning policy (including the planning for future housing and employment land provision). For the avoidance of doubt, it is not intended that the Combined Authority would determine any specific planning application.
- 8A.3 The Combined Authority will exercise its powers and duties concurrently with the constituent councils (where constituent councils have the same functions). No constituent council is ceding existing functions to the Combined Authority.
- 8A.4 The constituent councils and the Combined Authority will agree operating protocols for the exercise of concurrent powers and duties by the Combined Authority. These protocols will recognise the strategic role of the Combined Authority and safeguard the role of constituent councils in local decision making and delivery.
- 8A.5 Notwithstanding the above, a constituent council and the Combined Authority may enter into arrangements under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and/or Section 9EA of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 to allow the delegation of functions from a constituent council to the Combined Authority. In all such cases, acceptance of a delegation will require a decision of the Combined Authority.

8B. Powers and Duties

The powers and duties of the Combined Authority will be as follows

8B.1 Economic Development and Regeneration

(a) *Localism Act 2011*

Such functions of the constituent councils as are exercisable for the purpose of economic development and regeneration in reliance on the general power of competence under Section 1, Localism Act 2011.

(b) *Section 99 and Section 102A, Local Transport Act 2008*

The power to promote well-being in the area of the Combined Authority.

- (c) *Section 113A, Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009*
The power to do anything the Combined Authority considers appropriate: for the purposes of carrying out any of its functions; purposes incidental to and/or indirectly incidental to carrying out its functions; connected to any of its functions; for a commercial purpose.
- (d) *Section 69, Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009*
The duty of a local authority to prepare an assessment of economic conditions in its area.
- (e) *Section 142(2), Local Government Act 1972*
The power of a local authority to arrange for the publication within their area of information relating to the functions of the authority, etc.
- (f) *Section 144, Local Government Act 1972*
The power of a local authority to encourage persons to visit their area, etc.
- (g) *Sections 15ZA, 15ZB, 15ZC, 17A, 18A, 514A and 560A, Education Act 1996 (as inserted by Part 2 of the Apprenticeships, Skills Children and Learning Act 2009)*
The duty to secure that enough suitable education and training is provided to meet the reasonable needs of 16-19 year olds, 19-25 year olds who are subject to learning difficulty assessment and persons who are subject to youth detention. The duty to co-operate with local authorities exercising these duties.
- (h) *Section 88(1)(a) and (b), Local Government Act 1985*
Power to exercise the functions under the above provisions relating to the research and collection of information whether or not a scheme is made under Section 88.

8B.2 Transport

- (a) *Leicester and Leicestershire Transport Board*
The Leicester and Leicestershire Transport Board will no longer exist and its role will be performed by the Combined Authority.
- (b) *Functions of Central Government*
The Combined Authority shall exercise any function of Central Government delegated to the Combined Authority pursuant to any order made by the Secretary of State under Section 86, Local Transport Act 2008 and/or Section 104(1)(b), Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and/or Sections 15 to 19, Localism Act 2011.
- (c) *Section 108, Section 109 and Section 112, Local Transport Act 2000*
The duty to develop and keep under review policies relating to transport in its area and to carry out its functions to implement those policies.
- (d) *Section 2, Road Traffic Reduction Act 1997*

The duty to prepare a report on the levels of local road transport and a forecast of the growth in those levels.

8C. The Combined Authority's Focus and Activities

8.8 In exercise of the above, it is proposed that the Combined Authority will focus upon strategic economic development matters (including strategic planning policy) and strategic transport matters. These matters could include (without limitation):

(a) The development and implementation of:

- i. a joint economic vision for the area of the Combined Authority which will help shape: (aa) the decision making of the Combined Authority and the constituent councils; and (bb) the continuing work of the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership;
- ii. a strategic growth plan looking to 2050 for the area of the Combined Authority which will provide a robust, single strategic framework for the preparation of aligned investment plans and the planning for future housing and employment land provision by the constituent councils and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership;
- iii. a strategic asset management plan to identify land and assets in public sector ownership and to outline how such assets/land could be managed to unlock land for growth, reduce costs and/or create long term revenue to support economic development and inward investment;
- iv. a single strategic transport master plan for the area of the Combined Authority and associated transport infrastructure investment strategy. These documents will guide long term investment in strategic highway and public transport infrastructure up to 2050; and
- v. a long term investment strategy for the Combined Authority area to influence the future development and monitoring by the constituent councils and/or the LLEP of investment plans;
- vi. a growth deal framework to guide the future work of the LLEP in developing growth deals for the Combined Authority area;

(b) The ongoing monitoring and review of the documents referred to in (a).

(c) The Combined Authority may also exercise its functions to secure funding from regional, national and EU funders in furtherance of the aims identified in the documents at (a) and potentially become the accountable body for such funding.

Part 3 – Funding

9. Funding

- 9.1 The costs of the Combined Authority that are reasonably attributable to the exercise of its functions relating to economic development and regeneration (and any start-up costs) shall be met by the constituent councils.
- 9.2 The Combined Authority will agree an annual budget for the purpose of this expenditure.
- 9.3 The LLEP will not be required to provide funding to support the operation of the Combined Authority.

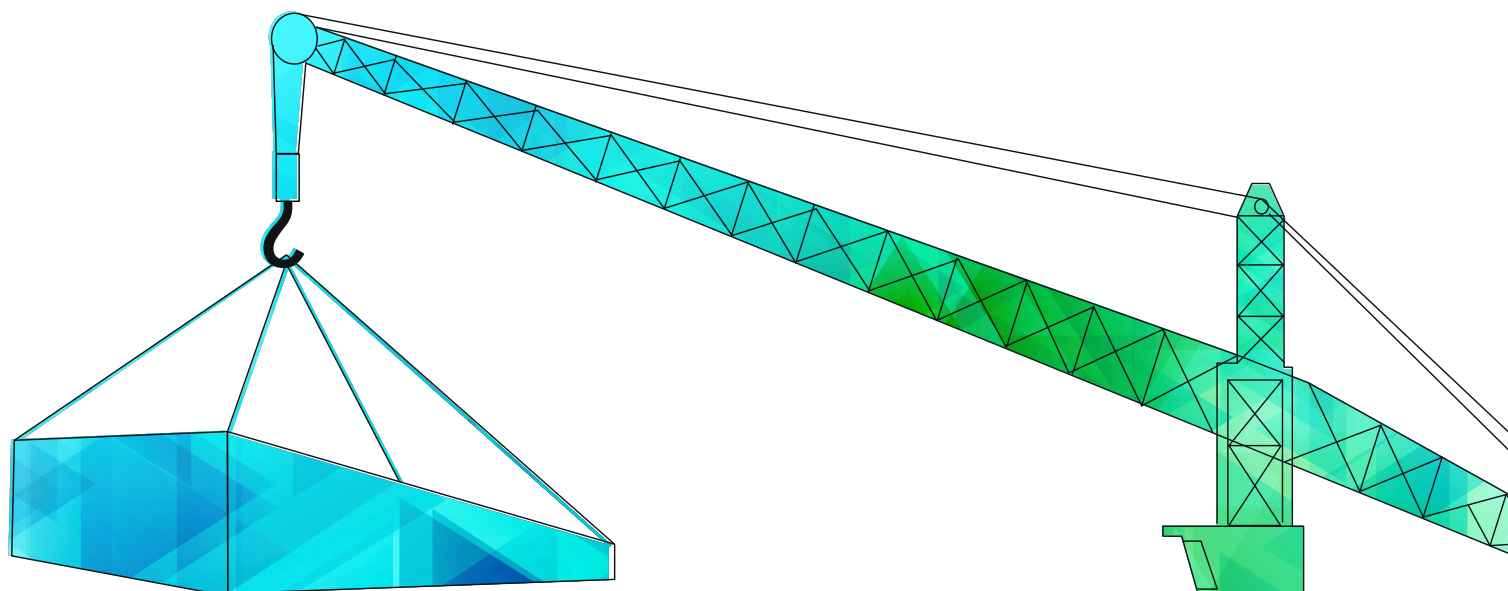
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Part 4 – Other arrangements

10. Relationship with Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and other Combined Authorities

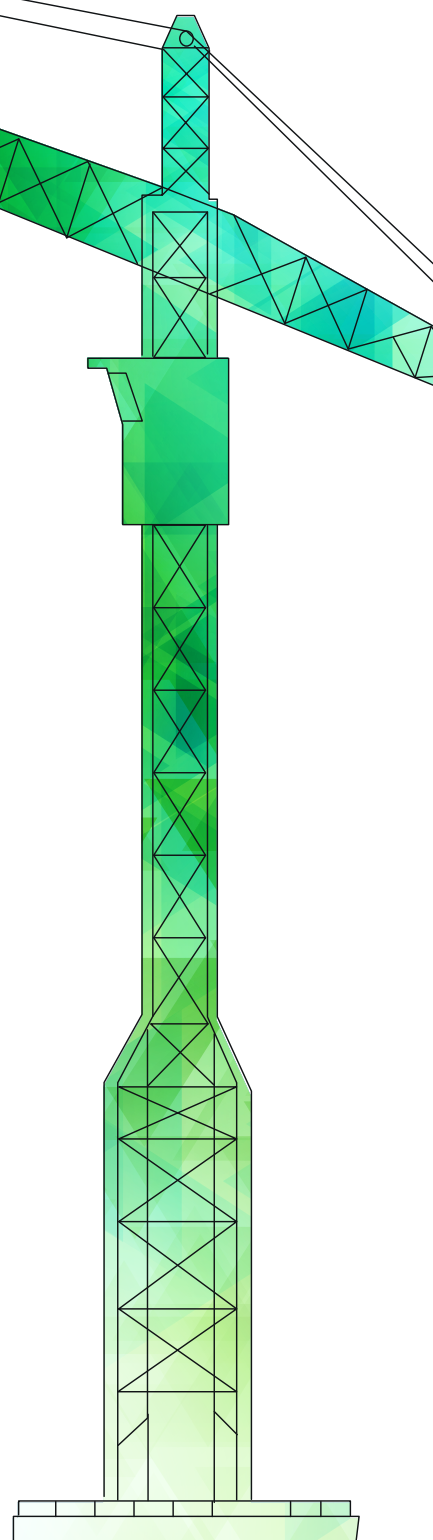
- 10.1 A partnership between the public and private sector, the LLEP's vision is to "Create a vibrant, attractive and distinctive place with highly skilled people making Leicester and Leicestershire the destination of choice for successful businesses."
- 10.2 In addition to its non-voting membership of the Combined Authority, it is intended that the LLEP would be a lead advisory body to the Combined Authority and potentially provide leadership of particular Combined Authority projects and work streams.
- 10.3 It is recognised that the Combined Authority will need to coordinate its work closely with the equivalent Combined Authorities in neighbouring areas (including Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands). In particular, the Combined Authority would seek to establish arrangements with any established Combined Authorities (and Local Enterprise Partnerships) in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire in order to ensure that effective governance can operate across the whole of this wider area.

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Combined Authority Consultation Report

for the Leicester and Leicestershire
Combined Authority



Introduction and Methodology

The City, County and District Councils have consulted with the public and stakeholders on proposals to create a combined authority. The consultation involved a survey of residents, staff and stakeholders, but also included the invitation to submit views by letter or email.

The survey was made available on Councils' websites from 21 September 2015. This was accompanied by supporting information which set out the proposals in more detail.

The survey asked for views on the proposed model, the proposed functions to be included, and the how the existing governance arrangements had been documented (see Appendix 1 for the full questionnaire).

The consultation closed on the 20 October 2015 (a four week fieldwork window).

Communications and media activity

The Combined Authority consultation was communicated in a number of ways, including:

- press releases sent to local, regional and local government media at the beginning of the consultation and again before the end
- in the County Council's newspaper to all county households, Leicestershire Matters
- social media messages on Twitter and Facebook from partners at key points throughout the consultation
- on all partner website front pages and consultation webpages
- to staff at partner councils, via intranet sites and staff emails
- email briefings and letters sent to MPs, business stakeholders, voluntary groups, councils in neighbouring areas and other interested parties

Survey response rate

During the four week consultation window, 260 people responded to the survey. The majority (98.8%) took part by completing the online survey, with a small number (3) returning a paper copy of the survey.

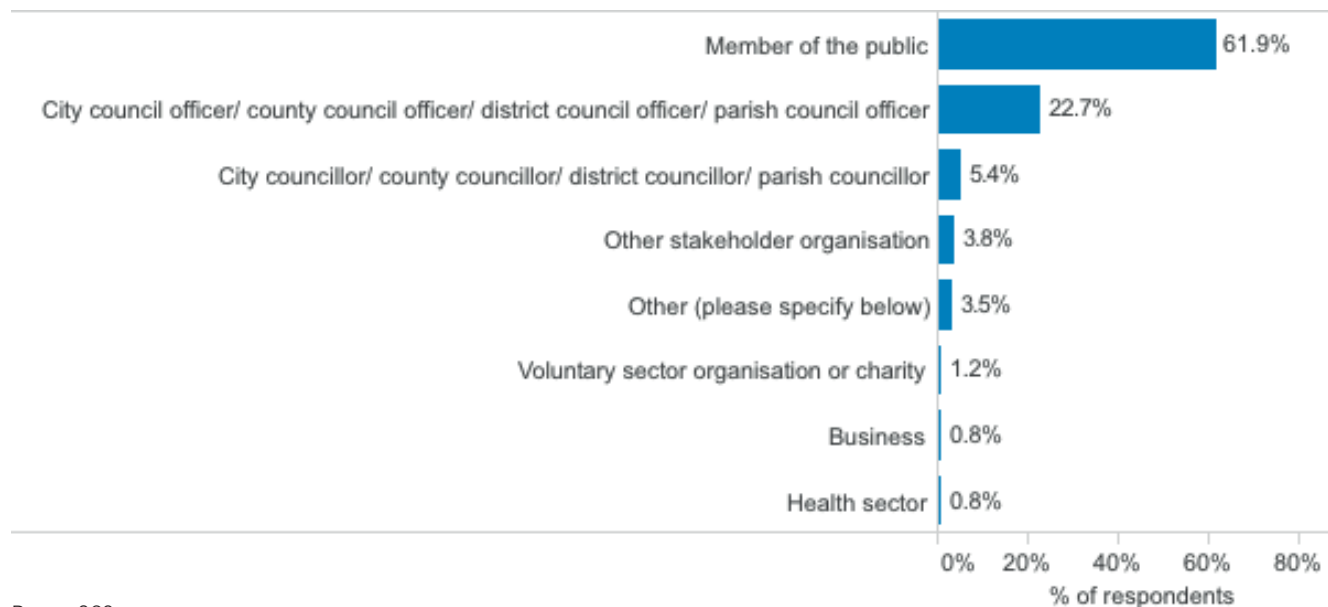
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Other consultation responses	9
Appendix 1 - Questionnaire	10
Appendix 2 - Respondent profile	14
Appendix 3 - Are there any other functions that you think should be included in the scheme?	14

Survey respondent profile

Chart 1 shows that most respondents who completed the survey were members of the public (61.9%). Other responses have been listed in Table 1.

Chart 1 – In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?



Base = 260

Table 1 – Other, please specify (as written by the respondent)

City Council employee	2
CC employee	1
District Council	1
Homes and Communities Agency	1
Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council	1
Service manager for a community transport service	1
Youth services	1

Base = 8

Table 2 shows the stakeholder organisations which respondents represented – not all respondents chose to state their organisation.

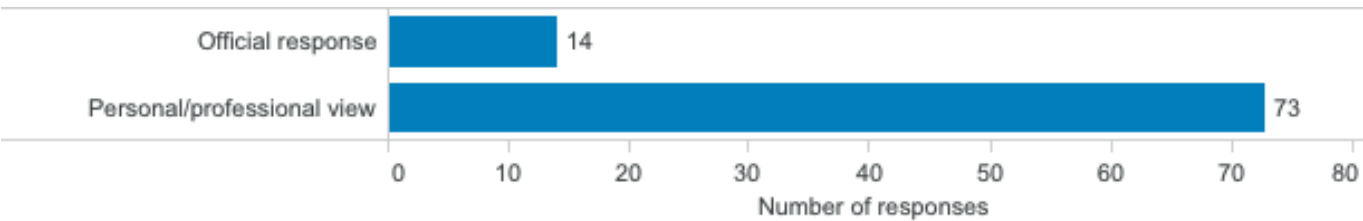
Table 2 – Stakeholder organisations represented

Leicester City Council	8
Leicestershire County Council	5
Claybrooke Magna Parish Council	3
Harborough District Council	3
Blaby District Council	2
Barwell Parish Council	1
Broughton Astley Parish Council	1
Campaign for Better Transport (Leicestershire)	1
Community Action Partnership	1
DMU	1
East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group	1
Enderby Parish Council	1
Federation of Small Businesses	1
Harborough District Councillor, Village Meeting Chairman	1
Homes and Communities Agency	1
Leicester Cathedral	1
Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group	1
Leicester College	1
Market Bosworth Parish Council	1
Orbit	1
Road Haulage Association	1
Signing Network CIC	1
The National Forest Company	1
The University of Leicester	1
Woodhouse Parish Council	1

Base =41

Fourteen respondents from stakeholder organisations provided their organisation's official response (Chart 2). These organisations are listed in Table 3 (two respondents did not provide their organisation's name).

Chart 2 – Are you providing your organisation’s official response to the consultation or a personal/professional view?



