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SUMMONS TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE
NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Time/Date 6.30 pm on TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2019
Location Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville
Officer to contact Democratic Services (01530 454512)



.....
Chief Executive

AGENDA

| Item | Pages |
|--|-------|
| PRAYERS | |
| 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS | |
| Members are reminded that any declaration of interest should be made having regard to the code of conduct. In particular, members must make clear the nature of the interest and whether it is 'pecuniary' or 'non pecuniary'. | |
| 3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS | |
| 4. LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS | |
| Members are reminded that under paragraph 11.1 of part 4 of the Constitution, questions can be asked of the Leader and Cabinet Members without notice about any matter contained in any address. Questions shall be limited to five minutes in total for each announcement. | |
| 5. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION | |
| To receive questions from members of the public under procedure rule no.10. The procedure rule provides that members of the public may ask members of the Cabinet 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 Commercial Services. | |

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| 6. | QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS | |
| | To receive members' questions under procedure rule no.11. The procedure rule provides that any member may ask the Chairman of a board or group 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 Commercial Services. | |
| 7. | MOTIONS | |
| | To consider any motions on notice under procedure rule no. 12. | |
| 8. | PETITIONS | |
| | To receive petitions in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme. | |
| 9. | MINUTES | |
| | To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 September 2019 | 3 - 14 |
| 10. | NOTIFICATION OF AN URGENT DECISION - NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN - PARTIAL REVIEW | |
| | Report of the Strategic Director of Place Presented by the Leader | 15 - 18 |
| 11. | REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES | |
| | Report of the Chief Executive Presented by the Deputy Leader | 19 - 24 |

MINUTES of a meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2019

Present: Councillor J Bridges (Chairman)

Councillors V Richichi, E G C Allman, R Ashman, R D Bayliss, C C Benfield, A S Black, R Blunt, R Boam, A J Bridgen, D Everitt, T Eynon, M French, J Geary, L A Gillard, S Gillard, T Gillard, D Harrison, B Harrison-Rushton, M D Hay, G Houlst, J Houlst, R Johnson, J Legrys, K Merrie MBE, N J Rushton, A C Saffell, C A Sewell, S Sheahan, N Smith, D E J Tebbutt, J Windram, A C Woodman and M B Wyatt

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Mrs T Bingham, Mrs M Long, Mrs B Smith, Miss E Warhurst and Mrs C Hammond

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bigby, R Canny, J Clarke and D Stevenson.

31. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

32. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

The Chairman reminded members that his chosen charity was the Alzheimer's Society and invited them to join him in a 'Memory Walk' in aid of this charity which was taking place at 10.00am on 22 September at Abbey Park, Leicester.

The Chairman advised Members of the sad passing of Val Pulford who was a district councillor between 1979 and 1987 for the ward of "Appleby Magna, Chilcote, Snarestone, Stretton-en-le Field and Sweptstone" (now known as Appleby Ward) and a parish councillor at Ravenstone with Snibston parish until recently.

Her funeral will be held on Tuesday 17th September at 12.30pm at St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, Ravenstone. Council joined the Chairman in expressing condolences to her family and asked that a card be sent.

33. ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEM

The Chairman agreed to accept an urgent item of business and the report on this was circulated with the additional papers.

34. DISPENSATION FOR EXTENDED ABSENCE

Councillor Gillard presented the report and advised Members that Councillor David Stevenson who has been suffering from ill health was currently being looked after at the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham. He is therefore unable to attend this meeting.

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a member of a local authority fails to attend a meeting of the authority for a period of six consecutive months without approval from Council, then he/she will cease to be a member of the authority.

Councillor Stevenson last attended a meeting on 21 May 2019 which would result in him ceasing to be a member on 20 November 2019.

Council was therefore asked to consider giving granting a dispensation to Councillor Stevenson for an extended absence.

The Chairman invited questions and comments.

Councillors expressed their sadness at this news and reminded those that may not be aware that Councillor David Stevenson was the longest serving member of the Council having been elected in 1973 and he had earned a great deal of respect from across the Chamber in this time. Council supported the extension and asked that a card be sent on behalf of the Council. Councillor Rushton advised that both he and Councillor Boam would be dealing with any ward and parish issues on behalf of Councillor Stevenson during his period of absence.

It was moved by Councillor Gillard and seconded by Councillor Sheahan and

RESOLVED THAT:

- (1) Council sends its thought and good wishes to Councillor David Stevenson;
- (2) Councillor David Stevenson be granted a dispensation for extended absence from all meetings in his role as a councillor for the Worthington and Breedon ward for a period of six months.

35. LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman invited the Leader and the Portfolio holders to make any announcements.

Councillor Blunt made the follow announcements.

A511 Corridor

Council was advised that the Leicestershire County Council's A511 Coalville Growth Corridor Plans had been accepted for inclusion in the priority list for Government funding with a request for £42m. This scheme was one of eleven submitted in the Midlands for local road improvements. These plans would see improvements from the A42 junction at Ashby through to Junction 22 of the M1 motorway, including localised road widening and dualling and a new link road at Bardon. The total cost of the programme is £49m but £7m has been secured by the Council through Section 106 Agreements and involves both the County and the District working closely together on the details of the scheme. Councillor Blunt thanked Andrew Bridgen MP and local councillors both past and present from all parties who for many years have been lobbying for these improvements.

