

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 20 MARCH 2018

ADDITIONAL PAPERS

CONTENTS

Item		Pages
6.	QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS	
	Question from Councillor J Legrys to Councillor R D Bayliss	3 - 4
	Question from Councillor T Eynon to Councillor A V Smith	5 - 8
	Question from Councillor M Specht to Councillor A V Smith	9 - 10
7.	MOTIONS	
	Amendment to motion submitted by Councillor R D Bayliss	11 - 12
10.	OUTCOMES OF THE PLANNING PEER CHALLENGE	
	Additional Recommendation	13 - 14
15.	PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018/19	
	Replacement paragraph 2.1	15 - 16
16.	COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES - MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS	
	Guidance for members	17 - 18

COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2018

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J LEGRYS TO COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS

“Can I be informed when the Council last counted the number of rough sleepers residing in North West Leicestershire and what were the results please?”

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS

“All Councils are required to carry out an annual estimate of rough sleeping within their district in keeping with the approved Government methodology. The most recent count for North West Leicestershire related to the night of 7 November 2017 when a zero estimate was returned. This return was based on local intelligence and consultation with local partner agencies who work with rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping. Neither the Council nor any of these agencies were aware of anyone sleeping rough in the district on that night. The estimate was subsequently validated on 5th December 2017 by the national charity Homeless Link, as required by Government guidance”.

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COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2018

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR T EYNON TO COUNCILLOR A V SMITH

“Boards at the entrance to the Nature Alive wildlife area behind the Aldi supermarket on Thornborough Road suggest that it is managed by this Council in association with the Leicestershire Wildlife Trust.

Which organisation is responsible for maintaining the boardwalk around the lake?

Which organisation is responsible for responding to and removing litter and fly-tipping on the site?

When can residents expect to see the site brought back up to standard?”

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR A V SMITH

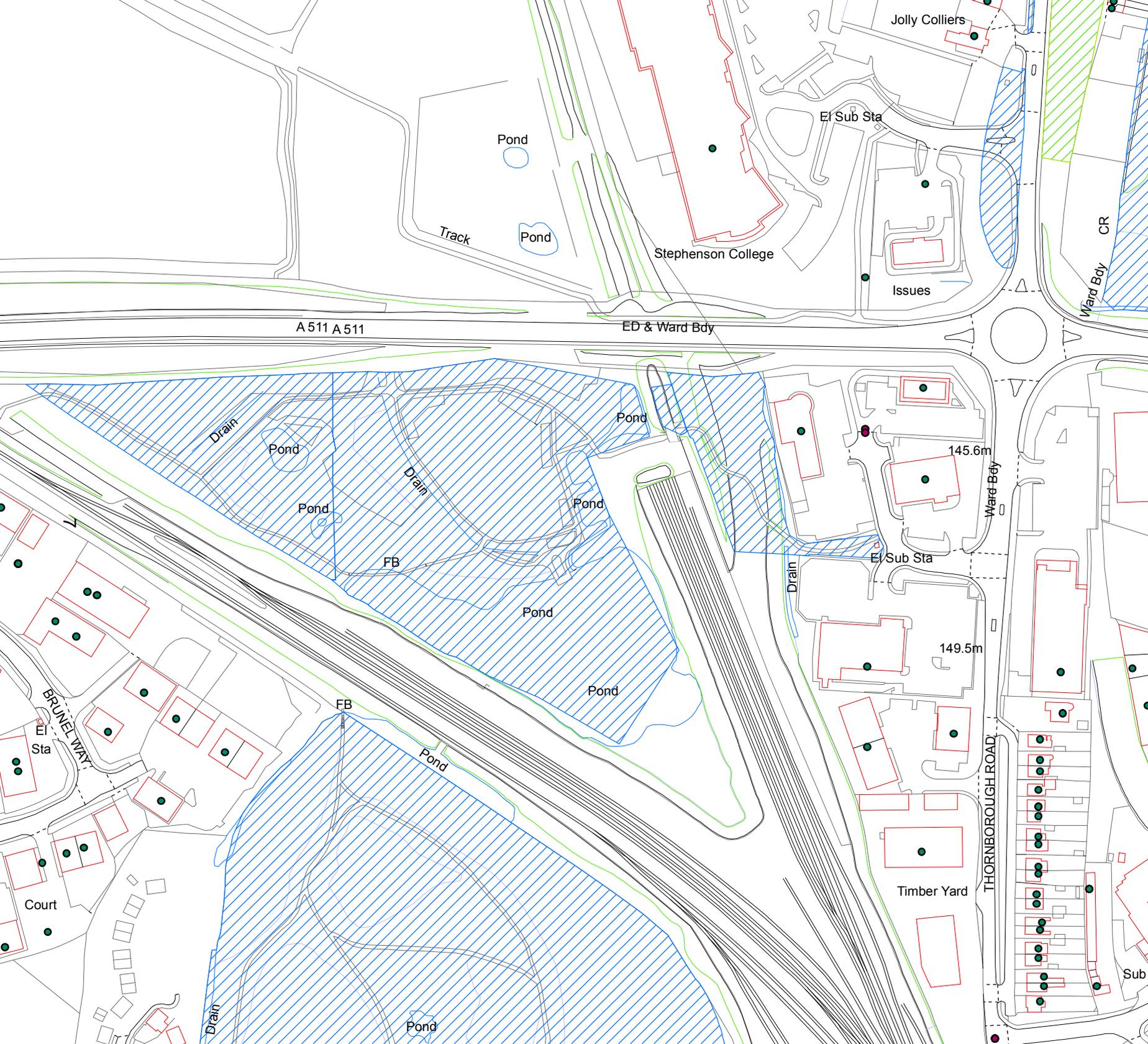
“The council owns the freehold of the site and is responsible for managing and maintaining the blue hatched area on the attached plan.

