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

Time/Date 6.30 pm on TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2020  
Location MS Teams Live Event  
Officer to contact Democratic Services (01530 454512)



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Chief Executive

**AGENDA**

Item	Pages
<b>PRAYERS</b>	
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>	
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'.	
<b>3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN</b>	
To appoint the Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.	
<b>4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN</b>	
To appoint the Deputy Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.	
<b>5. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER</b>	
To appoint the Leader of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.	
<b>6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
<b>7. LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	

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.

## **8. 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.

## **9. 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.

## **10. MOTIONS**

1) To consider the following motion received from Councillor M B Wyatt:

### **REDUCING ACOUSTIC STRESS FROM FIREWORKS**

This Council notes:

- That firework displays are common throughout the world and are the focal point of many cultural and religious celebrations.
- The rising number of complaints about all year round noise nuisance from fireworks.
- The impact loud bangs have on some people with mental ill health, some people who are anxious about loud noises, some people with a disability for whom loud noises can be extremely disturbing and those people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.
- The distress suffered by many household pets and wild animals because of the use of fireworks.
- Increasing public health concerns surrounding the use of fireworks.

This Council believes that everyone has a right to enjoy firework displays. This Council also believes that this should not be at the expense of the amenity of others and notes the work done by the people of Collecchio in the province of Parma in Italy to introduce legislation to reduce acoustic stress.

This Council believes that with the increasing availability of quieter fireworks which can create "quieter" or "low noise" or "silent" displays which reduce the noise nuisance and impact on others, it is time for the Council to investigate the creation of more peaceful firework displays that can be enjoyed by all.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries on council owned land to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing

- residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
2. To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
  3. To investigate whether quieter or low noise fireworks could be used at council events as an alternative to the existing fireworks provision.

2) To consider the following motion received from Councillor S Sheahan:

“In the wake of the Coronavirus Pandemic and stark predictions of an economic downturn in the District the likes of which have not been seen since the 1980's, this Council resolves to -

Recognise the importance of the Ivanhoe Line in the Council's regeneration strategy, and the key role it could play in attracting sustained investment into our District,

Closely align proposals for the restoration of the Ivanhoe Line with the wider environmental agenda, including climate change, air quality and road congestion,

Form a working partnership with the County Council and other interested parties, including CRIL, with a clear remit to take all practical steps available, including supporting necessary feasibility studies, to move the project forward,

Ensure that the Council's commitment to the Ivanhoe Line is reflected in all relevant strategic plans, including the local plan.”

## **11. PETITIONS**

To receive petitions in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

## **12. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 February 2020 **5 - 20**

## **13. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS, ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN**

Report of the Head of Legal and Commercial Services  
Presented by the Deputy Leader **21 - 28**

## **14. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMUNITY BODIES**

Report of the Head of Legal and Commercial Services  
Presented by the Deputy Leader **29 - 32**

## **15. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2020/21**

Report of the Head of Legal and Commercial Services  
Presented by the Deputy Leader **33 - 38**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>16. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS</b>	
Report of the Head of Legal and Commercial Services Presented by the Deputy Leader	<b>39 - 40</b>
<b>17. URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN QUARTER 4 2019/20</b>	
Report of the Chief Executive Presented by the Leader	<b>41 - 44</b>

MINUTES of a meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2020

Present: Councillor J Bridges (Chairman)

Councillors V Richichi, E G C Allman, R Ashman, R D Bayliss, D Bigby, A S Black, R Blunt, R Boam, A J Bridgen, R Canny, J Clarke, 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, Mrs C Hammond, Mr A Barton and Mr T Delaney

## **56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Benfield.

## **57. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor J Geary declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of the newly formed Snibston Heritage Trust.

Councillor J Legrys declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 – Budget and Council Tax 2020/21, as a Director and Volunteer at Hermitage FM.

## **58. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

He advised Members that following discussions with officers, he had decided to cancel the Civic Dinner. The decision had come following the loss of the main sponsor and he felt that due to other pressures on the budget it was not the right time to press ahead with such a big event. He hoped that a charity event may be held in the coming months if not it would roll over to the next civic year.