Base =87

Table 3 – Official responses received from

Broughton Astley Parish Council
DMU
East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group
Enderby Parish Council
Federation of Small Businesses
Homes and Communities Agency
Leicester College
Market Bosworth Parish Council
Road Haulage Association
Signing Network CIC
The National Forest Company
Woodhouse Parish Council

Base =12

A demographic profile of those responding to the survey is reported in Appendix 2.

Survey analysis - methodology

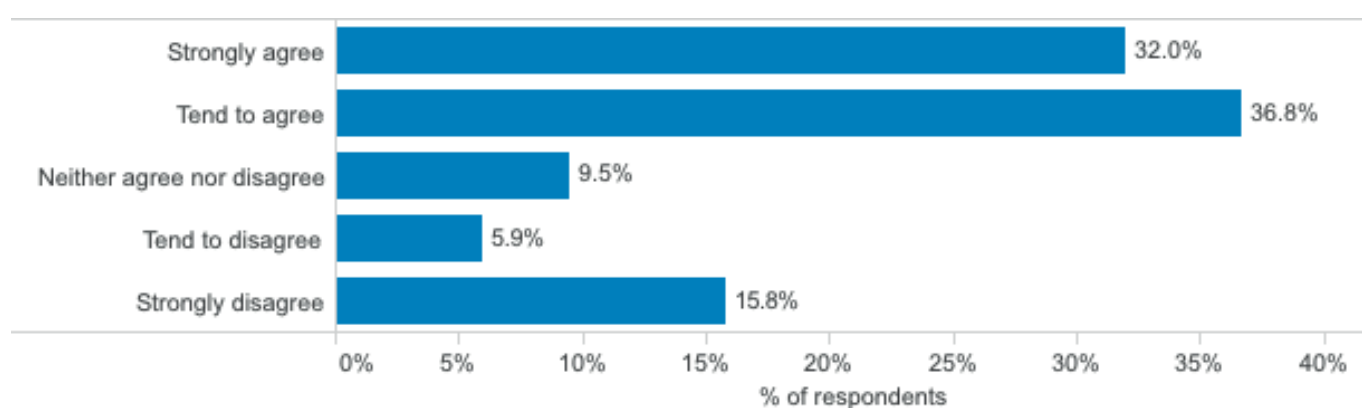
Graphs and tables have been used to assist explanation and analysis. Although occasional anomalies appear due to rounding differences, these are never more than +/- 1%. Question results have been reported based on those who provided a valid response, i.e. taking out the ‘don’t know’ responses and no replies from the calculation of the percentages.

Survey Results Analysis

Combined Authority governance model

Chart 3 shows that the majority of respondents (68.8%) agreed that, to enable economic and transport improvements, of the four options presented a Combined Authority is the best governance model for Leicester and Leicestershire. Just over a fifth of respondents disagreed (21.7%).

Chart 3 – To what extent do you agree or disagree that, to enable economic and transport improvements, a combined authority is the best governance model for Leicester and Leicestershire?



Base = 253

Analysis of the open comments showed that respondents who ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘tended to agree’ with the statement commented that it would avoid duplication and provide value for money. They also commented that it would improve co-ordination between authorities, particularly as the functions of the Combined Authority related to issues which were wider than the current political boundaries.

“Leicester and Leicestershire are strongly interlinked with people moving between city and county for work, shopping and leisure. A combined authority would allow for planning and transport decisions which took account of the needs of the city and the county residents.”

Respondents who either ‘strongly disagreed’ or ‘tended to disagree’ with the statement expressed concerns that local accountability would be lost and highlighted the difference between Leicester City and Leicestershire County, both in terms of political approach and the differing needs of the populations. Respondents also commented that the proposals would result in a decrease in democratic accountability.

“I think a combined authority of the type being proposed would dilute and compromise an individual authority’s ability to act in the best interests of its residents and respond to their needs and views.”

Respondents were also asked whether there were any other functions that they thought should be included in the scheme. Chart 4 shows a summary of the results.

Chart 4 – Are there any other functions that you think should be included in the scheme?

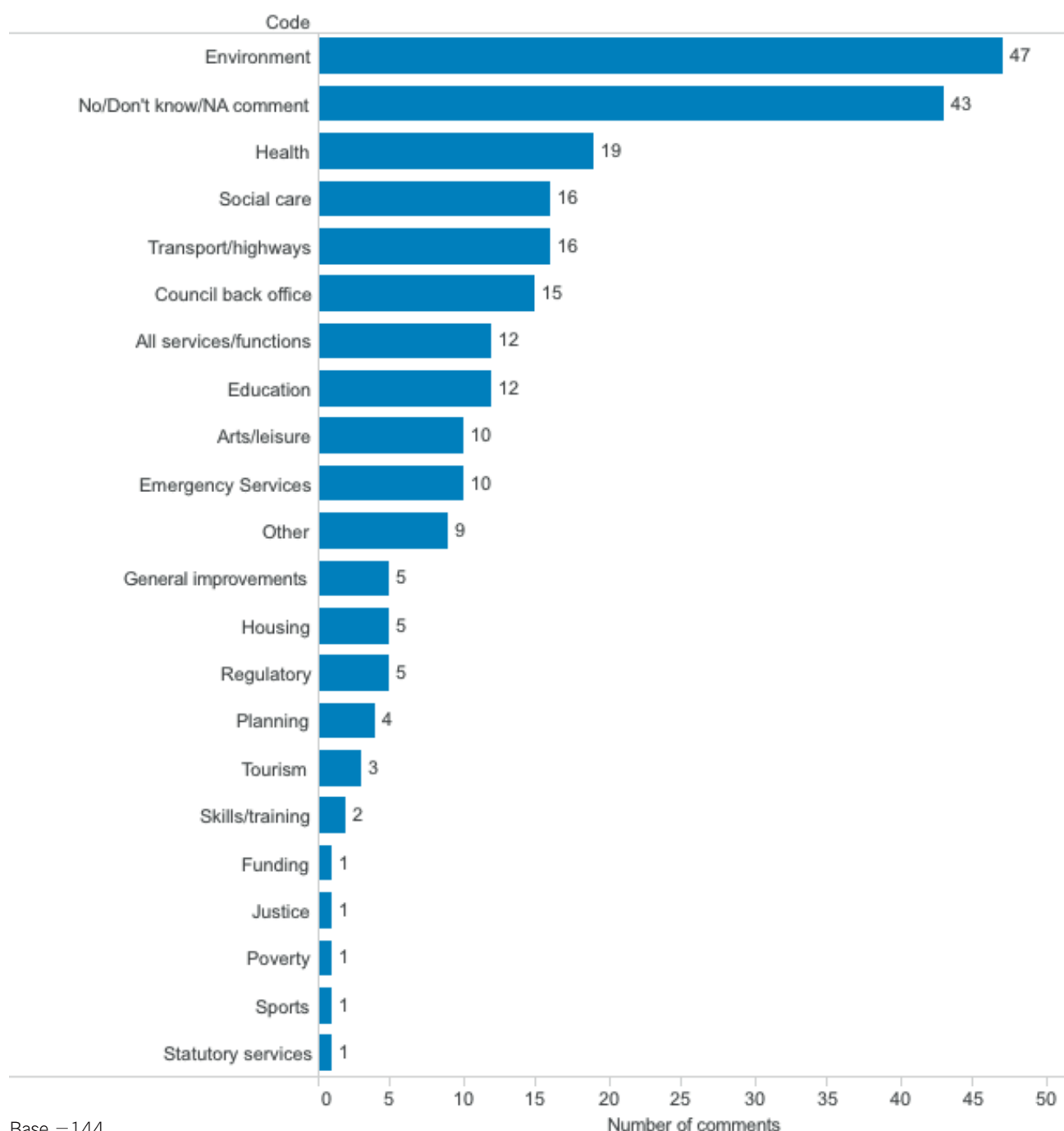
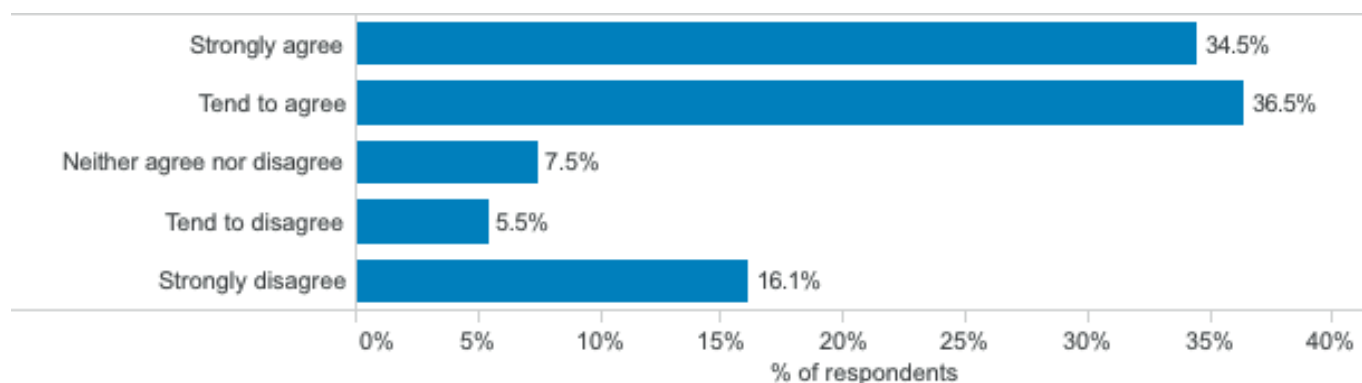


Chart 4 shows that the most common functions mentioned by respondents were around the theme of the environment, followed by health, transport/highways, social care, and council back office functions. Appendix 3 provides a more detailed breakdown of these codes.

Combined authority functions

Chart 5 shows that the majority of respondents (71.0%) agreed that the proposed functions are appropriate. Just over a fifth of respondents disagreed (21.6%).

Chart 5 – To what extent do you agree or disagree that these proposed functions are appropriate?



Base =255

Respondents who 'strongly agreed' or 'tended to agree' with the statement commented that the functions set out in the Scheme were key issues affecting the whole of the combined authority area. Respondents commented that a joined up approach with these functions was in the best interests of the public and made economic sense.

"These appear to be key areas affecting the whole of the city and county and so appropriate for a combined authority"

There was a lack of consensus amongst respondents who 'tended to agree' with the statement with regard to skills. Some felt that co-ordination in this area would not be possible whereas others welcomed the focus on it.

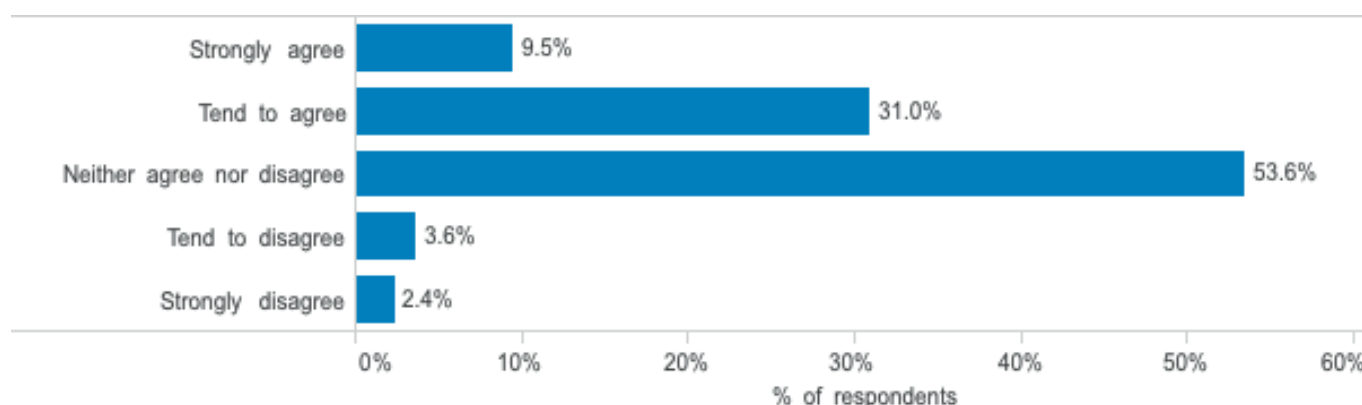
Respondents who 'strongly disagreed' or 'tended to disagree' with the statement expressed concerns that local accountability for functions would be lost, particularly with regard to planning and that some areas would benefit more than others.

"With any group coming together there are compromises. This could lead to trade-offs between different areas which do not best meet residents requirements"

Existing governance arrangements

Chart 5 shows that the majority of respondents (53.6%) neither agreed nor disagreed that the governance review correctly outlines the existing governance arrangements. Just over 40% of respondents agreed and 6.0% disagreed.

Chart 5 – To what extent do you agree that the governance review correctly outlines the existing governance arrangements?



Base =84

The majority of comments were from respondents who ‘neither agreed nor disagreed’ with the statement. Respondents felt that they did not have sufficient experience to comment in this area.

“I’m not an expert on this subject so don’t feel my opinion is particularly useful”.

Any other comments on the proposals as a whole

Comments made by respondents included a wide range of issues, the most of common were:

- In support of the proposal to establish a combined authority;
- Concerns regarding the cost of establishing and administering a combined authority, including concerns that this would add an extra tier of government for the area;
- Concerns that the proposals will have an impact on local accountability;
- That the current arrangements are satisfactory;
- That the proposals are not sufficiently ambitious or that the establishment of a unitary authority should be considered instead of creating a combined authority;
- Concerns that political differences may limit progress.

Other consultation responses

Letters providing an official response to the consultation were received from the East Midlands Airport, the Federation of Small Businesses and the East Midlands Chamber. These letters set out clear and positive positions in relation to the consultation proposals and are attached as Appendix 4 to this report. Appendix 4 also includes an email response from Andrew Bridgen MP which expresses concerns regarding the level of ambition in the proposal.

Leicester Leicestershire

Delivering Growth Together



Have your say on the Leicester and Leicestershire combined authority proposal

Introduction

The city, county and district councils are working on proposals to create a combined authority. A combined authority would not replace individual councils and their current services but would enable them to work more closely together on transport, planning, skills and other key issues affecting the whole area. The combined authority can only be formed if all councils agree and if the Government approves any proposals.

The councils concerned are: Leicester City Council; Leicestershire County Council; Blaby District Council; Charnwood Borough Council; Harborough District Council; Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council; Melton Borough Council; North West Leicestershire District Council; and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

We'd like your views on our outline proposal.

All comments we receive during the consultation will be analysed and we will amend the proposals in the light of them. The amended proposals will then be considered by all the above councils. If all councils approve the proposals, we will submit them to the Government. We hope to be able to submit proposals early next year and would then expect a decision from ministers within a year.

Please note: Your responses to the main part of the survey (Q1 to Q7, including your comments) may be released to the general public in full under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any responses to the questions in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire will be held securely and will not be subject to release under Freedom of Information legislation, nor passed on to any third party.

Q1 In what role are you responding to this consultation? Please tick one option only

- ☐ Member of the public
- ☐ City councillor/ county councillor/ district councillor/ parish councillor*
- ☐ City council officer/ county council officer/ district council officer/ parish council officer*
- ☐ Business*
- ☐ Health sector*
- ☐ Emergency services*
- ☐ Voluntary sector organisation or charity*
- ☐ Other stakeholder organisation*
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

Other (please specify)

Q2 *If you represent a stakeholder, please provide your details:

Name:

Organisation:

Are you providing your organisation's official response to the consultation or a personal/professional view?

Please tick one option only

- ☐ Official response
- ☐ Personal/professional view

Combined authority governance model

Recently we looked at possible governance models to enable economic and transport improvements in the local area. The preliminary findings of the governance review suggest the combined authority is the best governance model for Leicester and Leicestershire.

A combined authority is a legal arrangement which enables councils to work together more closely on issues around transport, planning and economic growth. They can help reduce duplication and bureaucracy. They are created to enable clearer co-ordination and decision-making, to drive forward decisions on transport, economic development and skills, giving local councils a stronger voice in discussions with the Government, neighbouring areas and developers.

There are alternatives to having a combined authority. For example, councils could continue to work together as they are, or set up a joint committee, or an economic prosperity board. However, none of these options give the full benefits of a combined authority and that is why a number of areas are applying to set up combined authorities. These are set out in our governance review.

Q3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that, to enable economic and transport improvements, a combined authority is the best governance model for Leicester and Leicestershire? Please tick one option only

Strongly agree

☐

Tend to agree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Tend to disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Don't know

☐

Why do you say this?

Combined authority functions

Part 2 of the draft scheme sets out the proposed functions of the combined authority. In summary, these are:

Planning: councils could work together to agree a clearer, long-term framework to meet future housing and employment needs for the whole area and identify future growth locations.

Transport: focussing on long-term investment in road, rail and other public transport infrastructure.

Skills: driving improvements in skills and training, to give local people the chance to get better qualifications and employment.

Q4 To what extent do you agree or disagree that these proposed functions are appropriate? Please tick one option only

Strongly agree

☐

Tend to agree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Tend to disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Don't know

☐

Why do you say this?

About you

Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community.

We would therefore be grateful if you would answer the questions below. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did.

Q8 Are you male or female? Please tick one option only

☐ Male

☐ Female

Q9 What was your age on your last birthday? (Please enter your age in numbers not words)

Q10 What is your full postcode?

Q11 Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? Please tick one option only

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q12 What is your ethnic group? Please tick one option only

☐ White

☐ Black or Black British

☐ Mixed

☐ Other ethnic group

☐ Asian or Asian British

Thank you.