The boardwalk is the responsibility of the council and officers inspect this visually at least twice weekly and then this is supplemented by a monthly more rigorous assessment. All boardwalks are cleaned annually in the spring and officers have scheduled this work to take place before the end of May.

The council is responsible for the removal of litter within the blue hatched area. Litter collections are undertaken at least twice weekly and fly-tipping would be addressed through the normal council procedure. Most of the litter issues occur on the banks adjacent to the railway line to the east of the site on the map. These are difficult to access and are not the responsibility of the council, although officers cannot identify through land registry records who the owner is. The assumption is that the owner may be Network Rail given the proximity to the railway line and officers will endeavour to confirm this as soon as possible. In the meantime the Grounds Maintenance team have attempted to remove litter from this area but they are extremely difficult circumstances to work in.

There are implications to the way the area is maintained with it being a nature site and a habitat for protected and other species, hence the close liaison with and guidance from the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. Officers within the Grounds Maintenance team would welcome an on-site meeting with Cllr Eynon to fully understand the concerns that she has, to discuss any potential improvements, and to highlight any specific issues that the Wildlife Trust may have”.

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COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2018

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR M SPECHT TO COUNCILLOR A V SMITH

“In view of the fact that more car manufacturers are pushing for cleaner emission vehicles, and having seen the explosive rise in registration of all electric vehicles, what does the council intend to do regarding rapid charging stations for all hybrid and electric vehicles and has this council made any enquiries regarding central government funding specifically set aside for this purpose?”

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR A V SMITH

“One of the Council’s key tasks in the Green Footprints section of the 2018/19 Council Delivery Plan is to – “Look at the feasibility of installing electric charging bays in council-owned car parks”

The feasibility study will include identifying and evaluating the various sources of funding available and the numerous options for the installation of electric charging points.

As part of the design for the Ashby North Street Car Park extension, providing 52 new short stay parking spaces, the infrastructure has been put in place to enable electric charging points to be installed. The number of points will be determined through the work of the feasibility study”.

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COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2018

MOTIONS

AMENDMENT TO MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS

1.0 PROCESS

- 1.1 A motion was submitted by Councillor R Adams as set out on page 2 of the Council agenda.
- 1.2 Councillor R D Bayliss has submitted an amendment to the original motion submitted by Councillor R Adams. Paragraph 2 sets out the proposed amendments to the original motion. Additions are shown in blue, and deletions are shown stricken out in red.
- 1.3 Members are firstly asked to vote on these changes to the original motion.
- 1.4 Should these changes be accepted, members will then be asked to vote on the motion as amended, shown in paragraph 3 overleaf.
- 1.5 Should the changes not be accepted, members will be asked to vote on the original motion as set out in the agenda.

2.0 PROPOSED CHANGES

“This Council acknowledges Prime Minister Theresa May’s recognition of a national crisis in housing, in her speech to the Royal Town Planning Institute conference earlier this month. The Council also notes ~~with interest the comments by the (Tory) that the~~ Chairman of the Local Government Association, ~~Sir Gary Lord~~ Porter, ~~in response to the Prime Minister’s speech, saying that nothing will change unless is a keen exponent of~~ more council houses ~~are being~~ built.

This Council is intent on playing its part in tackling the national housing crisis to the fullest extent and pledges to do everything possible to close the gap in the amount of suitable social housing available in North West Leicestershire. We ~~have started building council homes for the first time in three decades and in this very month we will accept the first completions at Linford and Verdon Crescent, Coalville of the 24 homes in the first phase of our programme. A contract to build a further 24 council homes at Ashby Road, Coalville as part of our second phase programme has just been signed. This Council has also increased housing supply through accepting 21 new homes from developers as part of planning agreements in 2017/18, with a further 19 new homes to come through this means in 2018/19. In addition to these ongoing initiatives we will -~~

~~Commit our current £16 million borrowing headroom to fund an accelerated programme of new-build council housing~~

~~Utilisze~~ compulsory purchase powers to maximum effect to bring sites or properties that are in disrepair and empty houses back into use

~~Lobby Government to reform the Right to Buy, lift restrictions on the re-investment of the Council's £5 million housing Capital Receipts and relax HM Treasury rules on borrowing~~

Carry out a review of all existing initiatives to increase housing supply (including support for local housing associations) and use this cost benefit analysis to guide the Council in adopting the most economic and effective way forward in delivering new homes. This review will examine all existing funding mechanisms and investigate all available options going forward, including the option to access the borrowing headroom within the Housing Revenue Account. This Council is therefore fully committed to supporting fund new council housing schemes so that in the future, this Councils will be able to respond in a timely manner to meet identified local housing needs”.