## **59. LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Councillor R Blunt made the following announcements.

He began by supporting the Chairman's decision to cancel the Civic dinner and agreed that it was not right for the event to be subsidised by the ratepayer.

### "Storm Dennis"

Last weekend, our staff were once again out assisting people in our district as the country was hit by another storm.

Our housing, parks, waste staff were joined by many other on call staff to check on people and vulnerable areas and respond to reports of incidents.

We received 65 calls about the storm including flooding and wind damage. We provided sandbags across the district, concentrating on particularly badly affected areas including Measham where there was significant flooding from the River Mease.

Our sheltered accommodation at Hood Court was flooded, with the water affecting mainly communal corridors and a handful of flats. Six residents, whose flats had flood damage, were evacuated. Repairs to the flooded areas have already begun and evacuated residents will be able to return to their homes as soon as possible.

With the help of the Local Resilience Forum, we also arranged for overnight accommodation for one family from Appleby Magna, whose home had been flooded. Thank you to those staff who worked very hard over the weekend to help those who were affected by the storm, and also to members who I know were very active in their communities.

### Development corporation

Last week Cabinet agreed to support the work of the Midlands Engine exploring the establishment of a Development Corporation, which would provide an opportunity to boost development, jobs and infrastructure across the East Midlands - in particular in the north of our district and across the border into Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

If it is established, one of the three sites that the development corporation would look at is East Midlands Airport, the rail freight interchange and the Segro site, which is hugely important for our district in terms of jobs and connectivity. The development corporation would attract significant investment and raise the profile of the East Midlands, addressing some of the historic under-funding this region has experienced.

It is important that this council is involved in the work from the very start to make sure we have a place at the table and we are able to advocate for our district. We will be establishing a cross member-working group to make sure you are kept informed and involved as this important project progresses.

### Snibston

Whilst it is not a North West Leicestershire project, I would like to mention the start of work at the Snibston Colliery site. This county council project ties in keenly with our own regeneration work in Coalville, and it's been great to see the community pull together to support the plans for a new country park, café, heritage trail and green infrastructure.

The plans also include reopening the original colliery gates for access. It gives me an enormous amount of pride to know that those gates will open for the first time in 40 years. People will be arriving as the miners did – now to enjoy the country park.

### Ashby Road

Close by to the Snibston project is the removal of the traffic calming on Ashby Road, which is due to start in the summer. Through a consultation, the county council was able to establish that 77% of people agreed that Ashby Road needed improvements and that 68% agreed with the proposed works. I am pleased that this council is able to support the project, which is clearly high on people's wish list for the town, by providing half the cost. I believe it will make a much more welcoming entrance to the town.

### Big Weekend in the National Forest

And finally, this year, venues in Ashby and Coalville took part in the Leicester Comedy Festival as part of the BIG Weekend in the National Forest, sponsored by this council. This is a first for the district and I am really pleased to report that over 600 people supported nine comedy performances in venues ranging from the Century Theatre, Conkers, The Lyric Rooms and Ashby and Coalville libraries. The weekend also hosted the National Forest's Funniest Kids which saw children from Belvoirdale and All Saints schools performing."

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

Councillor D Harrison expressed his sincere thanks the officers for the work that they had carried out to support residents during the flood. He noted that the work to prevent further issues was complex, but it was planned that the Council would work together with other parties to, hopefully resolve the issues.

Councillor S Sheahan also wished to thank the officers that assisted residents of the Riverway estate in Measham during the recent floods. He highlighted over areas of the district that he had visited during the events and that he hoped to discuss the issue with Leicestershire County Council.

Councillor J Geary welcomed the comments in relation to Snibston site and was confident that members could all work together to support the residents that they had been elected to represent. In relation to the flooding, he asked if the Council was keeping a true record of all properties and businesses that had been flooded and parcels of land that were still under water. He felt that it would show where hotspot areas were for future flooding instances and could be used to avoid developing on flood plain.