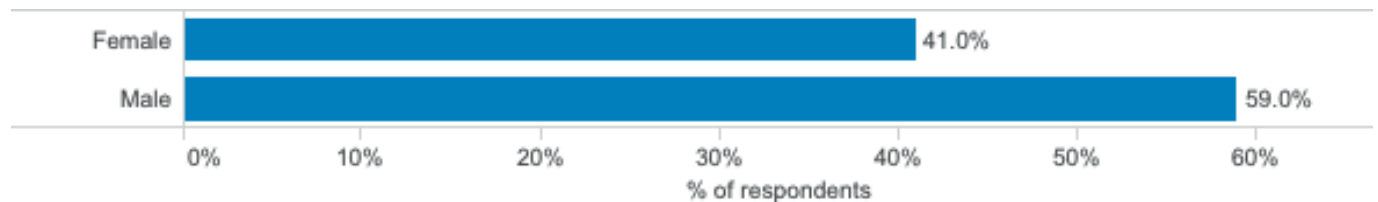
Please return by 20th October 2015 to: Combine Authority Consultation, Room 300B, Leicestershire County Council, Have Your Say, FREEPOST NAT18685, Leicester, LE3 8XR. No stamp is required.

Data Protection: Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the county council and its partners. Leicestershire County Council will not share any information collected from the 'About you' section of this survey with its partners. The information will be held in accordance with the council's records management and retention policy. Information which is not in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

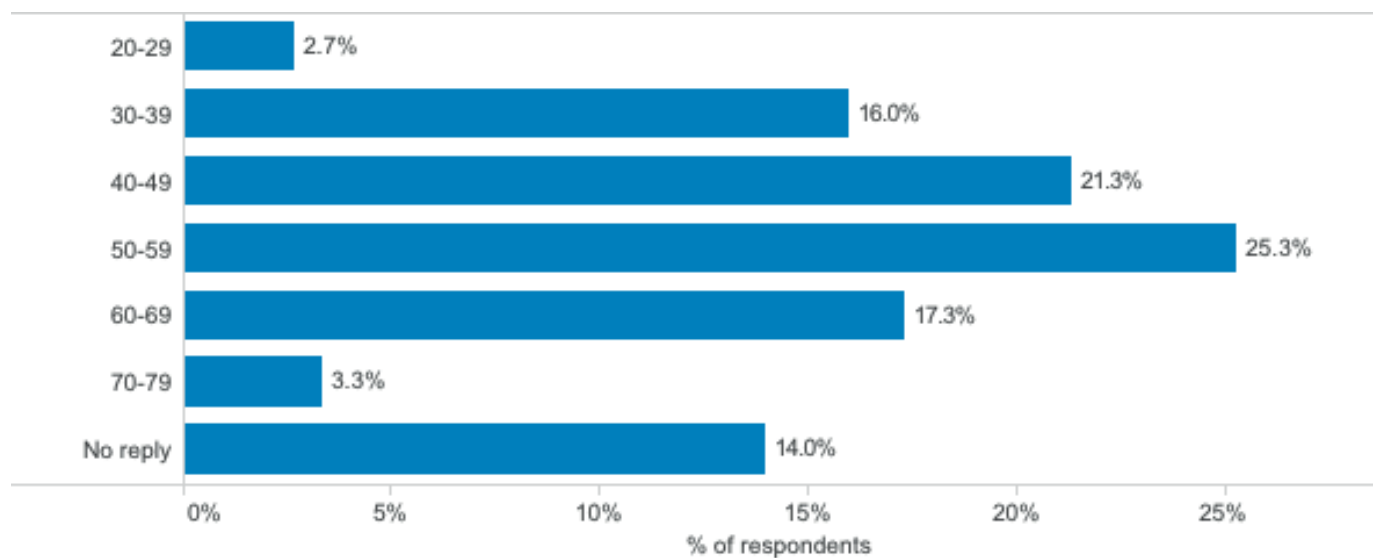
Appendix 2 – Respondent profile

The charts below show the demographic profile of the members of the public who responded to the survey (stakeholders were not asked these questions).

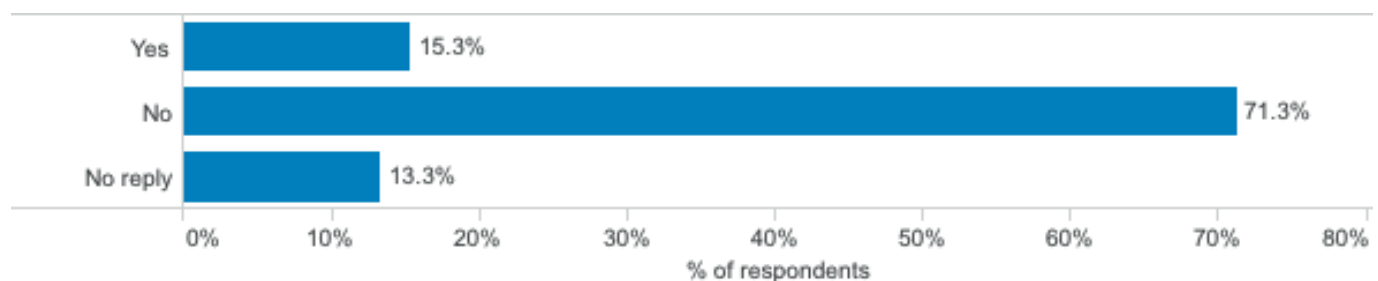
Are you male or female?



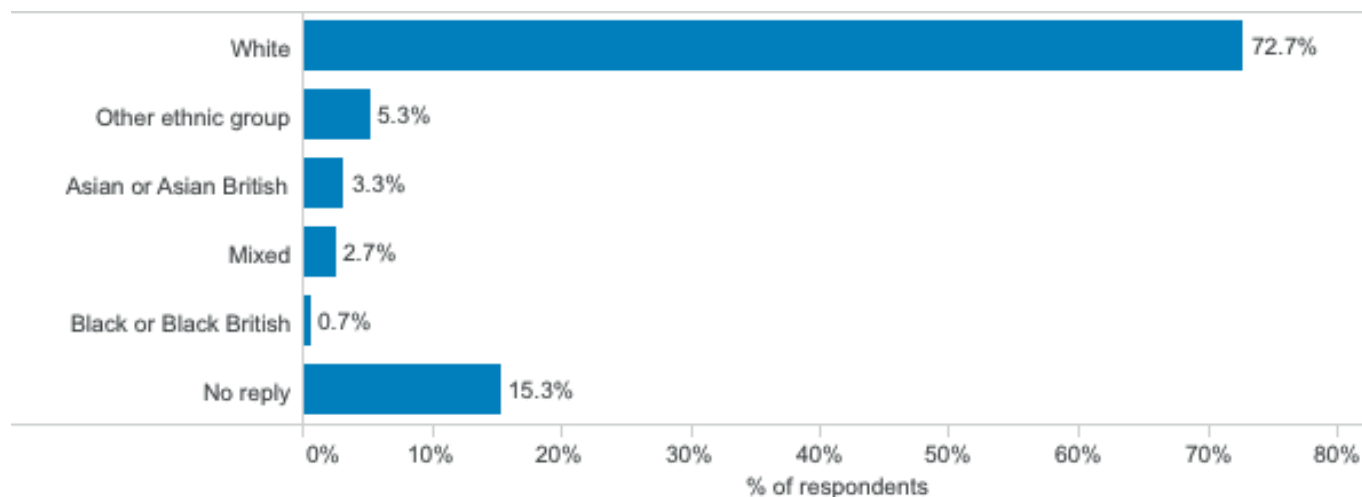
What was your age on your last birthday?



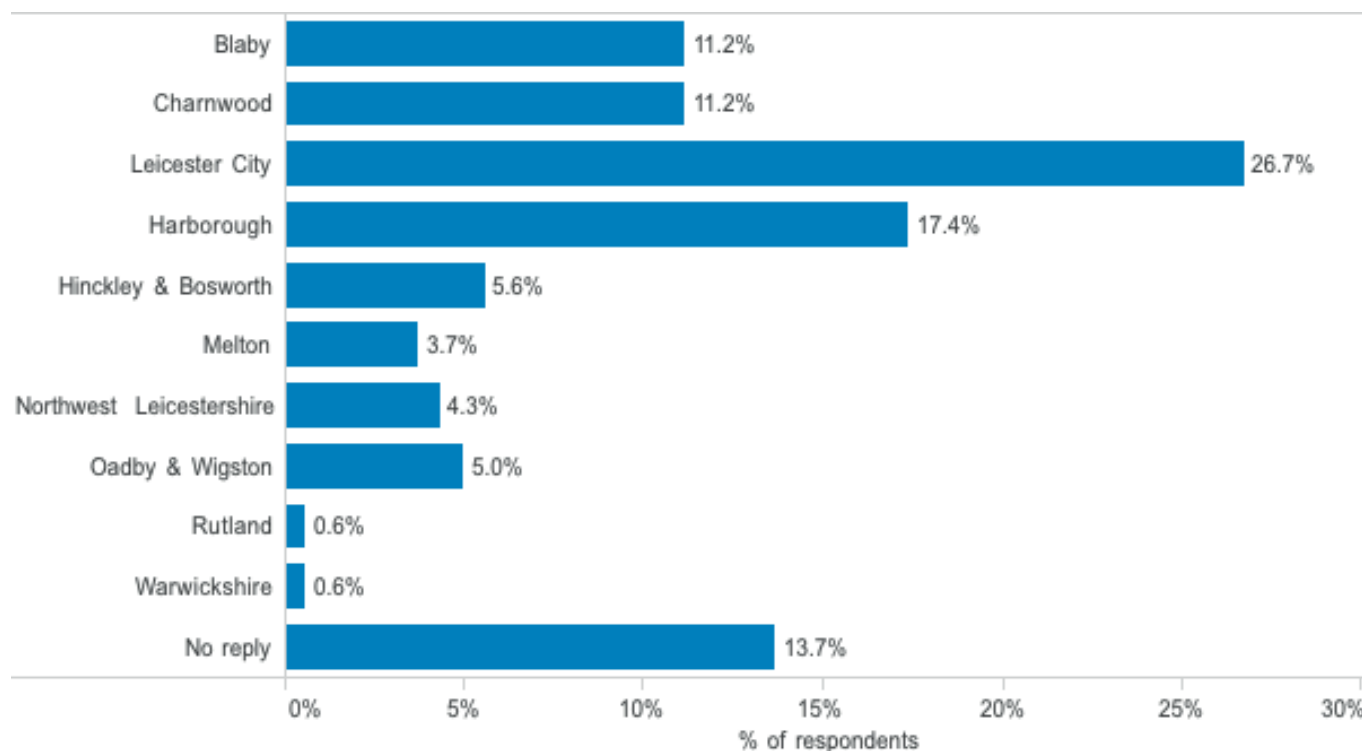
Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?



What is your ethnic group?



District (What is your postcode?)



Appendix 3 – Are there any other functions that you think should be included in the scheme?

Code	Sub code	Count			
Environment	Waste Management	22	Arts/leisure	Leisure facilities	4
	Recycling	9		Arts/culture	4
	Environmental concerns	9		Museums	1
	Green/Renewable/Sustainable - Energy	2		Libraries	1
	Energy	2	Emergency Services	Police	6
	Maintenance of parks/verges	1		Fire services	3
	Green/Renewable/Sustainable - Transport	1		Emergency services	1
	Green/Renewable/Sustainable - Other	1	Other	Other	9
No/Don't know/NA comment	No/Don't know/NA comment	43	General improvements	Improve operations - General comment	5
Health	Health	19	Housing	Housing	5
Transport/Highways	Transport	3	Regulatory	Licensing	2
	Parking	3		Trading Standards	1
	Traffic management	2		Registrars	1
	Street lighting	1		Coroners	1
	Road gritting	1	Planning	Planning	4
	Road cleaning	1	Tourism	Tourism	2
	Lorry parking	1		Festivals	1
	Lift freight delivery restrictions	1	Skills/training	Training	1
	Highways/roads	1		Apprenticeships	1
	Freight priority lanes	1	Funding	Funding schemes	1
	Depots	1	Justice	Courts	1
	Cycling infrastructure	1	Poverty	Poverty	1
	Consolidation centres/freight parks	1	Sports	Sports development	1
			Statutory services	Statutory services	1
Social care	Social care/social services	14			
	Meals on wheels	1			
	Care for elderly	1			
Council back office	Procurement/commissioning	5			
	Admin	3			
	IT infrastructure	2			
	Consultation	2			
	Human Resources	1			
	Finance	1			
	Equality and diversity	1			
All services/functions	All services/functions	12			
Education	Education	11			
	School meals	1			

Base = 144

Note each response could contain more than one comment/point of view

Appendix 4 – Additional consultation responses



East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire)

Response to consultation on the formation of a Combined Authority for Leicester and Leicestershire

East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire) welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on the proposed development of a Combined Authority in Leicester and Leicestershire, an area in which it has over 900 members.

The Chamber's comments relate in the main to the proposed functions, focus and activities, as opposed to the proposed governance arrangements. We would, however, note that the proposed role for the Chair of the LLEP is welcome. Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership has been a success for the area to date in helping promote the needs of business and its continued involvement would be an important element in any Combined Authority model.

It is also important to clearly state that it is vital for the success of a combined authority that it not be seen as another layer of governance, and therefore ensuring a strong, coherent plan of activity and communication of that is of the utmost importance.

Economic development, regeneration and transport are all areas that the Chamber believes would be more effectively addressed at the proposed combined authority level. Businesses and employees cross boundaries as a matter of course and so it is appropriate that an approach to economic development also looks cross-border. The Chamber would highlight three areas where better joined up activity would support enhanced business growth:

- **Skills provision:** in particular, ensuring that colleges and training providers are understanding and responsive to the needs of local employers and that provision can be designed around these needs, both for today and into the future.
- **Planning/land availability:** considering both commercial and residential developments, the lack of consistent local plans creates barriers in planning and creates a system that is disjointed and often weighted towards local pressures/drivers as opposed to the strategic needs of an area. Chamber members frequently highlight frustrations with planning as it stands, both from the viewpoint of developers and also businesses looking to move premises and struggling to find something suitable.
- **Transport:** ensuring a cross-boundary approach to investment in road networks – many journeys on these networks are transitory across boundaries and by understanding and responding to key travel flows a 'whole journey' approach can be developed, reducing congestion and boosting productivity.

While the Chamber is wholly supportive the intention to develop a joint economic vision and strategic growth plan to 2050, it is vital that any such vision and growth plan also be cognisant of – and engage with – activity taking place in localities surrounding the proposed Combined Authority area, where there are many joint economic interests and opportunities. Indeed, the importance of getting this right is only

heightened by similar moves in neighbouring areas, where developments are at a more advanced stage. A Combined Authority for Leicester and Leicestershire will support this by putting the area on a closer to equal footing.

Finally, while it is appreciated that this consultation marks one stage within a process, the Chamber recognises that the development of Combined Authorities and the wider devolution agenda is politically a fast moving one. Therefore, we would urge decision makers in Leicester and Leicestershire to continue to be seek opportunities for enhanced partnership working, both within the city and county boundaries but also with others where the interests are similar and deeper partnership would further support the positive development of the Leicester and Leicestershire economy and those who live and work in it.

To discuss this submission further please contact:

Scott Knowles, Chief Executive, scott.knowles@emc-dnlc.co.uk

Chris Hobson, Director of Policy and External Affairs, chris.hobson@emc-dnl.co.uk



FSB Response to the Combined Authority Consultation

Q3 - We strongly agree.

Businesses do not recognise authority boundaries as helpful to an effective transport system. They want seamless movement of labour across the whole LLEP area. There are opportunities for improved productivity and convenience through smart ticketing across such a seamless area.

Businesses do not consider authority boundaries as helpful in the execution of economic development strategies from the LLEP. They introduce significant handicaps into the process for providing development space for housing and economic activity. The differences in approach to inward investment activity between the City and County have been depressing to observe. Businesses expect consistent deployment of business support, such as local sign-posting to LLEP and other sources, to be consistent across post codes.

However, the successful delivery of these expectations will rest on effective governance arrangements and truly integrated working with an absence of frontiers. We look forward to an opportunity to comment on proposals to achieve this. Issues of accountability, transparency and accessibility for business input will be of particular interest.

Q4 - We strongly agree.

Part of the transport rationale for a combined approach is outlined in Q3. In parallel with the delivery of transport services, there is the underlying issue of transport infrastructure, both the development and maintenance thereof, where authority boundaries make no apparent sense when it comes to rational allocation of scarce resources.

Planning authority partitions are demonstrably disabling the mechanisms required to meet the needs of the local economy. For instance the City boundary appears to be a real obstacle to providing adequate workplace development space for LLEP key industries such as food. There is a wide-spread and continuing need for affordable work space for small businesses – the life blood of the local economy.

With the area still growing well, and approaching nominal full employment, then we urgently need more housing to attract more labour. The location of that housing and how it links to the employment centres, together with the necessary social infrastructure of schools, healthcare, retail outlets etc, is a pressing task that has to be addressed under one authority without frontiers.

Businesses expect that a combined planning authority will deliver planning decisions and regulation more consistently than the situation they currently have to deal with.

The vital, parallel approach to nominal full-employment has to be a drive for increasing productivity in the LLEP area. The statistics show that this area is below national averages in educational attainment, in skill levels and consequently in productivity. Standard of living rests fundamentally on productivity. The “living

wage” issue will only be solved, as opposed to mitigated with unintended consequences, by increasing productivity. Productivity rests on investment and on training. We look to the combined authority to take a seamless approach to delivering a workforce through the FE colleges and other routes that meets the needs of businesses. That may need a change to what the colleges understand by “meeting demand”. Too often this appears to mean meeting demand expressed by students seeking to enrol. This approach delivers surpluses who cannot apply their training and chronic shortages illustrated by vacancies which cannot be filled.