Future High Streets Fund

Councillor Blunt advised that the Council had been successful in its expression of interest regarding access to the fund. An invitation had now been made to the Council to submit a full business case by January 2020 for up to £25m for improvements to the town. If successful, it would provide the opportunity to transform Coalville. The Council has been given the opportunity to apply for early funding for a sum in excess of £100k to assist the business case and to help make the bid as complete and robust as possible. Councillor Blunt acknowledged the achievement in getting this far given that only 100 towns from over 300 applications had been invited to the next stage, and the only town in Leicestershire to get this far. The improvements would include reconfiguration and improvements to the Belvoir Centre on which the Council is negotiating with the new owners, enhancement of green infrastructure, refurbishment of existing sites and the inclusion of a cinema and cycle and pedestrian routes. Ideas and input are welcomed and Councillor Blunt stressed the need for everyone to work together to help give the Council

the best chance possible of receiving this funding. He encouraged all Coalville members to attend a special meeting on 10 October and advised that there would also be close liaison with the members of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Group, together with local business, residents and organisations.

Director Appointment

Councillor Blunt advised that the appointment for the new Director had been advertised nationally and stressed the importance of getting candidates with the right skills across the board to assist the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team. The closing date for applications is 20 September followed by long listing interviews and two day assessments after shortlisting and confirmation by the Appointments Panel scheduled for 23 October 2019.

Planning Committee

Council was reminded that last week saw the most controversial meeting of Planning Committee for some time when it considered the application in respect of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) at junction 11 of the M42. Whilst the decision was not what his residents wanted, they all saw the professional manner in which councillors and officers conducted themselves and nobody left the room complaining about how the application was handled. Work now needs to start on agreeing with JLR the best way forward.

Ivanhoe Line

Councillor Blunt advised that he was pleased to support the County Council and the Working Group in their lobbying in an attempt to see this line re-opened. The Council has agreed to support their feasibility study with a financial contribution of £5k. Councillor Blunt reported that he looked forward to working with these passionate individuals to help bring more sustainable transport links into the district.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Blunt for his announcements and invited questions and comments from the floor.

Councillors welcomed the announcements particularly regarding the work supporting the opening of the Ivanhoe line and the improvements to Coalville. However Councillor Legrys urged caution and expressed scepticism given previous efforts to do this and asked that some reassurance be given to local residents.

Councillor Wyatt sought reassurance that all local businesses, both large and small, would be consulted on the High Streets Funding Bid.

Councillor Eynon was also encouraged by the news and asked that data be gathered to help the feasibility study on the re-opening of the Ivanhoe line which would inform as to how many people would actually use it as she considered this would be very helpful to the bid which would be put together by Derby University.

The Chairman invited Councillor Blunt to respond to the comments made.

Councillor Blunt referred to the BBC walkabout earlier in the year where honest views and opinions were sought from local residents and was encouraged by these views which he hoped would allay the fears expressed by Councillor Legrys. He also confirmed that local businesses would be consulted on the Future High Streets Funding Bid as far as they could but he didn't have the full details to hand but would be happy to discuss outside the meeting.

Councillor Woodman made the follow announcements.

Green and Purple Flag Status

Councillor Woodman referred to the Green Flag status which had been awarded to

Coalville Park and which recognised and rewarded the well managed parks and green spaces. He thanked all those who made this happen and commended the excellent work carried out by the District Council's Parks and ground maintenance team.

Councillor Woodman added that the journey of continuous improvement for Coalville Park continues. Working in partnership with the Friends of Coalville Park group, consideration is being given as to what improvements could be made using the Section 106 money reallocated to the area from Lillehammer Drive. Following consultation with residents and attendees at Picnic in the Park, the priority identified was improving the play equipment for a wider range of children. This was followed by improvements to the Community Garden and then extending the park into the field at the rear of the site. Consequently, the Friends group are now liaising with play equipment suppliers to work up costed plans, along with identifying external funding sources to further enhance the project, so proposals can be taken through the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party and Cabinet for consideration.

Councillor Woodman referred to the application for a full renewal of the Purple Flag accreditation for the Ashby de la Zouch night time economy which has been submitted by Ashby Town Council and supported by NWLDC. A number of partners have contributed to the process eg Leicestershire Police, Safer North West Community Safety Partnership, Ashby Street Pastors, Ashby Pubwatch Scheme and many local businesses.

Purple Flag is an accreditation for night time economy, similar to Blue Flag for beaches and Green Flag for parks. It is awarded to towns which meet or surpass the standards of excellence for a varied lively evening experience and manage the evening economy well. The Ashby application showed good practices, high occupancy rates on retail and leisure premises, low crime figures, and a diverse, entertaining, safe enjoyable night out for the whole family. Ashby de la Zouch has attractions and activities for all ages, budgets and tastes; it is safe, friendly, welcoming, clean, attractive and fun; easily accessible from local towns and on foot; is steeped in history, cultural, heritage attractions and has a fantastic choice of bars, restaurants, clubs, pubs and leisure facilities.

Two Purple Flag assessors visited Ashby de la Zouch on the evening of 10 August 2019 to see Ashby for themselves and meet people involved in the night time economy. Councillor Woodman advised that he attended the evening to meet the assessors and support the application.

The result is awaited in the new few weeks and he is hopeful of a good outcome.

Recycle more

Councillor Woodman advised that Monday 19 August saw the launch of the Council's three year plan – "Recycle more..." to increase the district's household recycling rate to 50%.

A series of seven roadshows have been held across the district with over 700 people attending and there was positive interest in the trial of a new recycling container system on wheels and a weekly collection of food waste.

Both trials are due to be taking place this autumn and are very much part of the plans to create a greener and sustainable district for everyone.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Woodman for his announcements and invited questions and comments from the floor.