Councillor R Blunt advised that all incidents of flooding should be reported to the LCC flood website. Any area should be reported. He noted an incident that had arisen in the past and that it involved several authorities working together to resolve. He thanked Councillor J Geary for his support in relation to Snibston and advised Members that it would be called Snibston Colliery Park and it was hoped to be open during the year.

Councillor R Canny stated that there was severe flooding at Cavendish Bridge and that residents had asked what the Council was doing about climate change, to which she advised that the Council had committed to do something about. She noted that the residents also expressed concerns over the enormous amount of building happening in the area and what more was to come. She was pleased to see that in relation to the Development Corporation the authority would look at the impact that it would have on the residents.

Councillor R Boam expressed his concerns over the support that the authority offered to its elderly residents during the floods, as many were unable to get to the depot to collect sandbags. He advised that he went himself to collect for her.

Councillor R Ashman made the following announcements.

#### "MHCLG praise

I am very pleased to report that this council has been praised for exceeding its house building targets. In a letter from Robert Jenrick MP, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, he thanks officers and councillors for the effort we have put in to achieve this result.

He praised NWLDC for really rising to the challenge of providing the necessary homes, and acknowledges that this can be a difficult task.

The Government will be continuing with their plans to increase the housing thresholds so it is important that we maintain an up to date Local Plan and continue to deliver housing completions for years to come.

#### Local Plan review

Speaking of the importance of the Local Plan, I am pleased to be able to advise members that the Local Plan review has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. We have met the two-year deadline imposed by the previous inspector to avoid the adopted plan being deemed to be out-of-date.

This means that the adopted Local Plan can continue to be given full weight when we determine planning applications and so we will not be in the position we were a few years ago when we were forced to approve many planning applications which we otherwise would not have wished to support.

My thanks to the officers behind the Local Plan and the members of the cross-party Local Plan Committee, who continue to work incredibly hard in this complex and detailed area of work that has an important impact on this district.”

Councillor A Woodman made the following announcements.

“At Full Council in November Councillor C Sewell queried the use of glyphosate by council employees. I am pleased to inform members that as of 1 April all council employees will cease using it. Whilst the chemical was managed in a safe way and its use was kept to an absolute minimum, our intention was to stop using it once a suitable alternative option became available which is now the case. There will be additional expense of around £5,000 per annum to the council for using the new chemical, and whilst it is unlikely that glyphosate is carcinogenic, we would not subject our employees to anything that may cause risk to their health and wellbeing if there is any possibility at all of this happening, and if there is a suitable alternative option available.”

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

Councillor S Sheahan thanked Councillor C Sewell for asking the question at the last Council meeting and Councillor A Woodman for ensuring the outcome that had just been made.

#### **60. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no questions received.

#### **61. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

One question had been received.

The Chairman invited Councillor J Legrys to ask his question addressed to Councillor R D Bayliss.

“Following announcements that the current Coalville Market site will close; as will its public toilet facilities. This also follows the announcement that the current private toilet facilities within the Coop Supermarket will also be closed.



I have been contacted by Ward residents seeking clarification of future NWLDC Public Toilet facilities within Coalville Town Centre. The lack of clarity has caused distress for elderly, disabled and people with responsibilities for children and adult care.

Can I please be informed of what public toilet facilities will NWLDC provide on closure of the current market site?"

The Chairman invited Councillor R D Bayliss to respond.

"We are currently considering the range of options available for the Market Hall building once the market has relocated to its new home on Marlborough Square, and this process will include evaluating all of the options available regarding public toilets. As part of this process one of the constraints on future use will be the extensive repairs required to the existing market hall roof to make it fully watertight again, which have been estimated to exceed £240,000 to complete. Prior to any final decision being made we will consult on the options and a report will be brought before the Corporate Scrutiny Committee prior to consideration at Cabinet, to allow members to input into this process."

The Chairman invited Councillor J Legrys to ask a supplementary question.

Councillor J Legrys supplementary question was that a press release was made to keep the residents informed of the future of the toilets and could the Portfolio provide an amount of how much had been spent in the past on relocating the toilets.

Councillor R Bayliss advised that a press release would be issued and that the figure will be provided outside of the meeting.