However, the same comments on governance made in Q3 still apply.

Q5 –

As a consequence of combining planning functions, we believe that Section 106 funds should also be pooled and applied to development infrastructure where rationally required, rather than within the local authority boundary within which it is “earned”.

Inward investment should be specifically identified as within the ambit of the combined authority. Business people cannot understand the apparent lack of clarity, over a protracted period, of the role, scope and remit of the inward investment effort in the County vs the City. Potential investors also need to see a single entity and single point of contact for the whole LLEP area.

It would be helpful if the Combined Authority was specifically tasked with the development and maintenance of a “foreign office” for developing plans and joint ventures with authorities in neighbouring LLEP areas.

Q6. – Tend to agree

We tend to agree that the review correctly outlines the existing governance arrangements. However, the language used needs to be sharpened up to differentiate the roles of the Combined Authority from that of the LLEP.

There is such widespread use of “strategic”, “economic development”, “growth” etc that the lines get blurred. For instance, under heading 6, “There is no single formally constituted body with responsibility for taking decisions related to economic growth....” “...no single entity with responsibility for taking decisions on economic development....”. Any suggestion of dilution of the role of the LLEP would be retrograde and very damaging. Sharper distinction between delivery and strategy might help.

It would be helpful if the language used separated the topic of spatial planning from that of economic development for governance purposes.

There is no discussion about how a newly constituted Combined Authority would be represented on the LLEP Board.

Dave Nicholls

Regional Chairman

20 October 2015

Simon Lawrence
Programme Manager
Leicestershire Combined Authority

By E-Mail

Dear Simon

Consultation on the Proposed Combined Authority for Leicestershire

We are responding to the public consultation on the proposal to create a combined authority for Leicester and Leicestershire. As one of the County's major businesses, East Midlands Airport welcomes the opportunity to make comments and provide some observations on the proposed arrangements for closer collaboration and joint-working between the local authorities in Leicestershire.

East Midlands Airport is located in North West Leicestershire and is the largest single employment site in the County. It is a significant regional airport handling 4.5 million passengers a year serving the Midlands and part of East Anglia. The Airport also plays a national role as the UK's largest express freight hub. Some 7,000 people work on the Airport site and it is estimated that the Airport generates £263m of annual GVA for the East Midlands region.

The local authorities and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership have a range of priorities and policies to boost the County's economy, to create jobs and to improve transport and planning. A more unified approach through a combined authority would provide a greater level of clarity, reduce duplication and importantly provide a strategic approach and direction for developers and investors. This would ensure that across the County, the focus is on strategies, policies and measures that seek to deliver the greatest overall benefit for Leicestershire. A collective approach through a combined authority will also give the local authorities and partners across the County a single and stronger voice in discussions with Government, regional partners, businesses and investors.

East Midlands Airport supports the approach to closer and more collective working between local authorities. This will enable clearer and more strategic decision-making, delivering an ambitious approach to transport, planning and the development of jobs and skills. Combined Authorities have been established in neighbouring areas and it is important that Leicester and Leicestershire are able to capitalise on the benefits that such a partnership will bring.

We hope that these comments are helpful as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Bottomley', followed by a long horizontal line and a stylized flourish.

Jon Bottomley
PRINCIPAL PLANNER

From: **BRIDGEN, Andrew**
Sent: **20 October 2015 15:21**
To: **Leader**
Subject: **RE: Combined Authority**

Dear Nick,

With reference to the Combined Authority, I have real concerns that our bid will not be seen as substantial enough. Around us we have Northamptonshire combining with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, Lincolnshire looking at East Yorkshire and Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are combining with the prospect of a Mayor and the powers that would bring. I also understand that a lot of their bid centres on the employment opportunities around East Midlands Airport based of course in our County and in my constituency.

I do feel that it is inevitable that we will have to form some alliance with these two counties given our historic links being part of the so called Golden Triangle. I understand yesterday that the leader of Nottinghamshire County Council extended an invitation for Leicester and Leicestershire to join their bid and whilst I understand you have said recently it is 'too late', I would urge you to look at this again and see what options there are to join that bid. I will be happy to raise the matter with the Secretary of State to see what assistance he and his Department can offer to facilitate this, indeed I am in receipt of a handwritten note from him following my speech in the House last week agreeing with my promotion of the idea. I fear if we do not act soon, the County and the City will be left behind as our bid simply will not have the critical mass required.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Bridgen

You can view the latest information in a number of ways

Visit us online www.llca.org.uk - this web page will be kept up-to-date with the latest information and developments. You'll also be able to access the survey here.

Alternatively, you can telephone **0116 305 7243** to ask for information in printed or alternative formats.

ਜੇ ਆਪ ਆ ਮਾਭਿਤੀ ਆਪਨੀ ਆਖਾਮਾਂ ਸਮਝਵਾਮਾਂ ਥੋੜੀ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤੇ 0116 305 7243 ਨੰਬਰ ਪਰ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਆਪਨੇ ਮਦਦ ਕਰਵਾ ਆਵਾਜ਼ਾ ਕਰੀਯਾਂਗੇ।

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0116 305 7243 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਦਵਾਂਗੇ।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 7243 এই নম্বরে ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں 0116 305 7243 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，請致電 0116 305 7243，我們會安排有關人員為你提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 7243, a my Ci pomożemy.

This information is also available in Easy Read format



Call **0116 305 7243**
or email
questions@llca.org.uk

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP – 6 JANUARY 2016

Title of report	HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2016/17 (WITH UPDATE)
Contacts	<p>Councillor Nick Rushton 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Councillor Roger Bayliss 01530 411055 roger.bayliss@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Chief Executive 01530 454500 christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Director of Housing 01530 454819 glyn.jones@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	To receive the Committee's comments on the Cabinet's draft 2016/17 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget proposals
Council Priorities	Value for Money Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	As included in report.
Link to relevant CAT	Delivering a HRA Budget for 2016/17 will allow the Council to achieve the objectives for the service as set out in the Housing Business Plan and Service Team Business Plans.
Risk Management	The Council sets an HRA budget, which is regularly monitored throughout the year to ensure services are delivered within budget. Risks are managed through the corporate risk management process.
Equalities Impact Screening	None identified.

Human Rights	None identified.
Transformational Government	Not applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), Cabinet (8 December 2015).
Background papers	HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2016/17, CABINET 8 DECEMBER 2015. CAPITAL PROGRAMMES, CABINET 8 DECEMBER 2015.
Recommendations	THAT THE COMMITTEE PROVIDES ANY COMMENTS IT MAY HAVE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CABINET WHEN IT MEETS ON 9 FEBRUARY 2016 PRIOR TO THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS BEING TAKEN TO COUNCIL ON 23 FEBRUARY 2016.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Housing Revenue Account Draft Revenue Budget proposals for 2016/17 were presented to the Cabinet for approval for consultation at its meeting on 8 December 2015. The Policy Development Group is invited to consider these proposals, along with the Addendum at appendix 2, and provide any comments for the Cabinet to take into account when it agrees its final recommendations on 9 February 2016.

1.2 Further details are included in the attached Cabinet reports:

Appendix 1 Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals 2016/17

1.3 The formal consultation process commenced on 17 December 2015 and ends on 16 January 2016 with details of the timetable shown in appendix D of the Cabinet Report of 8 December 2015. The outcome of this consultation exercise will be fed back into the subsequent reports to Cabinet and Council to seek approval for the final budget.

- 1.4 Draft proposals for consultation have been prepared in the context of a revised approach to annual rent increases following announcements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget statement in July of this year, regarding the four year rent reduction regime which all social housing landlords must adhere to.
- 1.5 As described in 4.8 and 4.9 of the Cabinet Report of 8 December 2015, the budget proposals have now been amended to address the impact on the 30 year business plan of changing the core assumption around future rent inflation from 2020 onwards. In view of government policy and the outlook for inflation, it is now considered prudent to change this assumption from a 2.5% to 1.5% annual rent increase.
- 1.6 Key changes are identified in the addendum to the Cabinet report attached as appendix 2, which should be read in conjunction with appendix 1. These changes are deemed necessary to address potential shortfalls in the income the Council can expect to receive from 2021 onwards.
- 1.7 The immediate post budget impact of the annual year on year rent decrease for four years from April 2016 is for rental income forecasts to be reduced by £7.5m over the first 5 years of the HRA business plan, when compared to previous assumptions when setting the 2015/16 budget and rent increase. This information has been included for consultation via the website and with the Performance and Finance Working Group and Tenants and Leaseholders Consultation Forum.

2.0 2015/16 BUDGET POSITION

- 2.1 The budgeted position for 2015/16 was a £183k surplus. The overall forecast at period 7 shows a potential surplus of £2k. This is largely as a result of the reduction in expected rent due to a higher than predicted level of empty properties, the loss of Supporting People grant for the older persons services and additional short term staffing costs in the Repairs team. We will aim to achieve a balanced budget position by year end (i.e. a zero deficit / surplus).
- 2.2 As a result of this the balance on the Housing Revenue Account at 31 March 2016 is estimated to be £5.3m. This balance significantly exceeds our agreed minimum working balance on the HRA of £1m and has been developed as a provision against the future repayment of debts taken out on a maturity repayment basis, as described within the HRA Business Plan. The first maturity loans of £10m and £3m fall due for repayment on 28 March 2022. It is proposed that this balance be transferred to a loan repayment reserve for the purposes of repaying these loans commitments.

3.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 The contents and appendices of this report will be used to consult with Council tenants on the proposals for the 2016/17 Housing Revenue Account budget.
- 3.2 Consultation in accordance with the timetable referenced in paragraph 1.3 above will include consulting with tenant members of the Performance and Finance Working Group (the Council's Resident Involvement technical finance working group) and the Tenants

and Leaseholders Consultation Forum (the Council's main consultative body of tenants) to review and comment on the proposals.

- 3.3 In addition, the contents and appendices of this report will be published on the Council's Housing internet page and available in hard copy format upon request.

4.0 ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council's Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) to comment on the robustness of the estimates and also on the adequacy of the proposed reserves. Members must have regard to these comments when making a decision on the budget proposals for the forthcoming year.
- 4.2 Taking into account identified risks, the Section 151 Officer considers that the estimates which form the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2016/17 are robust and prudent and the proposals are deliverable.
- 4.3 The Section 151 Officer also considers that the overall level of Housing Revenue Account reserves is adequate.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – 8 DECEMBER 2015

Title of report	HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2016/17
Key Decision	a) Financial Yes b) Community Yes
Contacts	<p>Councillor Nick Rushton 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Councillor Roger Bayliss 01530 411055 roger.bayliss@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Director of Resources 01530 454501 steve.barrett@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Director of Housing 01530 454819 glyn.jones@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	To seek approval of the draft 2016/17 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget proposals for consultation.
Reason for Decision	To enable the Council to set a balanced Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2016/17.
Council Priorities	The HRA budget assists the Value for Money priority.
Implications: Financial/Staff Link to relevant CAT	<p>As included in report.</p> <p>Delivering a HRA Budget for 2016/17 will allow the Council to achieve the objectives for the service as set out in the Housing Business Plan and Service Team Business Plans.</p>
Risk Management	The Council sets an HRA budget, which is regularly monitored throughout the year to ensure services are delivered within budget. Risks are managed through the corporate risk management process.

Equalities Impact Screening	None identified.
Human Rights	None identified.
Transformational Government	Not applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)
Background papers	None
Recommendations	<p>A. THAT THE ASSURANCE STATEMENT BY THE S151 OFFICER BE NOTED,</p> <p>B. THAT CABINET APPROVE THE DRAFT HRA BUDGET PROPOSAL AS DETAILED IN THIS REPORT AND ASSOCIATED APPENDICES FOR CONSULTATION</p> <p>C. THAT CABINET APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF HRA BALANCES TO A SAVINGS RESERVE FOR THE PURPOSES OF REPAYMENT OF LOANS</p>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval to consult on the draft HRA budget proposals for 2016/17, with the outcome of this consultation exercise being fed back into the subsequent reports to Cabinet and Council to seek approval for the final budget.
- 1.2 The formal consultation process with customers adheres to the same consultation timetable as the general fund and will commence on 9 December 2015 and end on 15 January 2016 in readiness for Cabinet and Full Council approval of final proposals on 9 and 23 February 2016 respectively.
- 1.3 Draft proposals for consultation have been prepared in the context of a revised approach to annual rent increases following announcements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget statement in July of this year, regarding the four year rent reduction regime which all social housing landlords must adhere to.
- 1.4 The immediate post budget impact of this revised approach to rents was a reduction in rental income of £7.5m over the first 5 years of the HRA business plan, when compared to assumptions when setting the 2015/16 budget and rent increase. As a result, initial efficiency savings needing to be made were envisaged as follows:
- £6m by 2021/22 (when the first £10m and £3m maturity loans fall due).
 - A further £6.2m of savings will be required between 2022/23 – 2024/25.

- A further £10m funding shortfall arises between years 27 and 30 (2041/42 and 2044/45), taking the total to £22.2m.

2.0 2015/16 BUDGET POSITION

- 2.1 The budgeted position for 2015/16 was a £183k surplus. The overall forecast at period 7 shows a potential surplus of £2k. This is largely as a result of the reduction in expected rent due to a higher than predicted level of empty properties, the loss in Supporting People grant for older persons services, and additional staffing costs in the Repairs team. We will aim to achieve a balanced budget position by year end (i.e. a zero deficit / surplus).
- 2.2 As a result of this the balance on the Housing Revenue Account at 31 March 2016 is estimated to be £5.2m. This balance significantly exceeds our agreed minimum working balance on the HRA of £1m and has been developed as a provision against the future repayment of debts taken out on a maturity repayment basis, within the HRA Business Plan. The first maturity loans of £10m and £3m fall due for repayment on 28 March 2022. It is proposed that these balances be transferred to a savings reserve for the purposes of repaying these loans commitments.

3.0 2016/17 BUDGET OVERVIEW

- 3.1 Budget proposals are based on prices and levels of charges for Council Housing related services at September 2015 plus known increases, for example contractual obligations.
- 3.2 The process of determining the 2016/17 budget includes the capturing of all of the changes required from one budget year to the next within the HRA in the form of a budget “investment” – a request for more funding or a reduction in income collected, or a budget “saving” – an increase in income or a budget saving via reduced expenditure.
- 3.3 The budget investment and budget saving proposals for the 2016/17 budget are shown within Appendix A.
- 3.4 For 2016/17, the level of revenue contribution to capital outlay (RCCO) is proposed to reduce from £2.6m to nil. This is as a result of the inclusion of new build proposals for the brownfield site (Coalville), Greenacres and Willesley sites (as presented to Cabinet on 10 November 2015) that revise the 2015/16 capital programme to cover the cost of land acquisition in 2015/16, and development expenditure spread between 2016/17 and 2017/18 ahead of properties being delivered by Q3 2017/18.
- 3.5 The budget for 2016/17 is estimated to produce an operating surplus of £2.45m, which will increase the estimated balance on the Housing Revenue Account at 31st March 2017 to £7.7m. It is proposed that these balances be transferred to a savings reserve for the purposes of repaying the £10m and £3m maturity loans which fall due in 2021/22.
- 3.6 Savings of £2.45m will therefore be realised in 2016/17, and future predicted savings that will be made are as follows:
 - 2017/18 - £1.7m
 - 2018/19 - £0.0m
 - 2019/20 - £0.0m
 - 2020/21 - £1.6m
 - 2021/22 - £2.7m

- 3.7 Future additional savings will be required to be made to address lower than predicted income due to changing assumptions around future rent inflation (see 4.8).

4.0 2016/17 BUDGET – RENTS

- 4.1 During 2014, the Government announced that from 2015/16 rent guidance required rent increases to be via a formula of September CPI + 1% for the next 10 years.
- 4.2 On the introduction of its new guidance the Government's former rent restructuring policy ceased from 2015/16, with the exception of re-letting properties at the converged rent level ('target rent') on re-let.
- 4.3 Following a review of the number of properties at target rent at that time, Cabinet agreed to adopt an accelerated convergence approach which increased 2014/15 rents following the new guidance of CPI + 1% but also continued to converge rents not already at the target rent at an accelerated rate of up to £4 per week. Cabinet also agreed to the expansion of the approach to letting properties at target rent to include transfers between existing tenants. This approach was approved on the basis of a more equitable outcome with similar rent values being charged for similar properties, and as a result 48% of properties were at target rent at April 2015. In addition, it was proposed that this accelerated convergence be followed for the 2016/17 rent increase which would have seen the number of properties at target rent move to 94% with the remaining 6% by 2019/20.
- 4.4 At October 2015, 51% of properties are currently at target rent.
- 4.5 Government proposals announced in the Summer Budget in respect of the four year rent reduction have confirmed that Local Authorities' must adhere to this regime. As a result, all rents for 2016/17 must be based on the 2015/16 level and reduced by 1%. The ability to converge rents has been removed and properties can only be moved to target rent upon re-let.
- 4.6 The void target included in the budgeted rental income is 1.8%.
- 4.7 As a result of the 1% rent reduction for 2016/17, budgeted rental income is £279k less than budgeted in 2015/16.
- 4.8 Since its inception, the long term HRA business plan has had a core assumption that future rents will increase by 2.5% (notwithstanding the four year 1% rent reductions from 2016) and this was a standard, benchmark assumption across most social housing landlords. In view of government policy and the outlook for inflation, it is now considered prudent to change this assumption to 1.5%. This will have a significant impact on future rental income flows, and additional efficiencies and savings will have to be identified within the Housing Service going forward.
- 4.9 Changing this core assumption will require a fundamental re-modelling of the HRA business plan, and this work is currently underway. It is therefore likely that the final budget proposals will have to change significantly, with a particular focus on identifying areas where expenditure can be reduced (e.g. reductions in the capital programme) or additional income can be generated (e.g. disposals of sites / properties),

5.0 SERVICE CHARGES, FEES AND OTHER CHARGES

- 5.1 Approximately one third of the Council's properties have a service charge, covering a range of items such as communal heating, communal lighting, maintenance of

communal areas and the new charge implemented following Cabinet approval in September 2015 in respect of the older persons service. Service charges are covered by Housing Benefit, whilst all other fees and charges are not.