Councillor Sheahan stated that a 3 page report on recycling had previously been considered at a Scrutiny Committee but when this matter was later considered by Cabinet,

this was a much more detailed report. He asked therefore if a further and more detailed report could be submitted to a Scrutiny Committee as soon as possible.

Councillor Eynon reiterated the point about scrutiny, particularly with regard to dry recycling. She was very encouraged about the initiatives being introduced but felt they required an element of challenge to make sure they were working as we would expect them to.

Councillor Merrie encouraged the Friends of Coalville Park to make the improvements and referred to funding through the Mick George Community Fund. He added that very few applications had been made although Ellistown and Battleflat had taken advantage of the funding available and each application had been successful. At the last count it was estimated that approximately £2.5m was available for play parks and equipment. With regards to recycling he asked when the bins would be available for trialling.

Councillor Legrys congratulated the Council on its accreditation of the Green Flag status and praised the Chief Executive as, without her help, this would not have happened. He considered this to be great news for Coalville and strongly recommended that ward members seek this accreditation in their local areas.

Councillor Wyatt expressed words of caution when considering future developments in Coalville Park as he did not want these to restrict the larger and very successful events taking place in the future.

The Chairman invited Councillor Woodman to respond to the comments made.

Councillor Woodman advised that the new containers would be rolled out later this month and the food trials towards the end of the year so it would be more appropriate to have scrutiny after these trials when there is some data to analyse and he agreed that we did not want to impose limitations on Coalville Park.

36. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions received.

37. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Two questions had been received.

The Chairman invited Councillor Legrys to ask his question addressed to Councillor Woodman.

“At its meeting on the 27th February 2018 I once again placed a question to the then Portfolio Holder about using the Council’s Environmental powers to insist that the surrounding landowners remove overgrown vegetation on Mantle Lane Coalville.

Whilst regular cleaning is carried out by the Council’s cleaning teams, overgrown vegetation on structures and land belonging to Network Rail continues to be an unkempt eyesore that spoils this key entrance into Coalville Town Centre.

When will the Council use its powers under law to insist that Network Rail tidy up their property to the benefit of road users, pedestrians and shoppers?”

The Chairman invited Councillor Woodman to respond.

"Enforcement Officer, Ian Webster, has visited the site and confirms that the level of overgrown vegetation constitutes issuing of a Community Protection Warning. This is the first stage of the formal process leading to the issuing of a Community Protection Notice if the problem persists. In line with our Procedures and Policies, Network Rail have been contacted and advised of the vegetation issue. Ian has received notification today (5.9.19) that Network Rail have logged his request and that contact will be made to address the issue. If we do not receive further communication within a reasonable time frame we will progress with the first level of action.

The Business Focus Team recognises that Mantle Lane is an important gateway into Coalville Town Centre and a link to the new Leisure Centre. Consequently we are looking at ways in which the Future High Street Fund bid and Regeneration Framework might bring forward improvements. Business Focus have contacted Network Rail about working with them to improve the appearance of the bridge and are awaiting a response".

The Chairman invited Councillor Legrys to ask a supplementary question.

Councillor Legrys supplementary question was "Can I have a timeline?"

Councillor Woodman agreed to supply this to Councillor Legrys.

The Chairman invited Councillor Benfield to ask his question addressed to Councillor Ashman.

"As contingency planning continues for the increasing likelihood of a no-deal Brexit, much of the Nation's focus has been on implications at the Channel Ports.

However, as host to one of the largest air freight terminals in the UK, it would seem obvious that congestion at sea ports could be alleviated by increasing operations at East Midlands Airport. Such preparations have not been publicly discussed.

I am concerned that the Airport has no restrictions on volume of traffic either by day or night, (although I am aware of the slightly tighter noise limits required at night).

Could the Leader therefore provide the Council with detailed information on the expected increases in: air and road traffic, noise, particulate pollution, and CO2 in the event of a no-deal Brexit?"

The Chairman invited Councillor Ashman to respond.

"The Council is fully engaged in the contingency planning for a no deal Brexit with the chief executive being the nominated Brexit Lead officer. Our role and responsibility under the Civil Contingency Act is to ensure that working with the Leicestershire Resilience forum (LRF) we plan for the potential disruption that a no deal exit could have. The LRF is made up of a wide number of partners from police, health, fire, ambulance, armed forces, district and County council, Highways England, Utilities and the voluntary sector.

One element of the contingency planning relates to the potential impact of traffic disruption around the airport as a result of any delays at the border. The Chief Executive is also a member of the National Border Control Sterling group that considers and plans for the impact of changes at the port, ensuring the council's port health authority role continues to run smoothly and effectively.

Plans have been developed to manage traffic disruption and there are a series of meetings with members and local communities over the coming weeks. The council has also developed a robust communication plan for communities, businesses and stakeholders linked to the national communication plan 'Get Ready for Brexit'.

However the contingency planning in respect to the management of air freight movements at East Midlands airport is outside the local authority's remit and control. Airport Co-ordination Limited is responsible for slot allocation scheduled facilitation and schedule date collection across the UK. They would be responsible for modelling ensuring efficient use of capacity and operational performance taking account of operational restrictions.

It is not possible at this time to estimate whether there would be a need for additional freight to be taken through East Midlands airport, but there are legislative restrictions that are in place and would need to be adhered to. The airport has an environmental policy, continuous air quality monitoring for key pollutants set within the wider context of the Air Quality Strategy for England and Wales. The strategy sets limits for nitrogen dioxide, benzene and particulates. These results are publicly available monthly on the East Midlands airport website.