3.0 AMENDMENT TO MOTION IN ITS ENTIRETY

“This Council acknowledges Prime Minister Theresa May’s recognition of a national crisis in housing, in her speech to the Royal Town Planning Institute conference earlier this month. The Council also notes that the Chairman of the Local Government Association, Lord Porter, is a keen exponent of more council houses being built.

This Council is intent on playing its part in tackling the national housing crisis to the fullest extent and pledges to do everything possible to close the gap in the amount of suitable social housing available in North West Leicestershire. We have started building council homes for the first time in three decades and in this very month we will accept the first completions at Linford and Verdon Crescent, Coalville of the 24 homes in the first phase of our programme. A contract to build a further 24 council homes at Ashby Road, Coalville as part of our second phase programme has just been signed. This Council has also increased housing supply through accepting 21 new homes from developers as part of planning agreements in 2017/18, with a further 19 new homes to come through this means in 2018/19. In addition to these ongoing initiatives we will -

- Utilise compulsory purchase powers to maximum effect to bring sites or properties that are in disrepair, and empty houses, back into use
- Carry out a review of all existing initiatives to increase housing supply (including support for local housing associations) and use this cost benefit analysis to guide the Council in adopting the most economic and effective way forward in delivering new homes. This review will examine all existing funding mechanisms and investigate all available options going forward, including the option to access the borrowing headroom within the Housing Revenue Account. This Council is therefore fully committed to supporting new council housing schemes so that in the future, this Council will be able to respond in a timely manner to meet identified local housing needs”.

COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2018

OUTCOMES OF THE PLANNING PEER CHALLENGE

REPLACEMENT OF PARAGRAPH 3.3 IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT AS FOLLOWS

‘It is proposed that a cross party member/officer working group is established to oversee the development and implementation of the action plan arising from the Peer Challenge recommendations. The member representation on the working group will comprise the portfolio holder for Planning, three members from the majority group, two members from the labour group and one member from the liberal democrat/ independent groups. External support and best practice advice will be provided through the Planning Advisory Service who will be engaged to support the working group. The group would have no delegated powers as implementation of the action plan would be via the existing scheme of delegation.

It is proposed to hold the first meeting of the working group before the end of March where the terms of reference for the group will be agreed.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

That a cross party member/officer working group be established to oversee the development and implementation of the action plan arising from the Peer Challenge recommendations.

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COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2018

PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018/19

REPLACEMENT OF PARAGRAPH 2.1 IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT

2.0 CHANGES

2.1 The following changes are worthy of mention in this year's pay statement:-

- The structure of the Councils' senior management team was changed in a report to Council agreed on the 23 January 2018. The senior structure now comprises a Chief Executive, Two Directors and Eight Heads of Service. A further Head of Service, the Joint Strategic Planning manager, although employed by this Council is a shared funded post with other Leicestershire and Rutland partner Councils.
- (Paragraph 3.4) Cost of living pay increases award have not been agreed at the time of writing this report. An offer averaging 2% for the majority of the workforce is currently being balloted by the trade unions – if this is agreed the pay rates will increase, on average, by 2% from April 2018.
- (Paragraph 11.2). The Council agreed to adopt the "Living Wage" for all of its employees from 1st April 2014. The Living Wage rate changed to £16,539 per annum (£8.75 per hour) in November 2017 from a previous level of £15,972.
- (Paragraph 11.3) The pay multiple ratio between the median average pay and the salary of the most highly paid senior officer has declined to a factor of 5.0.

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Council Procedure Rules – Motions and Amendments

What members can do

- When seconding a motion, a member may reserve their speech until later in the debate (rule 14.3).
- Members may only speak once on a motion or amendment whilst it is being debated (rule 14.5, 14.5(a)).
- Members may also move a further amendment if the motion has been amended since they last spoke (rule 14.5(b)).
- Members can exercise a right of reply, raise a point of order or make a personal explanation during debate (rule 14.5(d), (e) and (f)).
- Members can speak on the main issues if their first speech was on an amendment (rule 14.5(c)).
- The mover of a motion has a right of reply at the close of debate on the motion, before it is put to the vote (rule 14.9.1).
- The mover of a motion has a right of reply at the close of debate on any amendment (rule 14.9.2).

What members can't do

- Members cannot make a speech until a motion has been seconded (rule 14.1).
- Members cannot speak again whilst a motion is being debated, except to exercise a right of reply, raise a point of order or make a personal explanation (rule 14.5, 14.5(a) to (f)).
- Members cannot speak for more than 5 minutes without the consent of the Chairman (rule 14.4).
- The mover of a motion may not speak on an amendment, other than to exercise his right of reply (rule 14.9.2).
- The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the close of debate (rule 14.9.3).

Motions and Amendments – Flowchart