- 5.2 For 2016/17 average weekly service charges are proposed to be increased by 4.92%.
- 5.3 Central heating charges are proposed to be maintained at existing levels, as a result of a forecast freeze on energy prices anticipated for 2016/17.
- 5.4 Garage rent levels are proposed to rise by 0.8% which is in line with the Retail Prices Index (RPI) as at September 2015.
- 5.5 Appleby Magna Caravan Site is a General Fund asset but managed by the Housing Service. Ground rents for the site are proposed to be increased by RPI of 0.8% on the anniversary of each individual rent agreement in 2016/17.
- 5.6 It is proposed that Lifeline Charges are increased by RPI of 0.8% from April 2016.
- 5.7 Shop leases are proposed to rise by 14% as agreed by Cabinet in November 2014.
- 5.8 A table detailing each charge increase can be found in Appendix B.

6.0 HRA BUSINESS PLAN

- 6.1 Significant annual surpluses on the HRA are required in future years in order to meet the loan repayment commitments in the HRA Business Plan. As detailed in 2.3 and 3.6 above, it is proposed that existing balances and future annual surpluses are transferred to a savings reserve for the purposes of repaying these loans. The first maturity loans to fall due do so in 2021/22 and are for £3m and £10m. Please see Appendix C for a schedule of HRA loans.
- 6.2 As a result of proposals for 2016/17 and the inclusion of new build proposals which will bring in additional longer term rental income, the overall impact to the HRA Business Plan is to reduce the funding shortfall by £13.4m over the 30 years as follows:
 - Savings of £4.4m needed by 2021/22 (when first £10m and £3m maturity loans fall due).
 - Further £3.9m of savings will be required between 2022/23 – 2023/24.
 - Funding shortfalls in future years to year 30 (2044/45) reduced to nil.
 - Cumulative total savings of £8.3m are therefore required up to 2023/24 in addition to the savings already factored in at 3.7 above. However, as per 4.9 above, it is likely that the savings required will increase when the new rent inflation assumption is factored in.
- 6.3 Revenue contribution to capital outlay is RCCO for 2016/17 is reduced to nil. Future amounts are forecast to be required in order to support new build proposals, as detailed in 3.5 above, as follows:

RCCO

- 2016/17 – nil
- 2017/18 - £434k
- 2018/19 - £2.1m
- 2019/20 - £1.6m

7.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 7.1 The contents and appendices of this report will be used to consult with Council tenants on the proposals for the 2016/17 Housing Revenue Account budget.
- 7.2 This will include consulting with tenant members of the Performance and Finance Working Group (the Council's Resident Involvement technical finance working group) and the Tenants and Leaseholders Consultation Forum (the Council's main consultative body of tenants) to review and comment on the proposals.
- 7.3 In addition, the contents and appendices of this report will be published on the Council's Housing internet page and available in hard copy format upon request.
- 7.4 A copy of the consultation timetable can be found in Appendix D.

8.0 ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES

- 8.1 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council's Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) to comment on the robustness of the estimates and also on the adequacy of the proposed reserves. Members must have regard to these comments when making a decision on the budget proposals for the forthcoming year.
- 8.2 Taking into account identified risks, the Section 151 Officer considers that the estimates which form the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2016/17 are robust and prudent, and the proposals are deliverable.
- 8.3 The Section 151 Officer also considers that the overall level of Housing Revenue Account reserves is adequate.

APPENDIX A

Saving / Increase in Income

Ref	Team	Savings Bid Title	Value
SAV4	Repairs	Reduction in recurring budget provision associated with the Green & Decent pilot project which will cease April 2016	£21,000
SAV14	HRA Business Support	Increase in service charge income, including full year budget provision for new element of charge in relation to the control centre	£153,776
SAV15	HRA Business Support	Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) Reduction in the estimated RCCO required to meet capital expenditure for 2016/17	£2,610,160
SAV19	Housing Management	Increase in lifeline income based on RPI increase for existing tenants & additional income generated via new business	£21,119
SAV25	Housing Management	Reduction in one off funding for the redesign of the Support Service, net of £10k provision for increased social activities for vulnerable tenants	£10,000
SAV28	HRA Business Support	Removal of one off expenditure items included in the 2015/16 budget	
De-min SAV	De-minimus (below £5k)	£4,000 Reduction in one off expenditure for Resident Involvement IT requirements (SAV1) ; £5,000 Reduction in budget provision for external communications (SAV3); £5,000 Reduction in water hygiene costs (SAV10); £1,311 Increase in garage rent based on RPI increase (SAV18); £2,837 Reduction in software reporting licence costs (SAV20); £648 Reduction in servicing costs of door entry systems (SAV22); £2,648 Reduction in servicing costs of communal refuse systems (SAV23); £4,647 Savings as a result of control centre maintenance contract (SAV24); £704 Increase in insurance premium collection (SAV26)	£26,795
Total			£3,052,850

Investment / Reduction in Income

Ref	Team	Investments Bid Title	Value
BI12	HRA Business Support	Reduction in rental income for 2016/17 compared to 2015/16 as a result of 1% rent reduction. Includes voids target of 1.8%	£278,700
BI14	HRA Business Support	Increase in HRA salary provision based on incremental increases, pension costs and 1% pay of existing posts. Provision is net of changes to the existing structure, which include provision for Planned Investment Team	£85,900
BI20	Housing Management	Reduction in income as a result of withdrawal of Leicestershire County Council Supporting People Grant	£328,100
BI25	Planned Investment	Reduction in the value of salary costs charged to the Capital Programme as a result of revised structure	£86,100
De-min BI	De-minimus (below £5k)	£1,100 Increase in annual ICT licence costs (BI15); £2,317 Annual increase in expenditure on cleaning contract (BI16); £2,003 Increase in the cost of grounds maintenance of shared and common parts (BI22); £164 Increase in costs of servicing fire extinguishers (BI24)	£5,584
Total			£784,384

Net Savings for 2016/17 = £2,268,466

APPENDIX B

DRAFT COMPARISON OF 2015/16 AND 2016/17 HOUSING CHARGES							
	2015/16		2016/17				
Chargeable Service	Actual 2015/16	Charge	Estimates 2016/17	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percentage Change	Charge	Basis of Increase (Please see draft report for full details)
Service Charges (before adjustments to income for void loss)	£482,432	Varies per property	£506,190	£23,758	4.92%	Largest increase value: £2.88 pw or 84%; Largest decrease value: £1.36pw or - 98%	Based on assessment of all chargeable services.
Central Heating (before adjustments to income for void loss)	£115,223	0 Bed: £7.75pw 1 Bed: £9.34pw 2 Bed: £10.72pw 3 Bed: £12.32pw	£115,223	£0	0.00%	0 Bed: £7.75pw 1 Bed: £9.34pw 2 Bed: £10.72pw 3 Bed: £12.32pw	Based on market assessment of predicted increase in utility costs during 2015/16 and forecast energy prices for 2016/17.
Garage & Garage Site Rent (before adjustments to income for void loss)	£163,905	Garage: £6.25pw Site: £4.01pw	£165,216	£1,311	0.80%	Garage: £6.38pw Site: £4.09pw	RPI based increase in line with previous years.
Appleby Magna Caravan Site Rent (before adjustments to income for void loss)	£23,213	Site: £30.95pw	£23,399	£186	0.80%	Site: £31.19pw	RPI based increase at anniversary date of each licence in line with previous years.
Shop Leases	£14,300	n/a	£16,302	£2,002	14.00%	n/a	14% increase based on Nov 14 Cabinet Report
Tenants Contents Insurance	£45,883	Premiums from £0.43 to £6.18pw	£51,299	£5,416	11.80%	Premiums from £0.43 to £6.78pw	Minimum increase of 3.5% in IPT, increase in actual premiums unknown still, subject to review on claims made. Also includes 2nd part of stepped increase for policyholders who had accidental damage before April 2015
Lifelines for private customers	£100,726	£43.66 per quarter	£101,532	£806	0.80%	£44.00 per quarter	RPI based increase in line with previous years.

DRAFT COMPARISON OF 2015/16 AND 2016/17 HOUSING CHARGES							
	2015/16		2016/17				
Chargeable Service	Actual 2015/16	Charge	Estimates 2016/17	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percentage Change	Charge	Basis of Increase (Please see draft report for full details)
Lifelines (East Midlands Housing Association)	£38,209	Various depending on scheme	£38,515	£306	0.80%	Various depending on scheme	RPI based increase in line with previous years.
Choice Based Lettings Advertising Costs	£28,000	n/a	£28,000	-	0.00%	n/a	No increase proposed.
Total Services	£1,011,890		£1,045,675	£33,785			

NWLDC Housing Revenue Account Loan Schedule

NWLDC - HRA Self Financing loans taken up 26/03/12

PAYMENT PROFILE - PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

Loan Type	Principal	Loan Period (Years)	Interest Rate
Maturity	10,000,000	30	3.5
Annuity	10,000,000	20	2.57
Maturity	10,000,000	10	2.4
Maturity	3,000,000	10	2.4
Annuity	10,000,000	15	2.02
Maturity	10,000,000	25	3.44
Maturity	13,785,000	30	3.5
Maturity	10,000,000	30	3.5
	76,785,000		

Note – The above schedule does not reflect the HRA share of existing general fund loans for which the HRA bears an annual charge.

Consultation and approval of HRA 2016/17 Budget Timetable

Date	Item	Information
9 December 2015 to 15 January 2016	Consultation with customers	Consultation with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All customers via NWLDC website • Tenant members of the Performance and Finance Working Group (17 December 2015) • Members of Tenants and Leaseholder Consultation Forum (via letter)
6 January 2016	Policy Development Group	Opportunity for members to consider proposals prior to agreement of final budget by Cabinet & Council
9 February 2016	Cabinet Meeting	Recommendations to Council
23 February 2016	Council	Approval of Budget

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Addendum to HRA Budget Report 2016/17

- 1.0 As referred to in sections 4.8 and 4.9 of the draft budget report approved by Cabinet on 8 December 2015, further examination of the changes to the future rent increase assumption (from 2.5% to 1.5%) have been tested and modelled since the production of the initial report. This has the impact of reducing the level of income the Council can expect to receive from 2020/21 onwards.
- 1.1 A number of amendments are therefore proposed to the draft budget figures contained in the original report, to address future shortfalls in income, as detailed below:

2.0 Capital programme

The capital programme can be adjusted by either generating additional income from disposal of poorly performing assets (properties or land), or reducing/re-profiling the expenditure planned over the lifetime of the Business Plan. Our proposals are detailed below:

- 2.1 **Sale of sites and empty properties** – in addition to the level of sales already proposed in the existing draft budget, it is recommended that an additional £500k is raised through disposing of properties or sites in 2016/17, rising to an additional £750k from property / site sales from 2017/18 onwards. The properties will be selected based on their Net Present Value (NPV), which measures the financial value of a property over a period of time by comparing rental income with investment needs. High performing properties need little investment and generate an excess of rental income, whilst low performing properties require significant improvement work and, by comparison, generate insufficient rental income. We propose to sell those empty homes with the lowest NPV, and target 3 bedroom properties, of which we have a disproportionately high number compared to 1 and 2 bedroom properties. The latter are the type of properties for which there is the highest demand from home-seekers on the waiting list.
- 2.2 **Re-profiling of capital improvements expenditure 2018/19 to 2024/25** – the current uneven profile of improvement expenditure shown in the draft budget reflects the predicted level of expenditure required to maintain all homes at or above the Decent Homes standard in future, and to carry out other improvements. For historic reasons there is a peak of expenditure required in 2021/22 and 2022/23, which coincides with other significant budget pressure to re-pay two loans of £10m and £3m in March 2022. By re-profiling some of the capital expenditure back from these two initial years, and spreading it over the subsequent 3 year period, we can ensure the business plan has a smoother expenditure profile, and also has capacity to repay the two loans in full. As a result, a number of properties may fail to meet the Decent Homes standard for a short period of time, due to key components not being replaced as promptly as the standard requires. The improvement programme for the period in question will be constructed to ensure that any failures are minimised, and 100% decency status is re-gained as promptly as possible.

For non-decency improvements (i.e. parking schemes, paths, walls / fencing, outbuildings) a similar re-profiling exercise will take place, so existing peaks of expenditure are pushed back over a longer period.

- 2.3 **Programme Delivery Costs** – a provision is made within the capital programme to fund the staff responsible for delivering the programme. Previously, the budget

assumed one full time post would be required to support our new build programme, after the successful completion of the three pilot schemes. In view of the future need to dispose of sites, the future new build programme may now be less ambitious than originally envisaged. Furthermore, any future new build schemes would require us to borrow funds, although there is available headroom within the Housing Revenue Account to do so. Therefore, the costs associated with new build delivery have been reduced to 0.5 of a full time post.

- 2.4 Aids and Adaptations budget** – significant investment was made through the Decent Homes programme in installing level access showers instead of like for like bathroom replacements in many ground floor flats and bungalows. It is therefore projected that the budget requirement for this work will reduce over time. Furthermore, as more properties have received adaptations in recent years as part of this programme, more efficient utilisation of these properties by existing and future tenants will reduce the need to carry out new works. We have therefore reduced the projected budget allocation for future years.

3.0 Revenue budget

- 3.1 Bad Debt Provision** – in preparation for the impact of Welfare Reform, it was considered prudent to increase our bad debt provision to its current level of £171k. Experience to date has been that this additional provision has not been required, as rent arrears and associated write-off levels have not yet increased. This may partly be due to delays in the introduction of Universal Credit, but we propose a reduction in bad debt provision to £125k, whilst continuing to monitor the situation closely as more welfare reform changes are implemented in future.
- 3.2 Gifted units** – at one development site, following consultation with the developer, the Council has been able to negotiate the delivery of a number of gifted units as part of the section 106 planning agreement. Please see Cabinet report of 22 September 2015 on Emerging Issues Affecting Affordable Housing Delivery. This will allow the Council to assume ownership of a reduced number of units at a peppercorn value to be managed as rented accommodation within the HRA. This provides a significant financial advantage to the housing business plan as a long term rental income stream is obtained for nil cost. In order to further boost the HRA balance sheet going forward, it is proposed that the Council investigates negotiating similar arrangements with developers on other sites.

3.3 Repairs Value for Money Study

Housing Quality Network were commissioned to carry out a value for money review of the responsive repairs service in December 2015, and we are currently awaiting the final report. The study looked at how the service is delivered; how well the service performs, including costs and outcomes, compared to other organisations; and how can the service best improve so it can explore taking on more work. Whilst the remit of the study was as outlined, the aspiration is to use the findings to deliver a more efficient and effective repairs service that can deliver greater productivity and generate additional outcome, so there may be subsequent changes to our ways of working that can have a beneficial impact on the business plan.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP – 6 JANUARY 2016

Title of report	DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS AND CAPITAL PROGRAMMES 2016/17
Contacts	<p>Councillor Nick Rushton 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Chief Executive 01530 454500 christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	To receive the Committee's comments on the Cabinet's draft General Fund Revenue Budget proposals and Capital Programmes for 2016/17.
Council Priorities	All Council Priorities.
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	Financial issues are contained within the appended Cabinet reports.
Link to relevant CAT	All affected.
Risk Management	The revenue and capital budgets are monitored every month by management and reported to Cabinet through the quarterly Performance Reports. Projected over or under spendings are identified and appropriate action taken.
Equalities Impact Screening	No impacts identified.
Human Rights	None identified.
Transformational Government	None identified.

Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory.
Comments of Section 151 Officer	As report author the report is satisfactory.
Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory.
Consultees	As detailed in the attached Cabinet reports.
Background papers	None.
Recommendations	THAT THE COMMITTEE PROVIDES ANY COMMENTS IT MAY HAVE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CABINET WHEN IT MEETS ON 9 FEBRUARY 2016 TO RECOMMEND ITS PROPOSALS TO COUNCIL ON 23 FEBRUARY 2016.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Draft Revenue Budget proposals for 2016/17 and the Council's draft Capital Programmes were presented to the Cabinet for approval for consultation at its meeting on 8 December 2015. The Policy Development Group is invited to consider the General Fund and Capital Programme proposals and provide any comments for the Cabinet to take into account when it agrees its final recommendations on 9 February 2016. A separate report appears on this agenda covering the Housing Revenue Account proposals.