East Midlands airport also operate within the limitations of Noise Action Plan which is a statutory five year document recently the subject of public consultation and runs from 2019 -2023. The plan assesses, considers and manages aircraft noise at the airport and is a legal requirement under the European Union Directive 2009/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. The Civil Aviation Authority and DEFRA have a role in ensuring compliance with the Noise Action Plan and the detailed plan and legislative context are set out on the East Midlands airport website.

We will continue to work closely with all key partners of which the airport is a key stakeholder to ensure that if there are changes these are considered by the Local Resilience Forum and we engage and communicate with our community through this period of uncertainty”.

The Chairman invited Councillor Benfield to ask a supplementary question.

Councillor Benfield's supplementary question was “will the Council make available noise monitoring equipment to residents so that the varying degrees of noise levels around the airport can be measured?”

Councillor Ashman advised that he would liaise with the Chief Executive on this matter and get back to Councillor Benfield outside the meeting.

38. MOTIONS

Councillor Sheahan moved the motion as set out on the agenda and presented it to members.

He advised that it was apparent to him that the Prime Minister was attempting to push through a 'no deal' Brexit and thus followed another imperative to block this which had resulted in the Prime Minister attempting to side step Parliament. It would seem that he is putting his own interests ahead of those of the public and this motion attempts to address this.

Councillor Everitt seconded the motion and reserved his comments.

The Chairman welcomed comments from the floor.

Councillor Ashman felt the motion was politically motivated by Party headquarters. However, despite the squabbling within the walls of Parliament he felt that writing a letter to the MP was not the way forward as it would only reflect the views of a small number of councillors in this Chamber. Instead he felt they should be focussing on the job that local councillors have been elected to do in preparing for Brexit whether it be 'deal' or 'no deal' and that is what they have been doing with regular updates to DHCLG.

Councillor Ashman reported that he was satisfied that the Council had sufficient resources and robust plans and rather than run a localised 'project fear' they are taking all the necessary steps to reduce the impact of leaving on the people of North West Leicestershire.

Councillor Eynon supported the motion and expressed concern on the possible risks associated with necessary medical supplies not being readily available.

Councillor Wyatt did not support the motion and echoed the comments in relation to 'project fear'. He advised that the people of North West Leicestershire voted to leave the EU and we should respect their views.

Councillor Merrie supported the views of Councillor Wyatt and did not support the motion and Councillor Legrys, whilst supporting the motion he congratulated the work currently being done by officers in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit but he did express his despair that we are at this impasse through no fault of our own.

Councillor Benfield supported the views of Councillor Ashman in that we should vote on and support the best interests of the people of North West Leicestershire, however he considered the best interests of those people is not to surge into a 'no deal' Brexit and he fully supported the motion.

Councillor Everitt spoke very passionately about his support of the motion and his support to the European Union. He considered that most people just want a resolution to this mess and we need to be in a position where we can at least say we did our best for the people.

Councillor Sheahan exercised his right to reply and responded to the comments made by members.

Councillor Sheahan stated that this was not 'project fear' but 'project reality' and regardless of whether we voted leave or remain, we should all be voting against 'no deal' Brexit.

The Chairman then put the following motion to the vote.

"This Council notes the latest promise of £150,000 from the Government to assist with our EU exit preparations as a port area. This comes in addition to sums totalling £180,000 already allocated. However, this Council does not believe this money will adequately mitigate the effects of a no-deal Brexit which the Government claims it is 'turbo-charging' its preparations for. Evidence indicates the outcome of a no-deal Brexit would be costly and damaging and we are particularly concerned about the impact on vulnerable residents and smaller businesses within our District. We further note that there is no majority for a no-deal Brexit either in Parliament or amongst the wider electorate. We therefore deplore the Prime Minister's anti-democratic attempt to frustrate the will of Parliament by suspending it, thereby increasing the chances of Brexit occurring with no deal in place. This Council resolves to make its views known by writing to the local MP and urging him not to support actions which will lead to a damaging no-deal Brexit".

A recorded vote was requested, the outcome of which was as follows.

| Councillor | Vote | Councillor | Vote |
|------------|---------|------------------|----------------|
| Allman | Against | Harrison-Rushton | Against |
| Ashman | Against | Hay | For |
| Bayliss | Against | G Hoult | Against |
| Benfield | For | J Hoult | Against |
| Black | Against | Johnson | For |
| Blunt | Against | Legrays | For |
| Boam | Against | Merrie | Against |
| Bridgen | Against | Richichi | Against |
| Bridges | Against | Rushton | Against |
| Everitt | For | Saffell | Against |
| Eynon | For | Sewell | For |
| French | Against | Sheahan | For |
| Geary | For | Smith | Against |
| L Gillard | Against | Tebbutt | Against |
| S Gillard | Against | Windram | Against |
| T Gillard | Against | Woodman | Against |
| Harrison | Against | Wyatt | Against |
| FOR | | 9 | AGAINST |
| | | | 25 |

The motion was LOST.

39. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

40. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2019.

It was moved by Councillor Bridges, seconded by Councillor Richichi and

RESOLVED THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2019 be approved as a correct record

41. NOTIFICATION OF AN URGENT DECISION - LAND OPTIONS AT COALVILLE

Councillor Rushton presented the report. He advised that the Constitution states that the call-in procedure may be suspended where a decision being taken by the Cabinet is urgent. A decision is considered urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. In all circumstances, the Chairman of the Council must agree that the decision is reasonable and must agree to the decision being treated as a matter of urgency.

Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be recorded in the minutes and be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

The Chairman invited questions and comments from the floor.

Councillor Legrys expressed his disappointment that this retrospective decision is being made and this administrative process was not picked up at the time.

It was moved by Councillor Blunt and seconded by Councillor Ashman and

RESOLVED THAT: The report be noted.

42. UPDATE TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Councillor Rushton presented the report. He reminded Council that at its meeting on 26 February 2019, it had agreed to expand the scrutiny function, from one committee meeting six times per year, to two committees each meeting five times per year.

The Corporate Leadership Team have considered the role that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will play in the budget setting process. Given the importance, complexity and profile of this process, senior officers recommend that an additional meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is provided for in the Constitution. In coming to this conclusion, senior officers noted that there was little flexibility to allow extra meetings of the Scrutiny Committees should urgent business arise. Therefore it is further recommended that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, be empowered to convene additional meetings of either Scrutiny Committee to consider urgent business. In order to effect the additional meetings recommended above, minor changes need to be and these were set out in the Appendix to the report.

The Chairman invited questions and comments.

Councillor Blunt advised that his group was fully committed to the role of scrutiny and welcomed this report.

Councillors Sheahan and Eynon reported that they welcomed any enhancement to scrutiny arrangements but still felt that they fell short compared with County and consideration should be given to offering the chairmanship of one of the Scrutiny Committees to the opposition.

Councillor Wyatt expressed concern at his unsuccessful attempts in getting matters raised at the Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Harrison advised that comparisons should not be made with County which is much larger and more complex than the District with more resources available to it.

Councillor Rushton advised that it was well within the gift of all members to seek to have items included on the Scrutiny work programmes and any such matters should be raised when the scrutiny work programmes are discussed at each Scrutiny Committee meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Rushton and seconded by Councillor Harrison and

RESOLVED THAT:

- (1) the Council's Constitution be amended to allow additional scrutiny meetings; as described in the report;
- (2) The Council authorises the Head of Legal and Commercial Services to make the agreed amendments and any consequential amendments to the Constitution and re-issue the document.

43. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

Councillor Gillard presented the report. He advised members that an updated report on this item was set out in the additional papers which followed a change to the political affiliation. On 29 August 2019, the Council was advised that Councillor Daniel Tebbutt

would no longer be a member of the Labour Group.

On 5 September Councillor Tebbutt advised that he had been affiliated to the Conservative group and, due to the consequential shift in the political balance of the Council, the proportionality has been recalculated.

Following discussions with the whips from both affected groups, necessary changes will need to be made to the seats on Committees to accord with the rules on proportionality. Details of those rules were set out in the report together with the proposed changes.

The Chairman invited questions and comments.

There were none.

It was moved by Councillor Gillard and seconded by Councillor Johnson and

RESOLVED THAT:

- (1) That Councillor Johnson be appointed to the Planning Committee to replace Councillor Tebbutt;
- (2) That Councillor Bigby be appointed as a substitute on the Planning Committee to replace Councillor Johnson;
- (3) That Councillor Tebbutt be appointed to the seat currently allocated to Councillor Sewell on the Community Scrutiny Committee;
- (4) That Councillor Sewell be appointed as substitute on the Community Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Tebbutt;
- (5) That the unchanged membership of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be noted.

44. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMUNITY BODIES - ALDERMAN NEWTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Councillor Ashman presented the report. He reminded members that appointments to community bodies were made at the Annual meeting of the Council in May. This followed a comprehensive review whereby all community bodies were written to and invited to request council representation. Following those appointments a further request has been made for a representative for the Alderman Newton Education Foundation.

Nominations had been sought from all political group whips and one nomination had been received this being Councillor John Clarke.

It was therefore moved by Councillor Ashman and seconded by Councillor Gillard and

RESOLVED THAT: The Councillor John Clarke be appointed as a representative to the Alderman Newton Education Foundation for the remainder of the civic year.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.42 pm

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COUNCIL – 19 NOVEMBER 2019

| Title of Report | NOTIFICATION OF AN URGENT DECISION – NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN PARTIAL REVIEW | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Presented by | Councillor Robert Ashman 01530 273762 robert.ashman@nwleicestershire.gov.uk | |
| Background Papers | Report to Cabinet 16 July 2019 | Public Report: Yes |
| | Report to Cabinet of 29 October 2019 | Key Decision: Yes |
| Financial Implications | If the Local Plan becomes out-of-date it is likely that there will be an increased risk of planning applications being submitted which do not accord with the Local Plan and which the Council would wish to resist. This would then lead to more appeals which would lead to additional costs. A contingency budget is available which would cover most if not all of these costs. | |
| | Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes | |
| Legal Implications | To ensure compliance with the Council’s constitution | |
| | Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes | |
| Staffing and Corporate Implications | None | |
| | Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes | |
| Purpose of Report | In accordance with the Council’s Constitution, to formally report that the Cabinet has taken a decision on which the Call-In process was suspended because it was considered to be urgent and, if delayed, the Council’s interests would be seriously prejudiced. | |
| Recommendations | THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT | |

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on 16 July 2019 Cabinet considered a report in respect of the Local Plan Review. The report noted that the original intention to submit the review within 2 years of commencement was no longer possible due to changes in circumstances since the Local Plan was adopted, including, the fact that Leicester City has to yet to declare the extent of any unmet housing need, uncertainty about both housing and employment land requirements and the publication of a new National Planning Policy Framework.
- 1.2 The report outlined what, in effect, is a two stage approach to the review of the Council's adopted Local Plan; namely a Partial review and a Substantive Review. It was proposed, and agreed by Cabinet, that the Partial Review should only address the need to review and revise Policy S1. This was so as to ensure that the Local Plan did not inadvertently become out-of-date.
- 1.3 Therefore, the only change that is proposed as part of the Partial Review is to change the date by which the (now) substantive review would be submitted.
- 1.4 In accordance with the relevant legislation for implementing development plan documents like the Local Plan, the Partial Review was referred to the Local Plan Committee. At its

meeting on 2 October 2019 a report was considered which outlined the proposed approach to the Local Plan review which was agreed by Cabinet and which sought approval from Local Plan Committee of a consultation document.