## **62. MOTIONS**

Councillor A Woodman moved the motion as set out on the agenda and presented it to Members.

He noted that the motion had been adopted by hundreds of Local Authorities and by all major political parties. He stated that it was depressing that after seventy five years it was still an issue and that reports of Anti-semitic incidents in the first six months of 2019 were up 10% on the same period in 2018 which was very worrying that the trend. He informed Members that the Council needed to take stand against all discrimination and signal that it would not tolerate any hatred and reflect it by including in the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Councillor R D Bayliss seconded the motion and reserved his right to comment.

The Chairman welcomed comments from the floor.

Councillor T Eynon thanked Councillor A Woodman for bringing forward the motion and noted that it had been accepted by LCC. She stated that as chair of the Equality and Access Group she was pleased that there was cross party support and was glad that Councillor A Woodman mentioned that the strategy would be updated. She advised that the statement was consistent with the strategy and made clear that all discrimination was the perception of the person being discriminated against. She advised all Members to read strategy, and once updated it would hopefully be brought to Full Council to look at the action plan.

Councillor M Wyatt stated that the Liberal Democrat group was 100% in support of the motion, which was appreciated not just by Jewish community but also supported by the non-members of the Jewish community.

Councillor R Blunt stated that he was pleased that other parties supported the motion. He noted that all present in the room were good fair decent people and that the world that they lived in was a good fair decent world and it was frightening how quickly it changed. It was timely to bring forward and hoped it was unanimous

Councillor N Smith urged Members to visit the museum in Nottinghamshire, as it would bring home the reality of the Holocaust better than talking about it.

Councillor R D Bayliss stated that he found it depressing that after liberation the Council had to consider motion before them. He found the resurgence a peculiar mind-set, which was morally dangerous and therefore the motion must be supported

Councillor A Woodman thanked all Members for the support and that he was happy to discuss bringing the strategy to Full Council with officers.

The Chairman then put the following motion to the vote. It was

RESOLVED:

‘That the Council adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism which is as follows:-

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

### **63. PETITIONS**

No petitions were received.

### **64. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2019.

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

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **65. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

Councillor R Ashman presented the report to Members.

He advised Members that following on from comments of Councillors to the LGA peer review, it was recommended that a review of the allowances be carried out. He highlighted that the panel had met twice to consider requests to look at both the basic and SRAs, and that the panel had given consideration to detailed benchmarking information in making their decisions. The panel thanked those members who expressed interest to attend the meetings but to eliminate any sense of bias it was felt that the panel meetings should remain independent. He stated that the authority had a legal duty to publish a press notice of the findings and recommendations, and that it was proposed that the changes to the scheme would take effect from Tuesday, 12 May 2020.

Councillor D Harrison stated that he supported the recommendations was happy to second them. He acknowledged that the backbench work had been reduced but was not

aware of any issues that had been raised by colleagues. He thanked the panel for their work, as it was not an easy role to fulfil.

It was moved by Councillor R Ashman, seconded by Councillor D Harrison and

#### RESOLVED THAT

The Members' Allowance Scheme be amended to take effect from Annual Council on 12 May 2020 (when the appointments to committees are agreed) as follows:

1. The basic allowance to be increased for all Members to £5,027.10 per annum;
2. The special responsibility allowance in respect of the Planning Chairman to be increased from a multiple of 1.3 to 1.5;
3. The special responsibility allowances in respect of the Chairmen of Audit & Governance, Licensing, Local Plan & the Scrutiny Committees to be reduced from a multiple of 1.3 to 0.5; on the understanding that Scrutiny would be revisited once any changes following the recommendations of the peer review had been embedded.

#### **66. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2020/21**

Councillor N J Rushton presented the report to Members.

He advised that recommendation 17 no longer required approval following the approval of the last item and due to the Local Government Finance Settlement being decided. He informed Members of the changes to the budget consultation that had been introduced for 2020 which included early engagement with the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and enhanced public consultation.