1.2 Further details are included in the attached Cabinet reports:

- Appendix 1 Draft General Fund Revenue Budget Proposals 2016/17
- Appendix 2 Draft Capital Programmes. 2016/17 to 2020/21

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – 8 DECEMBER 2015

Title of report	GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL EXPENSES REVENUE BUDGETS 2016/17
Key Decision	a) Financial Yes b) Community Yes
Contacts	<p>Councillor Nick Rushton 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Chief Executive 01530 454500 Christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Director of Resources 01530 454501 steve.barrett@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	For Cabinet to approve 2016/17 General Fund and Special Expenses revenue budget proposals for consultation.
Reason for Decision	Required to complete 2016/17 budget process.
Council Priorities	The budget assists the Council to achieve all its priorities.
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	As contained in the report.
Link to relevant CAT	The budget is relevant to all Corporate Action Teams (CATs).
Risk Management	The budget will be monitored throughout the year to ensure savings are achieved and services delivered as planned.
Equalities Impact Screening	The requirement for equalities impact screening and assessments is being assessed during the consultations and details if required will be provided as part of the management responses.
Human Rights	None identified.

Transformational Government	Not applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	As report author the report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	None
Background papers	None
Recommendations	<p>CABINET IS RECOMMENDED TO :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AGREE THE 2016/17 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR STATUTORY CONSULTATION. 2. AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO CONTINUING THE PAYMENT OF LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT (LCTS) GRANTS TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY CABINET WHEN IT SETS THE COUNCIL TAX BASE IN JANUARY 2016.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Cabinet approved the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2019/20 at its meeting on 22 September 2015. A budget shortfall of £260,000 was projected for 2016/17.
- 1.2 This report provides details of the 2016/17 Base Budget and other changes since the MTFS was approved.
- 1.3 The projections of the budget position for 2016/17 in this report reflect our current understanding but is likely to change when the Government issues its Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement expected around 17 December 2015.
- 1.4 Under the revised Business Rates retention mechanism the level of Government funding is not ultimately confirmed until after the end of the financial year when the actual level of Business Rates is reported. This is a significant change from having grant settlements fixed before the start of the financial year and means that the Council's financial planning is impacted on by the volatility of local business rates income.
- 1.5 The approved budget is rigorously monitored during the financial year through quarterly performance monitoring so that any potential overspendings can be identified at an early stage and remedial action taken to deal with them. The monitoring also checks that the

required savings are being achieved. Similarly any forecast underspendings can be taken into account when allocating resources.

2.0 GENERAL FUND 2015/16 – PROJECTED OUTTURN

- 2.1 The second quarter Performance Report presented to Cabinet in November presented outturn projections for the current year which have now been updated with the benefit of Period 7 (November) budget monitoring information. An underspending of £442k is forecast. The main reason for this is additional Planning Fee income in excess of £0.5m.
- 2.2 There is no guarantee that the levels of increased Planning income seen this year and the last two years will continue at these levels in the future. Cabinet's budget proposals for next year do however include an increase in the target for Planning income of £250k next year.
- 2.3 A prudent view of the year end position for Business Rates has been taken. Our projections assume that this will be in line with our budget but it is likely as the financial year progresses we will be able to project additional Business Rates income.
- 2.4 Ordinarily any in-year under spendings would be transferred to the General Fund balance at the year end. The General Fund Balance is at an adequate level and our strategy for utilising any projected savings in 2015/16 will include a number of options. These will be outlined as part of the budget report to Cabinet in February 2016 and confirmed as part of the Outturn Report in the Summer.

3.0 FUTURE UNCERTAINTIES

- 3.1 The Cabinet will already be aware of the volatility which the localisation of Business Rates brings to the Council's finances. Under the new arrangements district councils are allocated 40% of increases and decreases in Business Rates. There is also a system of levies and safety nets which reduces our share of increases to 20% but at the same time provides a safety net which limits our losses to 7.5% of our funding baseline which for this authority works out at approximately £165k in 2015/16.
- 3.2 Future levels of income projected from New Homes Bonus cannot be guaranteed. The Cabinet will recall that during the last Parliament the Government consulted on top slicing a significant proportion of New Homes Bonus from 2015/16 to support infrastructure spending by the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). Whilst this proposal did not go ahead, it had the potential to reduce the Council's annual funding by around £500k at a stroke. Our MTFS currently assumes a levelling off in the growth of New Homes Bonus from the seventh year of the scheme in 2017/18. New Homes Bonus payments are made for six years so in Year 7 of the scheme Year 1 payments will stop. It is likely that Year 7 payments will be higher than Year 1 so some increase can still be expected. There is however always a risk that changes could be made to the scheme, or it could be discontinued altogether. The MTFS assumes that all our New Homes Bonus will continue to be used to support the Revenue Budget and this means that in 2016/17 £2.78m, over a quarter of our net budget for mainstream services will be funded in this way.

4.0 2016/17 REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) showed a funding shortfall in the General Fund budget of £2.2m by 2019/20 with projected shortfall of £260,000 for 2016/17.
- 4.2 The level of New Homes Bonus for next year is determined by returns which have now been made to the Government. Assuming that there are no changes to the scheme the Council will receive £2.78m next year. This is £358k higher than assumed in the MTFS and assists in closing the £260k projected shortfall for next year.
- 4.3 The income the Council receives for the sale of its recycling materials is forecast to be approximately 25% lower in 2016/17. The reduction of £221,000 (from £896,000 to £675,000) is mainly due to the global reduction in demand for commodities along with a number of fixed term sales contracts coming to an end in August 2016. The global reduction in demand has seen some sale prices reduce significantly such as plastics and steel and this in turn is forecast to lead to lower prices being offered through our material sales tendering process. All commodity prices are tracked through the material sales index www.letsrecycle.com and variations reported through monthly financial monitoring.
- 4.4 The Local Plan will reach a critical, and particularly expensive, stage during 2016 / 17. This is the Examination in Public, which is a statutory requirement, and which has a substantial cost that is set externally. This is the Inspector's fee, which is set by the Planning Inspectorate. We are legally required to pay for the Inspector that the Secretary of State decides to appoint. The fee is non-negotiable. Currently, this is set at an amount per day, and it is therefore estimated that £100,000 should be made available to cover this specific cost. The actual amount will depend on the length and complexity of the Examination. In addition to the Inspector's fee, we are required to pay for a Programme Officer. We estimate a cost of up to £25,000 for that, again the amount will depend on the length and complexity of the Examination. Given these uncertainties, it is advisable to set aside a contingency amount of £20,000. Finally, we know that we will have to update some technical reports to support the Examination, namely Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment, and Viability Appraisal. A total cost of £15,000 is assumed for these. The total amount of these costs is £160,000, however £30,000 is already included in the base budget, so the total additional one-off spend needed is £130,000.
- 4.5 The Council Tax Collection Fund is monitored throughout the year and we are confident that an additional £318,000 income will be available from the fund towards next year's budget.
- 4.6 The base budget for next year is also now substantially complete and gives a better picture of resources needed for next year than the MTFS. Indications are that there would be an overall improvement of around £115k in addition to the changes above.
- 4.7 In summary the impact on the budget shortfall has been as follows:

Assumption in MTFS	(£260k)
Additional New Homes Bonus	£358k
Additional Planning Income	£250k
Reduction in Recycling Income	(£221k)
Additional Costs of Local Plan	(£130k)
Improvement in Collection Fund	£318k

Other Base Budget Changes	<u>£115k</u>
Projected Surplus	£430k

- 4.8 Based on this updated information it provides the Council with the opportunity to provide around £430k additional resources in the Revenue Budget for next year, subject of course to the Government's Local Government financial settlement

- 4.9 The Council will submit its projections of Business Rates for 2016/17 to the Government by the end of January 2016. The work in preparation for this may give us confidence to increase the budget for this income before our final budget is presented for approval.

5.0 GENERAL FUND RESERVE

- 5.1 The uncommitted balance on the General Fund was £2.4m when the Cabinet approved the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy in September 2015. A forecast underspending in the current year would also increase the balance temporarily until the resources are allocated to projects.

6.0 COUNCIL TAX

- 6.1 In line with the Cabinet's MTFs, approved in September, the Council is not planning to increase the District's share of the Council Tax in 2016/17. This will be the seventh year without an increase.

- 6.2 Based on information provided by the Government in January 2015 the Council will be eligible for a Council Tax Support Grant equivalent to a 1% increase in its Council Tax if there is no increase and is gross of Council Tax Support payments. The Government will have provided grants to cover at least a proportion of the lost income for six of the Council's seven years' Council Tax freezes.

- 6.3 Under current rules the Council could increase its Council Tax by up to 2% without the need for a referendum. In this case there would be no Freeze Grant and the Council would have to meet the cost of paying Council Tax Support on the extra 2% to eligible people. It is estimated that this maximum increase would provide an additional £38k of resources a year. Increasing the Council Tax, even modestly, permanently increases the local tax base and generates additional guaranteed income in the future.

7.0 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT (LCTS) GRANT

- 7.1 From April 2013 the Government abolished Council Tax Benefit and replaced it with locally determined Council Tax Support Discounts. Giving people discounts on their Council Tax reduces the Council Tax income which all the preceptors including Town and Parish Councils receive.

- 7.2 The District and the major preceptors (County, Police and Fire & Rescue) receive Government grant which compensates, at least in part, for this loss of income. The Government does not provide this grant support to Town and Parish councils. Since the start of the new scheme this Council has given an element of its Council Tax Support Grant to Towns and Parishes to allow them to maintain their existing level of income.

- 7.3 The Government's Council Tax Support Grant is now incorporated within mainstream grants which have already fallen significantly and are expected to continue to fall

significantly throughout the period of our Medium Term Financial Strategy. Providing the grants to Town and Parish Councils is costing the District Council around £100,000 in 2015/16. The Cabinet is proposing in principle to continue the scheme and will confirm the LCTS grants when it approves the Council Tax Base at its meeting on 12 January 2016.

- 7.4 The Cabinet has no plans to change the maximum eligibility for Council Tax Support from its current level of 85%.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Council's continued sound financial management puts it in a position where it does not have to consult on budget reductions. This offers the opportunity for a positive consultation on the Council's financial management, maintaining service levels, Council Tax freeze and the proposal to maintain the level of grants to Town and Parish Councils. Consultation is required with the business community, through the North West Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, in compliance with the Non-Domestic Ratepayers (Consultation) Regulations 1992. There will also be consultation with Staff, Unions and Town & Parish Councils.
- 8.2 The Policy Development Group will be asked for its comments on the specific budget proposals during the consultation period at its next meeting on 6 January 2016.
- 8.3 The Cabinet will receive details of the consultations at its meeting on 9 February 2016 where it will make its final budget recommendations for approval by Council on 23 February 2016.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – 8 DECEMBER 2015

Title of Report	CAPITAL PROGRAMMES – GENERAL FUND, COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (H.R.A). PROJECTED OUTTURN 2015/16 AND DRAFT PROGRAMMES 2016/17 TO 2020/21
Key Decision	a) Financial Yes b) Community Yes
Contacts	<p>Councillor Nick Rushton 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Councillor Roger Bayliss 01530 411055 roger.bayliss@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Chief Executive 01530 454500 christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Director of Resources 01530 454501 steve.barrett@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Financial Planning Manager 01530 454707 pritesh.padaniya@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of Report	<p>To advise Members of the likely Capital Outturn and the relevant financing for 2015/16 for the General Fund, Coalville Special Expenses and the H.R.A.</p> <p>To seek approval to the Draft General Fund, Coalville Special Expenses and H.R.A Capital Programmes for 2016/17 and to note indications for future years and associated funding for consultation.</p>

Reason for Decision	To enable projects to be included in the Programmes for consultation.
Council Priorities	The projects in the Capital Programmes help the Council achieve all its priorities.
Implications	
Financial / Staff	As contained in the report.
Links to relevant CAT	The Capital programmes are potentially relevant to all Corporate Action Teams (CATs).
Risk Management	The Capital Programmes are monitored at project level to ensure they are delivered on time and within budget.
Equalities Impact Screening	No impact at this stage.
Human Rights	None identified.
Transformational Government	The Programmes attached are integral to delivering better services.
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	CLT and Budget Holders.
Background Papers	“Capital Programmes – General Fund, Coalville. Special Expenses and Housing revenue Account (HRA). Projected outturn 2013/14 and Proposed Programmes 2014/15 to 2017/18” – Cabinet 11 February 2014

Recommendations	<p>A. THAT THE ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND, COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES AND H.R.A. CAPITAL OUTTURN FOR 2015/16 AND PLANNED FINANCING BE NOTED.</p> <p>B. THAT CABINET APPROVES FOR CONSULTATION THE DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMMES IN 2016/17 DETAILED IN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APPENDIX “A” GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL EXPENSES CAPITAL SCHEMES • APPENDIX “B” FOR HRA CAPITAL SCHEMES <p>AND IN 2017/18 THESE SCHEMES ONLY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £630,000 FOR THE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME, AS DETAILED IN PARAGRAPH 3.2 <p>C. THAT CABINET NOTES INDICATIVE CAPITAL PROGRAMME SCHEMES FOR 2017/18 TO 2020/21.</p> <p>D. THAT CABINET NOTES THE PROPOSED PROCUREMENT ROUTES AND DELEGATES THE AUTHORITY TO AWARD THE CONTRACTS, AND ANY ASSOCIATED AGREEMENTS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PROJECTS, AS DETAILED IN SECTION 7 (PROCUREMENT ROUTES) OF THIS REPORT SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL OF THE CAPITAL PROGRAMMES IN FEBRUARY 2016.</p>
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Appendix “A” shows the proposed General Fund and Special Expenses Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21.
- 1.2 Appendix “B” shows the H.R.A. proposed Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21.
- 1.3 The Appendices also present the estimated outturn for the current year for approval.

2.0 GENERAL FUND - ESTIMATED OUTTURN 2015/16

- 2.1 The projected outturn for 2015/16 on General Fund schemes totals £2,762,090. This is a managed increase of £632,090 on the original budget for the year of £2,130,000.
- 2.2 This managed increase is caused by the following:

Schemes carried forward from 2014/15	£	£
Network Upgrade,	89,360	
Improving Customer Experience (ICE),	5,000	
Disabled Facilities Grant,	165,000	
Refuse Vehicle and Refuse Kerbsider,	168,000	
Car Park(Retention Element)	1,585	
South Street Car Park Ashby - Resurfacing	19,900	
Hermitage Recreation Grounds – AWP access area	11,500	

Coalville Market Upgrade (Phase 1a)	1,500	
Coalville Market Upgrade (Phase 2)	100,000	
Materials Separating Technology – Linden Way Depot	8,018	
Total		569,863
Additional Approved Schemes 2015/16		
Improving Customer Experience (ICE 2),	200,000	
Information Management	100,000	
Additional Disabled Facilities Grant	62,000	
Total		362,000
Planned Slippage 2015/16		
Disabled Facilities Grant – Slippage into 2016/17	(283,000)	
Hermitage Recreation Grounds – AWP access area – Slippage into 2016/17	(11,500)	
Various small Underspends identified	(5,273)	
Total		(299,773)
Total Managed Increase		632,090
Funded by:		
Disabled Facilities Grant	62,000	
Value for Money Reserve	309,518	
Other Reserves	(18,000)	
Internal Borrowing	278,572	
Total		632,090

The total planned financing of the General Fund expenditure totalling £2,762,090 in 2015/16 is as follows:

	£
Disabled Facilities Grant	298,050
S106 Contributions	400,000
Revenue Contributions to Capital	149,330
Value for Money Reserve	378,018
Other Reserves	206,620
Internal Borrowing	1,330,072
Total	2,762,090

- 2.3 There were sufficient funds identified prior to this capital spend being committed.
- 2.4 The carried forward schemes shown in paragraph 2.2 above represents expenditure which was originally expected and budgeted for in 2014/15 but which has slipped into 2015/16 and for which the budgeted financing has also been carried forward.
- 3.0 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 TO 2020/21 – INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES**
- 3.1 The programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21 detailed in Appendix A provides for a continuation of the current Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme and the Vehicle

Replacement Programme. The following new schemes are included in the programmes for approval to commence in 2016/17:

3.1.1 Desktop Equipment Upgrade (£42,000)

The Council's desktop PCs are currently on average over 5 years old and reaching the end of their economic life. Some work has been done in 2015-16 to replace the oldest equipment and to extend the life of existing equipment through investment in a virtual desktop computing environment. The virtual environment reduces the load on the desktop equipment and simplifies management by running software on high-power servers in the computer room instead of on the desktop PCs.

This scheme will further extend the virtual desktop environment and replace 100 of the oldest PCs with solid state thin client devices. As well as providing a more stable and reliable desktop computing environment, this investment will simplify any future move to remote or home working since the solid state thin client devices are easily supported remotely.

3.1.2 ICT Security Infrastructure (£63,000)

The Council's network is currently secured using separate products from three different resellers. This scheme will replace the Council's security infrastructure with a single unified threat management solution which is scalable to support the Council's future demands. A direct cost saving in the ICT revenue budget of £19,000 per annum from 2017-18 onwards will be realised as a result of this investment.

3.1.3 HR / Payroll System (£50,000)

The current HR/Payroll system contract (Selima) is due to expire in March 2017. This scheme and purchase of a new/upgraded system will require time for implementation, testing and dual running. The potential timescales for this project requires that we go out to tender in Jan/Feb 2016 with contract award likely to be around July/August 2016.

3.1.4 Access Road, High Street Car Park, Measham - Resurfacing (£25,000)

Proposed resurfacing of the NWLDC-owned part of the private access road serving NWLDC's public car park situated off High Street, Measham – to address defects and maintain an acceptable surface condition.