- 1.5 At the meeting of the Local Plan Committee an amendment to the recommendations was tabled. Following discussion the amendment was passed.
- 1.6 Whilst the Local Plan Committee has the authority under the relevant legislation to agree to publish documents for consultation, it does not have the authority to make changes to documents. Instead, it is required to instruct Cabinet (as the Executive) to reconsider documents. Therefore, this matter was referred to back to Cabinet for its consideration at an extraordinary meeting on 29 October 2019. A copy of the Cabinet report is attached at Appendix A of this report.

2.0 DECISION OF CABINET

- 2.1 Cabinet resolved to not agree to the amendment supported by the Local Plan Committee. The matter was, therefore, referred back to the Local Plan Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2019 whereby it was recommended that a consultation be undertaken as per the report to the Local Plan Committee of 2 October 2019. An update from the Local Plan Committee will be provided at the Council meeting.
- 2.2 The approval of the Chairman of the Council was given for exemption to the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules in relation to call-in.
- 2.3 As set out in Rule 13(g)(i) (call-in urgency) of Part 4.6 of the Council's Constitution, the call-in procedure may be suspended where:

"the decision being taken by the Cabinet is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests".

3.0 WHY IS THE DECISION OF CABINET URGENT?

- 3.1 Section 6 of the report to Cabinet on 29 October 2019 outlined that if the Council is to avoid the local plan being regarded as out-of-date it is necessary to submit the partial review for examination by 20 February 2020. Section 2 of the report addressed the implications of not submitting the Local Plan by 20 February 2020. The report concluded that the window of opportunity to do this is very tight and so it is essential that further delays are avoided. If the Local Plan becomes out-of-date this will prejudice the Council's ability to resist planning applications which it would have otherwise regarded as being inappropriate

| Policies and other considerations, as appropriate | |
|---|--|
| Council Priorities: | <p>The Local Plan supports the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town - Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs - Developing a clean and green district - Local people live in high quality, affordable homes - Our communities are safe, healthy and connected |
| Policy Considerations: | None appropriate |
| Safeguarding: | No matters arising out of this report |

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Equalities/Diversity: | No matters arising out of this report |
| Customer Impact: | The Local Plan becoming out-of-date will result in more uncertainty for both applicants and local communities. |
| Economic and Social Impact: | The Local Plan becoming out-of-date could result in development taking place which the Council would not wish to support because of its potential impact from an economic and/or social point of view. |
| Environment and Climate Change: | The Local Plan becoming out-of-date could result in development taking place which the Council would not wish to support because of its potential impact from an environmental and/or climate change point of view. |
| Consultation/Community Engagement: | The Chairman of the Council |
| Risks: | For the reasons set out in the report to Cabinet the amendment proposed by the Local Plan Committee represents a significant risk to the Local Plan. |
| Officer Contact | <p>Chris Elston Head of Planning and Infrastructure 01530 454782 chris.elston@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Ian Nelson Planning Policy Team Manager 01530 454677 ian.nelson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> |

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| Title of Report | REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES | |
| Presented by | Councillor Robert Ashman, Deputy Leader | |
| Background Papers | <u>The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013</u> | Public Report: Yes |
| | <u>Schedule of current polling districts and polling places</u> <u>Draft recommendations for consultation</u> | Key Decision: No |
| Financial Implications | The average cost for hiring a building for use as a polling station is currently £179.40. The cost of providing a mobile polling station is significantly higher at approximately £2,300. The proposals do not include the use of any mobile polling stations, thus if approved, there are no financial implications. | |
| | Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes | |
| Legal Implications | Failure to undertake a compulsory review will see the Council failing in its duties under the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. | |
| | Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes | |
| Staffing & Corporate Implications | None were identified. | |
| | Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes | |
| Purpose of Report | To approve the final proposals for the review of polling districts and polling places. | |
| Recommendations | IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL: 1. APPROVES THE FINAL PROPOSALS IN RESPECT OF THE REVIEW, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX A TO THE REPORT; 2. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE RETURNING OFFICER TO MAKE, WHERE NECESSARY, ALTERATIONS TO THE DESIGNATION OF ANY POLLING PLACE PRIOR TO THE NEXT FULL REVIEW IN CONSULTATION WITH WARD MEMBERS AND GROUP LEADERS | |

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, every council in England and Wales must undertake and complete a review of all of the polling districts and polling places in its area every five years.
- 1.2 An interim review was carried out in 2018 ahead of the Local Elections, which were held on 2 May 2019. It should be noted that as part of the 2018 review, it was agreed that schools should not be used where there is an alternative, and that costs should be kept down by minimising the use of mobile polling stations. With that in mind, a number of alternative premises were identified and used for the first time.
- 1.3. Following the local elections held on 2 May and the European elections held on 23 May, comments made by the electorate, the staff, candidates and agents have been captured and the Returning Officer's actions against these were subject to a consultation exercise between 19 June to 26 July 2019.
- 1.4 The Electoral Review Working Group met on 16 July to make suggestions in response to the comments made to date, and it met again on 24 September to consider the actions taken and the consequential recommendations.
- 1.5 The outcome of the consultation and the views of the Electoral Review Working Party have been used to inform the final recommendations.