In relation to the General Fund, he highlighted that the budget would deliver a surplus for of £630k and that it was proposed to freeze District Council Tax for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. He noted that the budget for business rates income had seen a significant increase as a result of business growth and that additional Council Tax had been budgeted for due to an increase of 2.5% in the council tax base as a result of forecast growth in the district.

Councillor N J Rushton stated that there was a specific recommendation included around increasing special expenses for the first time in 10 years, to cover the cost of managing services in these areas and outlined capital projects that would benefit from £23m that had been budgeted for.

In relation to the HRA budget, he noted that it was proposed to increase Council House Rents by 2.7% in line with the Government's national rent increase formula and that the budget summary showed a surplus of £2.8m.

Councillor N J Rushton moved the recommendations as set out in the report with the exception of number 17, which had been removed. The motion was seconded by Councillor R Blunt who reserved his comments.

The Chairman referred to the amendments to the motion, which had been circulated in the additional papers. He invited Councillor S Sheahan to put forward his amendment.

Councillor S Sheahan moved the amendment to the budget. He stated that the group would like to give the creative industries a boost and support aspiring artists to get new workshop spaces research into supporting<sup>11</sup> new artist to get workshop spaces by seeing

what units were available. It was also proposed to support public art festivals through grants. In relation to Customer Service standards, he acknowledged that they had improved but felt that there was still a long way to go. Therefore, it was proposed to earmark £200k to invest in technology and staff. He stated that provision had been made for a Social Needs Support Worker, which would support the Council's commitment to supporting victims of domestic abuse. He informed Members that it was proposed to put forward £20k towards improving air quality and a 1.7% increase in Council Tax, which would help to pay for many of the projects that had been detailed. The increase would also help to balance out the deficit in future years.

In relation to HRA he felt that switching Council properties over to a 'Not for Profit' supplier for energy was an excellent idea and it would not cost the authority a lot to do so. He put forward a proposal for 'Decent homes plus', which meant that rather than a tenant waiting for two items to require fixing they would only wait for one to fix under the new standard. He stated that it would cost £450k per year. He noted that new supply would eventually need to be supported by borrowing. He highlighted that the targets were not being hit for new supply nor was the administration keeping up with the right to buy losses. He expressed concerns that there was no capacity for new houses and the group felt that better decent homes was the way forward.

The motion was seconded by Councillor J Legrys who reserved his comments.

Councillor N J Rushton advised that the administration would not be supporting the amendment and reminded Members that they had the opportunity to bring forward their proposals during the scrutiny process. That would have allowed time for them to be considered and, should the proposals be approved a lot of work and additional cost would be required to initiate them. He highlighted that there had been significant spending on Customer Services and that the Council already offered support to domestic abuse victims through existing arrangements. He raised concerns over switching to 'Not for Profit' energy suppliers and reiterated that the Council was committed to providing decent homes.

Councillor R D Bayliss expressed disappointment that he had only had the opportunity to see the amendment that night and had not had chance to digest. He stated that the home improvement plan was not drawn up on a whim but planned years in advance and he agreed that some improvements were required to Customer Services but work was ongoing and new practices had been established. He concurred with Councillor N J Rushton's concerns over the energy supplier switch and advised he would be voting against the motion.

Councillor J Legrys felt that it was a no win situation as the official opposition when dealing with budget. He stated that the amendment that had been put forward, even though it was likely to be rejected, attempted to outline concerns about how the authority could deal with the limited funds that were coming from the National Government. He highlighted that the amendment would allow residents to say that they were paying and receiving something back for it.

Councillor S Sheahan advised that he could have raised at scrutiny a long with the extra parking and car charging points. He suggested that the energy supplier be put out to tender, as the concern was to prevent tenants from getting into fuel poverty.