3.1.5 Hermitage Recreation Grounds – Surface Dressing (£11,500)

This scheme was originally agreed as “Hermitage Rec Grounds AWP Access Area, Whitwick - Resurfacing” in the 2014/15 Capital Budget presented to Cabinet on 11 February 2014. The original scheme was to resurface selected parts of the access area. The scheme has been expanded to incorporate surface dressing of the Lakeside Pavilion access and car park, the (original) access road leading to the All Weather Play Area and the access road leading to the slipway at Hermitage Lake – to seal and protect the surfaces from the weather, extend their life and improve their appearance.

3.1.6 Hood Park Leisure Centre Car Park, Ashby - Resurfacing (£15,000)

Resurfacing of the main vehicular route / traffic aisle through the long axis of the car park. Resurfacing is required to address the defects and maintain an acceptable surface condition.

3.1.7 North Service Road Car Park, Coalville (£32,250)

Proposed improvements to the site to address defects, maintain the vehicular and pedestrian surfaces in an acceptable condition and to potentially improve the layout and appearance (subject to detailed design).

3.1.8 Coalville Park – Reconfigure Depot and replace building (£95,000)

As part of the annual Property Services building survey, a garage at the Coalville Park depot has reached its end of life and requires urgent replacement. In addition, following annual increases in business, the size of the team, vehicles and equipment it is necessary to reconfigure and create more space and appropriate working environments at the depot. The cost at this stage is an estimate awaiting formal costings.

3.1.9 Hood Park Leisure Centre Fitness Suite Air Conditioning (£15,000)

Replacement of three 10 year old wall mounted Air Conditioning Units within the fitness suite. The units use refrigerant R22 which from the end of 2015 will be illegal to use. Consequently, within 6 months the units will effectively become obsolete and unusable. The three new units will not only use the legal, non ozone depleting refrigerant R410a, but they will also have internal inverters thus reducing energy consumption and significantly improving efficiency.

3.1.10 Fleet Replacement Programme

With regard to the Fleet Replacement Programme, each year a number of vehicles either come to the end of their lease period or their lease extensions are reviewed. Each vehicle is reviewed based on its age, condition, mileage, potential risk of major repairs (due to being out of warranty) and a decision is made whether to extend the lease or replace the vehicle.

These decisions are made in the previous year in order to allow a suitable lead-in period from order to delivery in April, particularly for large items such as refuse vehicles. Many of these vehicles are built to order and these orders have to be placed before October for delivery the following April. Therefore, although they are actually acquired in April a commitment has to be made in the previous year.

Approval is sought to amend the 2016/17 Fleet budget from £984,000 to £1,039,000, an increase of £55,000. This is to be offset by a decrease in the 2017/18 fleet budget of £172,000 (an overall saving of £117,000).

The original approval for 2016/17 was granted by Cabinet on 11 February 2015. This amendment has arisen due to a number of factors. Four small vans were originally due to be purchased. After reviewing the overall fleet position, this was reduced to two and released £30,000 of the budget. Savings of £87,000 have been generated from the procurement of vehicles. These budget reductions / savings will be offset by the acceleration of a new kerbsider (originally budgeted in 2017/18 at £172,000).

It is essential to accelerate the replacement of this vehicle due to the rapid increase in housing growth over the last two years in particular. The new kerbside recycling vehicles provide additional capacity through its compaction process so recyclable material from housing growth can be absorbed without adding extra vehicles or staff. This acceleration will also ensure that all waste collections can be made on schedule using existing rounds and to maintain the high reliability rates of the service. It is envisaged that a more

competitive price may be obtained for each vehicle by undertaking a procurement exercise for three vehicles rather than ordering one at a time.

The changes in the 2016/17 budget are reflected in the table below:

Vehicle	Original Budget	Revised Budget
Refuse Kerbsider (End of Lease)	172,000	344,000
Refuse (2x refuse vehicles. End of Lease and End of Life)	350,000	325,000
Market Vehicles/Cars (End of Life)	15,000	19,000
Vans - Small (4x End of Lease but Reduced to 2)	60,000	22,000
Vans - Medium (2x End of Lease)	32,000	28,000
Vans - Pickup (End of Life)	25,000	19,000
Bin Lifter (New for refuse vehicle)	20,000	20,000
Tractor Plant (End of Life Baler, loading shovel and Tractor)	250,000	215,000
Mowing Machines (2x End of Lease)	60,000	47,000
TOTAL	984,000	1,039,000

- 3.2 In order to progress with the 2017/18 purchases approval is sought for the following vehicles:

	£
Refuse (1 x refuse vehicle. End of Life)	170,000
1 x HGV mechanical sweeper (End of lease)	120,000
1 x 7.5T caged vehicle (End of life)	40,000
2 x mini-sweepers (End of life)	130,000
Vans Medium – 12 x transit, 1 x caged (end of life or lease)	170,000
Total	630,000

3.2.1 Waste Services HGV's and LGV's (approx £460,000)

The existing Heavy Goods waste vehicles, including one waste collection vehicle, one mechanical sweeper, one 7.5 tonne caged tipper and two mechanical mini-sweepers are to be replaced as part of the annual vehicle replacement programme to ensure reliability of waste and street cleansing service delivery.

3.2.2 Medium Vehicles (approx £170,000)

Thirteen medium / small vehicles are to be replaced across the fleet for 2017/18 as part of the annual vehicle replacement programme. These include three transit vans for the Waste Services Team and nine transit vans and one caged vehicle for the Housing Team. These are essential for service delivery and to control maintenance costs of increased repairs to ageing vehicles.

3.3 The General Fund Capital Programme (2016/17) will be funded by:

	£
Disabled Facilities Grants	298,050
Revenue Contribution	135,920
Reserves	282,790
Internal Borrowing	1,387,750
Total	2,104,510

4.0 COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES – ESTIMATED OUTTURN AND INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES

4.1 The Projected outturn for 2015/16 is £172,563. This is all slippage from 2014/15 on the following projects

	£
Cropston Drive BMX Track	9,783
Thringstone Miners Social Centre	4,913
Urban Forest Park - Footway & Drainage Improvements	39,025
Owen Street – Floodlights	779
Owen Street – Changing Rooms	115,563
Thringstone Bowls Club – Toilet Block	2,500
Total	172,563

4.2 There are no new schemes agreed at present for 2016/17.

5.0 H.R.A. CAPITAL PROGRAMME – ESTIMATED OUTTURN 2015/16 AND 2016/17 - 2020/21 INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES

5.1 The HRA Capital programme (Appendix “B”) covers in detail the capital schemes for the period 2016/17 to 2020/21.

5.2 Planned spend in 2016/17 and onwards mainly consists of

5.2.1 Decent Homes Improvement Programme (DHIP)

The Decent Homes standard was introduced by the last Government to drive up the quality of social housing across the country. The standard sets a range of indicators for different elements of tenants’ homes.

Government had set aside £2.1bn, out of which £0.6bn was ring fenced to new Stock Transfer gap funding and the remaining £1.5bn was available for councils, with over 10% of their stock non decent, to bid for. The Council bid was successful and it received £3.7m for 2012/13, with further funding of £8.5m for years 2013/14 and £7.55m for 2014/15. The latter was the last year of grant funding from the Government, and there will be no further grants in the foreseeable future.

The Council is forecast to spend £6.154 million in 2015/16 and will continue to invest in the Decent Homes Investment Programme to maintain the level of decency across the Housing Stock

The Decent Homes Improvement Programme for 2016/17 will invest £2.947 million in improving tenants' homes.

5.2.2 Other Planned Investment Programme

In addition to delivering the Decent Homes Improvement Programme, there are a wide range of other investments required to maintain and enhance the housing stock and associated services and assets, which are outside the Government's definition of Decent Homes works.

5.2.3 New Build/Affordable Housing Programme

In Autumn 2014, the Council commissioned Housing Quality Network (HQN) to undertake an options appraisal on how the Council could increase the number of council-owned homes through new build and acquisitions. The HQN report was concluded in January 2015 and as part of the recommendation in the report, the council has committed to build new homes at 3 different sites –

Brownfield site (if acquired)	- 12 homes
Greenacres	- 10 homes
Willesley estate	- <u>8 homes</u>
Total	- 30 homes

5.2.4 Other Schemes / Miscellaneous

There are various other schemes with brief notes in the Housing capital programme as per Appendix B .

A new line for “High Value Assets Payment to Central Government” has been included in the above section. This is due to the new Housing and Planning Bill introduced in the summer.

The Government has made clear that with the introduction of the Right to Buy for Housing Association tenants it will require contributions from local housing authorities to support the discount to be granted to those tenants.

The Housing and Planning Bill currently requires that a local housing authority must make a payment to the Government based on the market value of high value housing likely to become vacant during the year, less any allowable deductions. The amount will be formula based and payable in advance. There are, as yet, no firm indications of the detailed calculation that the formula will provide and as a result an estimated amount has been included in the capital programme

5.2.5 Future Funding

Since its inception, the long term HRA business plan has had a core assumption that future rents will increase by 2.5% (notwithstanding the annual 1% rent reductions from 2016 for four years) and this was a standard, benchmark assumption across most social housing landlords. In view of government policy and the outlook for inflation, it is now considered prudent to change this assumption to 1.5%. This will have a significant impact on future rental income flows, and additional efficiencies and savings will have to be identified within the Housing Service going forward.

Changing this core assumption will require a fundamental re-modelling of the HRA business plan, and this work is currently underway. It is therefore likely that the final capital programme proposals will change, with a particular focus on identifying areas where expenditure can be reduced, or additional income can be generated (e.g. disposals of sites / properties),

6.0 CAPITAL RESOURCES

- 6.1 The resources estimated to be needed to finance the General Fund programme 2016/17 to 2020/21 totals £6,111,560 and is as follows:

	£
2016/17	2,104,510
2017/18	1,175,970
2018/19	1,801,970
2019/20	228,000
2020/21	801,110
Total	6,111,560

- 6.2 Details of the planned funding of the programmes are included in Appendix A. Funding is in place in 2016/17 for the Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme (£716,760) consisting of £298,050 Disabled Facilities Grants, £282,790 of reserves and £135,920 of Revenue Contribution. The remaining schemes (£1,387,750) can be funded through either leasing or borrowing depending on value for money and provision has been made in the 2016/17 Revenue Budget.
- 6.3 The following resources are budgeted to be available for financing the Housing Revenue Account Programme in 2016/17. An estimated surplus of £968,000 can be carried forward to 2017/18.

	£
Usable Balances	2,766,107
Retained Right to Buy Receipts	238,534
Right to Buy Receipts – Attributable debt	658,722
Use of Right to Buy 'One for One' reserve	496,919
Major Repairs Allowance	3,995,170
Asset Disposals (Capital Allowance)	1,000,000
Total Resources	9,155,452
Less Budgeted Expenditure	8,187,518
Surplus to be carried forward to 2017/18	967,934

7.0 PROCUREMENT ROUTES

- 7.1 Where the authority is required to enter into a contract which has a value of £100,000 or more, Cabinet authority is sought prior to award of the contract. As Cabinet is considering the budgetary implications of the Capital Programmes, it is efficient for Cabinet to consider the award of subsequent high-value contracts at the same time. Cabinet is also asked to address a request for a waiver to the Contract Procedure Rules (CPR) for a particular selection of contract opportunities. Each will be considered in turn.

- 7.2 Although the procurement processes may be commenced sooner, the contract award will not take place before Council has approved the budget for the Capital Programmes. The authority's procurement documentation gives it a right not to award a contract, should Council not approve the budget.

- 7.3 **Waste Services, Vans, Cars, Plant and Equipment**
As part of the Fleet, Plant and Equipment Replacement Programme, replacements will need to be made to some of the Council's vehicles, equipment and plant. Officers will select the most appropriate public sector framework for each item, considering which offers value for money for the Council at the time of procurement.

Cabinet is asked to delegate award of the subsequent contracts for vehicles, equipment and plant to the Director of Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

- 7.4 **Car Park Resurfacing**
The Council will need to resurface four car parks/roads in the 2016/17 financial year, Access Road to High Street Car Park, Measham; Hermitage Recreation Grounds; Hood Park Leisure Centre Car Park and North Service Road Car Park, Coalville.

Where we are purchasing similar goods, works or services, we are under an obligation to aggregate the value so as to ensure, where that value is above the thresholds (for services contracts, the threshold is £172,514), the opportunity is advertised to potential European bidders. The aggregate value of these contract opportunities is £83,750, so below the thresholds which would require the authority to advertise the opportunity in Europe. At this value, it is a Band D contract requiring a formal tender process, pursuant to CPR 5.16.

To assist officers with scheduling the pre-procurement work and on-site delivery of the larger resurfacing schemes before winter, Cabinet is requested to grant a waiver to the CPR so the contract opportunities can be disaggregated. Each contract would then be procured in accordance with the CPR, according to its own value. This would bring all four schemes into Band B (Small) Contracts, all requiring three written quotations be sought and opening up the opportunities in the first instance to suitable businesses registered on the Buy Local portal.

Pursuant to CPR 3.2, Cabinet is asked to grant a waiver to CPR 5.16 so that each of the four resurfacing programmes can be treated as individual contract opportunities and procured in accordance with the CPR relevant to their particular value. Cabinet is asked to delegate award of the subsequent contracts to the Director of Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 This report will be presented to the Policy Development Group at its meeting on 6 January 2016. Consultation with the business community will be through the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Federation of Small Businesses. Any comments received will be included in the report to Cabinet on 9 February 2016 which will make the final recommendations to Council on 23 February 2016.

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DRAFT GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 to 2020/21

SCHEME	BUDGET HOLDER	FUNDING														
		2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	GRANTS/ S106	DFG GRANTS	VFM Reserve	OTHER RESERVES	APF Reserve	REVENUE	LEASING OR
		ORIGINAL BUDGET	Actual @ Period 7	FORECAST (Inc c/f & slippage)						CONTRIBS						BORROWING
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
CHIEF EXEC DIRECTORATE																
Network Upgrade	Michael Harding	-	109,568	89,360	-										89,360	
SAN and Virtual server replacement	Michael Harding	-	274	274	-										274	
Improving Customer Experience Project (ICE)	Ray Bowmer	-	47,190	5,000	-						-				5,000	
>Web and Self Service Improvements	Ray Bowmer	-	43,589	75,000	-						75,000					
>Finance Systems and Processes	Ray Bowmer	-	-	25,000	-						25,000					
>Line of Business Systems Improvement	Ray Bowmer	-	1,250	20,000	-						20,000					
>Communications Technology	Ray Bowmer	-	-	50,000	-						50,000					
>Office Experience	Ray Bowmer	-	-	30,000	-						30,000					
Waste Management System (ICE)	Michael Harding	-	6,300	-	-											
Information Management	Elizabeth Warhurst	-	-	100,000	-						100,000					
User workstation monitor replacements	Michael Harding	7,000	-	7,000	-										7,000	
Desktop Equipment Upgrade	Michael Harding	-	-	-	42,000	20,000	20,000								82,000	
Helpdesk software upgrade	Michael Harding	12,000	6,113	12,000	-										12,000	
Server and storage additional capacity	Michael Harding	29,000	7,475	29,000	-		350,000								379,000	
Replacement telephone system	Michael Harding	70,000	-	70,000	-						70,000					
ICT Security Infrastructure	Michael Harding	-	-	-	63,000										63,000	
HR / Payroll System	Mike Murphy / Anna Wright	-	-	-	50,000										50,000	

SCHEME	BUDGET HOLDER	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	GRANTS/ S106	DFG GRANTS	VFM Reserve	OTHER RESERVES	RESERVES ASSET	REVENUE	LEASING OR BORROWING
		ORIGINAL BUDGET	Actual @ Period 7	FORECAST (Inc c/f & slippage)						CONTRIBS				PROT FUND		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES																
Disabled Facility Grants	Minna Scott	560,000	231,713	504,000	716,760	433,970	433,970			-	1,192,200		339,410		557,090	
Waste Services	Paul Coates	468,000	471,468	639,468	689,000	460,000	575,000		685,000	-	-		-	-	-	3,048,468
Cars/vans	Paul Coates	117,000	109,262	114,762	88,000	170,000	235,000		56,000	-	-		-	-	-	813,762
Plant / Equipment	Paul Coates	176,000	45,000	171,000	262,000	140,000	40,000			-	-		-	-	-	613,000
Council Offices Extnsn car park c/ville, Resurfacing	Paul Coates	20,000	-	20,000	-											20,000
Market Hall CP, C/Ville - Resurfacing	Paul Coates	-	1,585	1,585	-											1,585
South Street Car park, Ashby - Resurfacing	Paul Coates	-	54	19,900	-											19,900
Access Road, High Street Car Park - Measham - Resurfacing	Paul Coates	-	-	-	25,000											25,000
Hermitage Recreation Grounds – Surface Dressing	Paul Coates	-	-	-	11,500											11,500
Hermitage Leisure Centre Car Park - Resurfacing (section of).	Paul Coates	-	-	-	-	15,000										15,000
Hermitage Recreation Grounds, Whitwick, All Weather Play Area Car Park	Paul Coates	-	-	-	-	2,500										2,500
Belvoir Shopping Centre, Main Service Road, Coalville - Maintenance.	Paul Coates	12,000	-	12,000	-											12,000
Silver Street Car Park, Whitwick - Resurfacing.	Paul Coates	50,000	-	50,000	-											50,000
Hood Park Leisure Centre Car Park, Ashby - Resurfacing (section of).	Paul Coates	-	-	-	15,000											15,000
North Service Road Car Park, Coalville - Maintenance & Improvements.	Paul Coates	-	-	-	32,250											32,250
Bridge Road Car Park, Coalville - Resurface main through route.	Paul Coates	-	-	-	-	21,500										21,500
Materials Separating Technology - Linden way Depot	Paul Coates	-	8,018	8,018	-							8,018				-
Whitwick Business Centre - Central Heating System	Simon Harvey	50,000	-	50,000	-								50,000			
Coalville Market Upgrade -Phase 1a	John Richardson	-	967	-	-							-				
Coalville Market Upgrade -Phase 2	John Richardson		53,259	100,000	-								100,000			
Market Hall Wall	John Richardson	30,000	5,350	30,000	-											30,000
Caravan Site - Appleby Magna, Fire Risk Scheme	Simon Harvey	100,000	6,550	100,000	-											100,000
Replace asbestos roof on outdoor pool change at Hood Park LC	Jason Knight	17,000	18,413	18,413	-											18,413
Replace external flashing at Hermitage LC	Jason Knight	12,000	10,310	10,310	-											10,310
Coalville Park - Reconfigure depot, replace building	Jason Knight	-	-	-	95,000											95,000
Upgrade Hood Park LC outdoor pool electrics	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-	20,000										20,000
Replace Hood Park LC outdoor learner pool boiler and pipework	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-	10,000										10,000
Replace Hood Park LC Fitness Suite Air Con	Jason Knight	-	-	-	15,000											15,000
RegROUT Hermitage LC swimming pool tiles	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-	23,000										23,000
Replace hot water system pipework, heat emitters & cold water storage tank at Hermitage LC	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-		18,000									18,000
New Sportshall floor at Hermitage LC	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-		16,000									16,000
Replace suspended ceiling in Hermitage LC main pool hall	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-			30,000								30,000
Replacement of outdoor pool filter media at Hood Park LC	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-			10,000								10,000
Replace Hermitage LC gym Air Con	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-		24,000									14,000
Wellbeing Centre at Hood Park LC	Jason Knight	400,000	-	400,000	-					400,000						
Replace General Ductwork, ventilation & all fire dampners at Hood Park LC	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-				20,000							20,000
Replace Flat roof cover over plant room at Hermitage LC	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-				13,110							13,110
Replace control systems in alignment with plant installations at Hermitage LC	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-				15,000							15,000
Replace Squash Court Lighting at Hermitage LC	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-				10,000							10,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		2,130,000	1,183,708	2,762,090	2,104,510	1,175,970	1,801,970	228,000	801,410	400,000	1,192,200	378,018	489,410	-	557,090	5,856,932