2. TERMINOLOGY

- 2.1 **Polling district:** the area created by the division of a constituency, ward or European Parliamentary electoral region into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined, which is convenient to electors. In North West Leicestershire, each ward is divided into a number of polling districts which each have a two or three letter code e.g. AC, ABA based on the ward in which they are located.
- 2.2 **Polling place:** the location (normally the building) in which polling stations will be sited by the Returning Officer.
- 2.3 **Polling station:** the room where the poll takes place (e.g. community room), which must be located within the polling place. The polling station is chosen by the Returning Officer. It is publicised in the Notice of Situation of Polling Stations and communicated to electors via their poll cards and is also published on the Council's website.
- 2.4 Where possible, every polling district should have its own dedicated polling place and all electors in that polling district are assigned to vote at the polling station located in that place.
- 2.5 It should be noted that the terms 'polling place' and 'polling station' are often used interchangeably and most people consider the polling place (such as a community centre) to be the polling station. However, it is possible to have more than one polling station per polling place (e.g. two sets of staff, two ballot boxes, two electoral registers); and these double stations are often provided in polling districts with a large number of electors or where there is a high turnout or a large number of people voting at certain times of the day.

3. THE DESIGNATION OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

- 3.1 The designation of the district's polling districts and places is the responsibility of the Council.

- 3.2 The allocation of polling stations within polling places is not a Council function and is the responsibility of the Returning Officer for the election concerned. However, in practice, the location of likely polling stations is a key consideration when identifying polling places and the boundaries of polling districts, particularly in those areas of the district where there are no suitable premises.
- 3.3 Polling districts for local government elections are not automatically part of the statutory review. However, the Electoral Commission advises that the polling districts for UK parliamentary and local government elections should always be the same, and it therefore follows that any review of parliamentary polling arrangements should be conducted simultaneously with one of local government arrangements. Consequently, polling districts and polling places adopted by the Council for parliamentary elections will also be effective for local government elections.

4. AIMS OF THE REVIEW

- 4.1 In conducting a review the Council must:
- (a) seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - (b) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places it is responsible for are accessible to all electors;
 - (c) have regard to the accessibility of disabled persons to potential polling stations in the polling place;
 - (d) other than in special circumstances, locate the polling place in the polling district it serves; and
 - (e) ensure the polling place is small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach the polling station.
- 4.2 The focus of the review was to identify wherever possible polling places/polling stations which met set criteria, relating to:
- Location
 - Facilities
 - Accessibility
 - Health and Safety

5. POLLING PLACE/STATION VISITS

- 5.1 Officers undertook visits to polling places/stations between July and September 2019. The purpose of these visits was to assess the suitability of existing arrangements and to evaluate alternative polling stations in light of comments and representations received throughout the consultation process.
- 5.2 When assessing the suitability of polling places/stations an assessment of the following issues are taken into account:
- Location and accessibility to electors within the polling district
 - Size – can it accommodate more than one polling station if required?
 - Accessibility – is the building accessible to all those entitled to vote at the polling station?
 - Availability – is the building readily available in the event of an unscheduled election?

- Facilities available in the venue including parking, heating, lighting, toilet facilities and security

6. FUTURE REVIEWS

- 6.1 The next statutory review needs to be undertaken before January 2025.
- 6.2 However, on occasion, it may be necessary to change the designation of a polling place outside of the statutory review process. This can arise as a result of premises being closed, or where better facilities are identified.
- 6.3 The Council is therefore requested to authorise the Returning Officer, in consultation with group leaders and ward members to make changes to the designation of polling places which occur outside of the formal review process.

| Policies and other considerations, as appropriate | |
|---|---|
| Council Priorities: | Our communities are safe, healthy and connected. |
| Policy Considerations: | None |
| Safeguarding: | Attempts are made to avoid the use of schools. Where unavoidable, close liaison with the schools ensures a clear separation between the children and the polling station. |
| Equalities/Diversity: | In determining where polling places should be located, the Council must seek to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting and that as far as is reasonable and practical, polling places are accessible to all electors. These issues were considered when making the recommendations. |
| Customer Impact: | The key aims of the recommendations are to meet the needs of our customers as identified through the consultation process. |
| Environment and Climate Change: | No issues identified. |
| Economic and Social Impact: | No issues identified. |
| Consultation/Community Engagement: | Consultations were carried out with the MP, all elected members of the Council, polling station staff, parish councils and the electorate of North West Leicestershire. |
| Risks: | No risks identified. |
| Officer Contact | Bev Smith Returning Officer Bev.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk |

Polling Places Schedule 2020-2025

| Ward No. | Ward | Polling District | Polling Place/ Station |
|----------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | Appleby | ABA | Church Hall, Church Street, Appleby Magna |
| | | ABB | Old Schoolroom, Chilcote |
| | | ABC | Church Hall, Church Street, Appleby Magna |
| | | ABD | Parish Church, Snarestone |
| | | ABE | Church Hall, Newton Road, Sweptstone |
| | | ABF | Newton Burgoland Congregational Church |
| 2 | Ashby Castle | AC | Legion House, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch |
| 3 | Ashby Holywell | AHA | Beeches Public House, Burton Road, Ashby de la Zouch |
| | | AHB | Beeches Public House, Burton Road, Ashby de la Zouch |
| 4 | Ashby Ivanhoe | AIA | Ashby Hill Top Primary School, Ashby de la Zouch |
| | | AIB | Browns Court, Ashby de la Zouch |
| 5 | Ashby Money Hill | AM | Ashby Museum, North Street, Ashby de la Zouch |
| 6 | Ashby Willesley | ASA | Willesley Recreation Ground Building, Ridgway Road, Ashby de la Zouch |
| | | ASB | Ashby Hastings Scout HQ, Wilfred Gardens, Ashby de la Zouch |
| 7 | Ashby Woulds | AWA | Moirs Replan Offices, Ashby Road, Moira |
| | | AWB | Mushroom Hall, Main Street, Albert Village |
| 8 | Bardon | BAA & BAB | Bardon Hill Sports Club, Bardon Close, Coalville |
| 9 | Blackfordby | BLA | Blackfordby Village Hall, Sandtop Lane, Blackfordby |
| | | BLB | Moirs Sure Start Centre, Moira Primary School, Blackfordby Lane, Moira |
| | | BLC | Blackfordby Village Hall, Sandtop Lane, Blackfordby |
| 10 | Broom Leys | BRA | Hall Lane Methodist Church, Hall Lane, Whitwick |
| | | BRB & BRC | Greenacres Community Centre, Linford Crescent, Coalville |
| 11 | Castle Donington Castle | CA | Sure Start Centre, Mount Pleasant, Castle Donington |
| 12 | Castle Donington Central | CE | Community Hub, Bondgate, Castle Donington |
| 13 | Castle Donington Park | CP | Community Hub, Bondgate, Castle Donington |
| 14 | Castle Rock | CRA | Oak Storer Hall, Oaks in Charnwood |
| | | CRB | Agar Nook Community Centre, Belgrave Close, Coalville |
| 15 | Coalville East | CTA & CTB | Broom Leys School, Broom Leys Road, Coalville |
| 16 | Coalville West | CWA | Community Room, Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville |
| | | CWB | Christ Church Hall, London Road, Coalville |
| 17 | Daleacre Hill | DHA | Village Hall, Nottingham Road, Kegworth |
| | | DHB | Lockington Village Hall, Hemington Lane, Lockington |
| | | DHC | Function Room the Jolly Sailor PH, 21 Main Street, Hemington |
| 18 | Ellistown & Battleflat | EB | Community Centre, Whitehill Road, Ellistown |

| Ward No. | Ward | Polling District | Polling Place/ Station |
|----------|--------------------------|------------------|---|
| 19 | Greenhill | GR | Greenhill Community Church, Charnborough Road, Coalville |
| 20 | Hermitage | HE | Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick |
| 21 | Holly Hayes | HH | Whitwick Methodist Church, Nr. Market Place, Whitwick |
| 22 | Hugglescote St John's | HJ | Hugglescote Community Centre, Grange Road, Hugglescote |
| 23 | Hugglescote St Mary's | HMA | Hugglescote Community Centre, Grange Road, Hugglescote |
| | | HMB | Community Room, Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville |
| 24 | Ibstock East | IEA | Meeting Room, Baptist Chapel, Chapel Street, Ibstock |
| | | IEB | Community Centre, Whitehill Road, Ellistown |
| 25 | Ibstock West | IW | The Schoolroom, Wesleyan Reform Church, Melbourne Road, Ibstock |
| 26 | Kegworth | KE | Kegworth Library, High Street, Kegworth |
| 27 | Long Whatton & Diseworth | LDA | The Guide Friendship Centre, Main Street, Long Whatton |
| | | LDB | Village Hall, Hall Gate, Diseworth |
| | | LDC | Belton Village Hall, School Lane, Belton |
| 28 | Measham North | MN | St Laurence Measham Church Hall, High Street, Measham |
| 29 | Measham South | MS | Measham Leisure Centre, High Street, Measham |
| 30 | Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe | ODA | Donisthorpe Woodlands Centre, Church Street, Donisthorpe |
| | | ODB | Methodist Schoolroom, Acresford |
| | | ODC | Leisure Centre, Measham Road, Oakthorpe |
| 31 | Ravenstone & Packington | RPA | The Pavilion, Ravenslea, Ravenstone |
| | | RPB & RPC | Memorial Hall, High Street, Packington |
| 32 | Sence Valley | SEA | Heather Village Hall, Sweptstone Road, Heather |
| | | SEB | The Schoolroom, Wesleyan Reform Church, Melbourne Road, Ibstock |
| 33 | Snibston North | SNA & SNB | Century Theatre, Chiswell Road, Coalville |
| 34 | Snibston South | SS | Full Gospel Mission Pentecostal Church, James Street, Coalville |
| 35 | Thornborough | TBA | Community Room, Howe Court, Howe Road, Whitwick |
| | | TBB | Holy Cross Parish Rooms, Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick |
| 36 | Thringstone | TS | Thringstone Miners Social Centre, Homestead Road, Thringstone |
| 37 | Valley | VAA | Swannington Institute, Main Street, Swannington |
| | | VAB | Viscount Beaumont Primary School, Ashby Road, Coleorton |
| | | VAC | Village Hall, Church Lane, Osgathorpe |
| 38 | Worthington & Breedon | WBA | St Matthews Church, Church Street, Worthington |
| | | WBB & WBC & WBD | C of E Primary School, School Lane, Newbold |
| | | WBE & WBF | C of E Primary School, Main Street, Breedon on the Hill |
| | | WBG | Beaumont Centre, Nottingham Road, Peggs Green. |