The Chairman then put the motion to the vote. A recorded vote being required, the voting was as detailed below:

<b>Amendment to the Budget as submitted by Councillor S Sheahan (Motion)</b>	
Councillor John Bridges	Against
Councillor Virge Richichi	Against
Councillor Elliott Allman	Against
Councillor Robert Ashman	Against

Councillor Roger Bayliss	Against
Councillor Dave Bigby	For
Councillor Angela Black	Against
Councillor Richard Blunt	Against
Councillor Russell Boam	Against
Councillor Alexander Bridgen	Against
Councillor Rachel Canny	Against
Councillor John Clarke	Against
Councillor David Everitt	For
Councillor Dr Terri Eynon	For
Councillor Marie French	Against
Councillor John Geary	For
Councillor Louise Gillard	Against
Councillor Stuart Gillard	Against
Councillor Tony Gillard	Against
Councillor Dan Harrison	Against
Councillor Bertie Harrison-Rushton	Against
Councillor Michael Hay	For
Councillor Gill Hault	Against
Councillor Jim Hault	Against
Councillor Russell Johnson	For
Councillor John Legrys	For
Councillor Keith Merrie MBE	Against
Councillor Nicholas Rushton	Against
Councillor Tony Saffell	Against
Councillor Carol Sewell	For
Councillor Sean Sheahan	For
Councillor Nigel Smith	Against
Councillor Daniel Tebbutt	Against
Councillor Jake Windram	Against
Councillor Andrew Woodman	Against
Councillor Michael Wyatt	Against
<b>Rejected</b>	

The motion was declared LOST.

The Chairman referred members to the substantive motion as set out in the agenda.

Councillor S Sheahan advised that the opposition would be abstaining on the main motion, as they did not like the idea of being dependent on grants.

Councillor K Merrie spoke in favour of the budget before him. He thanked all officers involved and acknowledged the new council homes that had been built. He was pleased to see all the funding for regeneration and that Council Tax had been frozen once again.

Councillor T Saffell stated that at previous meetings he had asked about staffing figures and the number of staff that were agency. He felt that the cost of agency staff made took a huge part of the budget and requested that the figures be included in future reports.

Councillor M B Wyatt stated that it was the first time that he genuinely felt that his view on the budget mattered and the administration listened to new ideas. He praised the climate change fund and that the groups had the same visions in relation to the high street bid. He expressed concerns that any Leisure S106 monies that had been secured for the Coalville area should be used for the town centre, not the leisure centre. He advised that the group would be abstaining on the motion for this reason but thanked the administration for including them in the budget process.

Councillor R D Bayliss advised that in relation to new supply he referred to the MTFP, which detailed options for maintaining the housing numbers through purchasing stock, however it would take time. He agreed that it was crucial that the Council did not overstaff itself but if the services were to perform to the standard expected then maintaining staff levels was required.

Councillor R Blunt stated that since 2007 he had always ensured that the authority had balanced its books and it would be unforgivable if that were not the case by the end of the year. He advised that it was the administration's number one priority to live within its means and to honour its election commitments, 27 in total, within the budget. He noted that the Council's General Fund had a surplus of £630k and expressed concerns that the opposition than wanted to increase the Council Tax when the surplus was there.

Councillor N J Rushton advised that a report would be taken to a scrutiny committee relating to the staffing figures and the use of agency staff. He thanked Councillor M B Wyatt for his input during the scrutiny process and advised that the S106 monies collected for leisure could only be used for leisure hence why they were going toward the new centre that would benefit the greater Coalville area. He acknowledged that the district proportion of the Council Tax bill was the smallest but it was a big commitment. He informed Members that the Council was, for the first time in a long time, providing new rented accommodation for its residents. He highlighted one option would be to purchase new homes as there should be no difference between private owned homes or authority rented homes. He recommended the budget to be approved.

The Chairman then put the substantive motion to the vote. A recorded vote being required, the voting was as detailed below:

<b>Substantive Motion (Motion)</b>	
Councillor John Bridges	For
Councillor Virge Richichi	For
Councillor Elliott Allman	For
Councillor Robert Ashman	For
Councillor Roger Bayliss	For
Councillor Dave Bigby	Abstain
Councillor Angela Black	Abstain
Councillor Richard Blunt	For
Councillor Russell Boam	For
Councillor Alexander Bridgen	For
Councillor Rachel Canny	For
Councillor John Clarke	For
Councillor David Everitt	Abstain
Councillor Dr Terri Eynon	Abstain
Councillor Marie French	Abstain
Councillor John Geary	Abstain
Councillor Louise Gillard	For
Councillor Stuart Gillard	For
Councillor Tony Gillard	For
Councillor Dan Harrison	For
Councillor Bertie Harrison-Rushton	For
Councillor Michael Hay	Abstain
Councillor Gill Houtt	For
Councillor Jim Houtt	For
Councillor Russell Johnson	Abstain
Councillor John Legrys	Abstain
Councillor Keith Merrie MBE	For
Councillor Nicholas Rushton	For
Councillor Tony Saffell	For