SCHEME	BUDGET HOLDER	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	GRANTS/ S106	DFG GRANTS	VFM Reserve	OTHER RESERVES	RESERVES ASSET	REVENUE	LEASING OR
		ORIGINAL BUDGET	Actual @ Period 7	FORECAST (Inc c/f & slippage)						CONTRIBS				PROT FUND		BORROWING
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES																
Coalville Park Improvements	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-											
Melrose Road Play Hub	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-											
Cropston Drive BMX Track	Jason Knight	-	2,250	9,783	-								2,283	7,500		
Broomleys Allotments	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-											
Thringstone Miners Social Centre	Jason Knight	-	-	4,913	-									4,913		
Urban Forest Park - Play equipment	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-											
Urban Forest Park-Footway and drainage improvements	Jason Knight	-	28,866	39,025	-					39,025						
Scotland Recreation Ground	Jason Knight	-	-	-	-											
Owen Street -Floodlights	Jason Knight	-	-	779	-									779		
Owen Street - Changing Rooms	Jason Knight	-	16,987	115,563	-					30,563				85,000		
Thringstone Bowls Club Toilet Block	Jason Knight	-	289	2,500	-									2,500		
TOTAL SPECIAL EXPENSES		-	48,392	172,563	-					69,588	-		2,283	100,692	-	-
INDICATIVE																

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	2015/16	2015/16 (revised forecast outturn p6)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
2016 - 2021 Decent Homes							
Decent Homes Programme	4,281,900	5,081,900	2,097,370	1,139,014	3,998,415	2,498,586	817,160
Decent Homes Refusals/Deferrals Provision	222,000	222,000					
Decent Homes Voids	850,000	850,000	850,000	850,000	750,000	700,000	650,000
2016 - 2021 Decent Homes Total	5,353,900	6,153,900	2,947,370	1,989,014	4,748,415	3,198,586	1,467,160
2016 - 2021 Other Planned Investment							
Non Decency Improvements			1,028,124	764,808	555,223	1,563,739	1,213,430
Hard Wired Smoke Detectors	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000	
Fire Risk Assessment Remedial Works	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	
Remedial Works (Damp & Structural)	210,000	210,000	187,500	187,500	187,500	187,500	
Fuel swaps (solid fuel to gas supply)	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	
2016 - 2021 Other Planned Investment Total	322,000	322,000	1,327,624	1,064,308	854,723	1,863,239	1,213,430
New Build / Affordable Housing Programme							
New Build Programme - use of RTB one for one reserve	122,178	33,750	496,919	105,916			
New Build Programme - NWLDC contribution to RTB one for one	285,082	78,750	385,961	1,663,964			
New Build Programme - NWLDC additional provision	319,000						
Support for Acquiring Affordable Housing	559,000		887,000				
Support for Affordable Housing - (Waterloo Hsg Grp, EMH Assoc, Nottingham Com grp)		444,000					
Support for Affordable Housing - EMH Assoc (Pick & Shovel site)		500,000					
Acquisition of sites		400,000					
New Build / Affordable Housing Programme Total	1,285,260	1,456,500	1,769,880	1,769,880	-	-	-
Other Schemes / Miscellaneous							
Garage Modernisation	100,000		100,000				
Major Aids & Adaptations	450,000	450,000	350,000	325,000	300,000	300,000	280,000
Development Site Preparations	40,000	40,000	-				
Energy Insulation Works	250,000	250,000	-				
Renewable/Replacement Energy Installations Programme	100,000	100,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	
Speech Module	50,000		50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
Capital Programme Delivery Costs	654,000	654,000	552,900	565,064	577,495	590,200	603,185
Unallocated/Contingency	500,000	500,000	339,744	272,410	310,157	283,091	
High Value Assets payment to Central Government (Provisional)			500,000	600,000	600,000	500,000	500,000
Other Schemes / Miscellaneous Total	2,144,000	1,994,000	2,142,644	1,962,474	1,987,652	1,973,291	1,383,185
Capital Allowances							
Programme to be defined							
Capital Allowances Total	-	-	-				
Total Programme Costs	9,105,160	9,926,400	8,187,518	6,785,676	7,590,791	7,035,116	4,063,774
2016/17 - 2020/21 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME FUNDING							
	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Usable balances held	3,162,000	3,162,000	2,766,107	967,935	26,250	183,750	393,750
Retained Right to Buy Receipts (RTB)	228,344	228,074	238,534	240,655	243,070	245,501	247,956
RTB receipts - attributable debt	438,799	432,353	658,722	408,510	406,108	403,691	401,250
Use of RTB one for one reserve	169,178	33,750	496,919	105,916	133,987	58,928	-
RCCO	2,610,160	2,610,160	-	460,531	2,288,152	1,857,873	-
Major Repairs Allowance	3,995,000	3,995,170	3,995,170	4,028,380	4,076,974	4,079,123	4,081,326
Asset Disposals (Capital Allowance)	-	-	1,000,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
S106 Commuted Funds	559,000	887,000					
Grp, EMH Assoc, Nottingham Com grp) & Shovel site)		444,000					
Acquisition of Sites		500,000					
		400,000					
Total Funding	11,162,481	12,692,507	9,155,452	6,811,926	7,774,541	7,428,867	5,724,282
Cumulative Over / (Under Resource)	2,057,321	2,766,107	967,935	26,250	183,750	393,750	1,660,509
RTB One for One replacement reserve							
Right to Buy Receipts for reinvestment in One for One	32	32	24	24	24	24	24
	122,178	122,178	432,775				103,917
	46,460	344,347	64,144	105,916	133,987	162,845	192,510
		33,750	496,919	105,916	133,987	58,928	-
	168,638	432,775	-	-	-	103,917	296,427

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POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP – WORK PROGRAMME (as at 9/10/15)

Date of Meeting	Item	Lead Officer	Witnesses
6 January 2016	Unspent Section 106 Money for Healthcare	Chris Elston	None identified
	Request for report on Combined Authorities	Christine Fisher	Invitation to be sent to the Leader of the Council
	Budget 2016/2017	Ray Bowmer	Invite to Councillor Rushton as Portfolio Holder has already been sent
2 March 2016			
22 June 2016			

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Notice of Executive Key Decisions

The attached notice lists the matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision by the Council's executive and executive decision making bodies. This notice is produced in accordance with the Constitution adopted by North West Leicestershire District Council and will be published a minimum of 28 days before the date on which a key decision is to be made on behalf of the Council.

The date of publication of this notice is Friday, 8 January 2016. The Deadline for making any representations as to why items marked as private should be considered in public by **Cabinet on 9 February 2016 is 5pm Friday, 29 January 2016.**

Key Decisions

A key decision means a decision taken by the Cabinet, a committee of the Cabinet, an area or joint committee or an individual in connection with the discharge of a function which is the responsibility of the executive and which is likely:

- (a) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Council;
- (c) for the purposes of (a) and (b) above £100,000 shall be regarded as significant in terms of expenditure or savings, and any issue which, in the opinion of the Leader is likely to have an impact on people, shall be regarded as significant in terms of impact on communities.

The Council's Executive

The Council's executive committee is the Cabinet. The Cabinet comprises:

Councillor R Blunt	-	Leader	Councillor T J Pendleton	-	Regeneration and Planning
Councillor A V Smith MBE	-	Deputy Leader and Community Services	Councillor N J Rushton	-	Corporate
Councillor T Gillard	-	Business	Councillor R D Bayliss	-	Housing

Confidential Items and Private Meetings of the Executive

Whilst the majority of the Cabinet's business at the meetings listed in this notice will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will inevitably be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. This is a formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that part of the Cabinet meetings listed in this Forward Plan may be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting contain exempt information under Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. Those Items where it is considered that they should be considered in private are identified on the Notice.

Access to Agenda and Related Documents

Documents relating to the matters listed in this notice are available at least 5 clear working days prior to the date of decision as indicated below. Other documents relevant to the matters listed in this notice may be submitted to the decision maker.

If you wish to request or submit a document, or make representation in relation to any issue contained within this notice, please contact Democratic and Support Services on telephone number 01530 454512 or by emailing memberservices@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Executive Decisions

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
January						
Authority to Award Energy Contracts	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 January 2016	<p>Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
Council Tax Base 2016/17	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 January 2016	<p>Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
Coalville Project	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 January 2016	<p>Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Economic Development Tel: 01530 454773 kay.greenbank@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Gypsy and Travellers Development Plan Document - Proposal to Commence Consultation	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 January 2016	Councillor Trevor Pendleton Tel: 01509 569746 trevor.pendleton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Planning and Regeneration Tel: 01530 454782 jim.newton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report and Consultation Document
February						
Capital Programmes 2016/17 to 2019/20	Cabinet	Key	Public	9 February 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
General Fund and Special Expenses Revenue Budgets 2016/17	Cabinet	Key	Public	9 February 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Rent Increase 2016/17	Cabinet	Key	Public	9 February 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
NWL Housing Strategy 2016-2021	Cabinet	Key	Public	9 February 2016	Councillor Roger Bayliss Tel: 01530 411055 roger.bayliss@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Director of Housing Tel: 01530 454819 glyn.jones@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report and Strategy
Tenancy Agreement Consultation	Cabinet	Key	Public	9 February 2016	Councillor Roger Bayliss Tel: 01530 411055 roger.bayliss@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Housing Tel: 01530 454780 chris.lambert@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report and Tenancy Agreement
Acquisition of Brownfield Site in Ashby de la Zouch	Cabinet	Key	Private Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) Financial information regarding potential purchase price	9 February 2016	Councillor Alison Smith MBE Tel: 01530 835668 alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Community Services Tel: 01530 454832 john.richardson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2016/17 and Prudential Indicators 2016/17 to 2018/19	Cabinet	Key	Public	9 February 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Minutes of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party - 15 December 2015	Cabinet	Non-Key	Public	9 February 2016	Councillor Alison Smith MBE Tel: 01530 835668 alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Community Services Tel: 01530 454832 john.richardson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report and Minutes
March						
Discretionary Housing Payments	Cabinet	Key	Public	8 March 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some background papers contain exempt information	8 March 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Quarter 3 2015/16 Performance Report	Cabinet	Non-Key	Public	8 March 2016	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Proposed Council Delivery Plan 2016/17	Cabinet	Key	Public	8 March 2016	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
April						
There are no meetings scheduled.						
May						
There are no meetings scheduled.						
June						
Minutes of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party - 19 April 2016	Cabinet	Non-Key	Public	14 June 2016	Councillor Alison Smith MBE Tel: 01530 835668 alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Community Services Tel: 01530 454832 john.richardson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report and Minutes
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some background papers contain exempt information	14 June 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Treasury Management Stewardship Report 2015/16	Cabinet	Key	Public	14 June 2016	Councillor Alison Smith MBE Tel: 01530 835668 alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Environmental Health - Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2016/17	Cabinet	Key	Public	14 June 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report and Draft Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2016/17
Quarter 4 Performance and End of Year 2015/16 Report	Cabinet	Non-Key	Public	14 June 2016	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
July						
Provisional Financial Outturn 2015/16	Cabinet	Key	Public	26 July 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

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Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
November						
Quarter 2 Performance Report	Cabinet	Non-Key	Public	15 November 2016	<p>Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
December						
Capital Programmes Projected Outturn 2016/17 and Draft Capital Programmes 2017/18 - 2020/21	Cabinet	Key	Public	13 December 2016	<p>Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
Draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18	Cabinet	Key	Public	13 December 2016	<p>Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some background papers may contain exempt information	13 December 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals for 2017/18	Cabinet	Key	Public	13 December 2016	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
January 2017						
No Items.						
February 2017						
Capital Programmes 2017/18 to 2020/21	Cabinet	Key	Public	7 February 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
General Fund and Special Expenses Revenue Budgets 2017/18	Cabinet	Key	Public	7 February 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Rent Increase 2017/18	Cabinet	Key	Public	7 February 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017/18 and Prudential Indicators 2017/18 to 2019/20	Cabinet	Key	Public	7 February 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
March 2017						
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some background papers contain exempt information	14 March 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Quarter 3 Performance Report	Cabinet	Non-Key	Public	14 March 2017	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Proposed Council Delivery Plan	Cabinet	Key	Public	14 March 2017	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
April 2017						
There are no meetings scheduled.						
May 2017						
There are no meetings scheduled.						
June 2017						
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some background papers contain exempt information	13 June 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Treasury Management Stewardship Report	Cabinet	Key	Public	13 June 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Environmental Health - Food Safety Service Delivery Plan	Cabinet	Key	Public	13 June 2017	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report and Draft food Safety Service Delivery Plan
Quarter 4 Performance and End of Year Report	Cabinet	Key	Public	13 June 2017	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
July 2017						
Provisional Financial Outturn	Cabinet	Key	Public	25 July 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

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Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
November 2017						
Quarter 2 Performance Report	Cabinet	Non-Key	Public	14 November 2017	<p>Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
December 2017						
Capital Programmes Projected Outturn and Draft Capital Programmes	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 December 2017	<p>Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
Draft General Fund Revenue Budget	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 December 2017	<p>Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some background papers contain exempt information	12 December 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 December 2017	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
January 2018						
No items.						
February 2018						
Capital Programmes	Cabinet	Key	Public	6 February 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
General Fund and Special Expenses Revenue Budgets	Cabinet	Key	Public	6 February 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Rent Increase	Cabinet	Key	Public	6 February 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators	Cabinet	Key	Public	6 February 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
March 2018						
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some background papers contain exempt information	6 March 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Quarter 3 Performance Report	Cabinet	Non-Key	Public	6 March 2018	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Proposed Council Delivery Plan	Cabinet	Key	Public	6 March 2018	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
April 2018						
There are no meetings scheduled.						
May 2018						
There are no meetings scheduled.						
June 2018						
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some background papers contain exempt information	12 June 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Treasury Management Stewardship Report	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 June 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Environmental Health - Food Safety Service Delivery Plan	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 June 2018	Councillor Alison Smith MBE Tel: 01530 835668 alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Quarter 4 Performance and End of Year Report	Cabinet	Key	Public	12 June 2018	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
July 2018						
Provisional Financial Outturn	Cabinet	Key	Public	24 July 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

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Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
November 2018						
Quarter 2 Performance Report	Cabinet	Key	Public	13 November 2018	<p>Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
December 2018						
Capital Programmes Projected Outturn and Draft Capital Programmes	Cabinet	Key	Public	11 December 2018	<p>Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
Draft General Fund Revenue Budget	Cabinet	Key	Public	11 December 2018	<p>Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some background papers contain exempt information	11 December 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals	Cabinet	Key	Public	11 December 2018	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
January 2019						
No items.						
February 2019						
Capital Programmes	Cabinet	Key	Public	5 February 2019	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
General Fund and Special Expenses Revenue Budgets	Cabinet	Key	Public	5 February 2019	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Rent Increase	Cabinet	Key	Public	5 February 2019	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators	Cabinet	Key	Public	5 February 2019	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report
March 2019						
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Part Private Some Background papers contain exempt information	5 March 2019	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker
Quarter 3 Performance Report	Cabinet	Key	Public	5 March 2019	<p>Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454520 ray.bowmer@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
Proposed Council Delivery Plan	Cabinet	Key	Public	5 March 2019	<p>Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Legal and Support Services Tel: 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report
April 2019						
There are no meetings scheduled.						