Councillor Carol Sewell	Abstain
Councillor Sean Sheahan	Abstain
Councillor Nigel Smith	For
Councillor Daniel Tebbutt	For
Councillor Jake Windram	Abstain
Councillor Andrew Woodman	For
Councillor Michael Wyatt	Abstain
<b>Carried</b>	

The motion was declared CARRIED.

It was therefore

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Cabinet on 4 February 2020 be noted.
2. The S151 officer's comments on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves be noted.
3. The General Fund Revenue Budget for 2020/21 be approved.
4. The Special Expenses Revenue Budget for 2020/21 be approved.
5. The District Council Tax in 2020/21 be frozen.
6. The Special Expenses Band D Council Tax as appendix 6 table c for 2020/21 be set.
7. The ground rent increase at Appleby Magna Caravan Site of 2.6% on the anniversary of each individual rent agreement in 2020/21 be approved.
8. The amendments to the General Fund Fees and Charges as detailed in appendix 3b effective from 1 April 2020 be approved.
9. The transfer of any General Fund surplus income over expenditure in 2020/21 to the Self Sufficiency reserve (currently budgeted as £630,368) be approved.
10. The increase in Council rents for 2020/21 by up to 2.7% be approved.
11. The increase in garage rents for 2020/21 by 2.6% be approved.
12. The decrease in central heating charges for 2020/21 by 10% be approved.
13. The average increase of 0.44% in service charge for 2020/21, as set out in appendix 4d be approved.
14. Increasing the lifeline charges for East Midlands Housing and private customers by 2.6% be approved.
15. Increasing shop lease rents by an average of 14% to gradually move them to market levels be approved. The approach was agreed by Cabinet in November 2014.
16. That the surplus Housing Revenue Account income be transferred to the loan redemption reserve, but that Cabinet maintains the ability to use the surpluses more

flexibly now the reserve has sufficient money to repay the loans due in 2020 be noted. The approach was approved by Council in 2019/20.

17. The proposed General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes for 2020/21 and planned financing be approved.
18. The vehicle replacement programme for 2021/22 be approved.
19. The Capital Programmes 2021/22 – 2024/25 for indicative proposes only be approved.
20. The 2020/21 Capital Strategy (in line with the prudential code) be approved.
21. The following amounts for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31b of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended be approved:
  - (1) 34,585 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base (England)) regulations 2012, as its Council Tax Base for the year.
  - (2) The amounts specified in appendix 6 table a of the report being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the amount of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
22. The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with sections 31a and 31b of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended be approved:
  - (1) District/Parish gross expenditure  
£59,786,409 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31a (2) of the act.
  - (2) Income  
£51,542,070 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31a (3) of the act.
  - (3) District/Parish gross expenditure  
£8,244,339 being the amount by which the aggregate at 23(1) above exceeds the aggregate at 23(2) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with section 31a (4) of the act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
  - (4) Basic amount of tax (including average parish precepts)  
£238.38 being the amount at 23(3) above, divided by the amount stated as the Council Tax base in parts of the Council's area, calculated by the Council in accordance with section 31 b of the act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
  - (5) Parish precepts/special expenses  
£2,759.849 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 35(1) of the act.
  - (6) Basic amount of tax (basic council tax – District)  
£158.58 being the amount at 23(4) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 23(5) above by the amount as stated as the Council Tax base for the whole of the Council area, calculated by the Council in accordance with section



34(2) of the act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates.

(7) Basic amount of tax (Parished areas)

The amounts listed in column 5 of table b appendix 6 to this report, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 23(6) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's areas mentioned, divided in each case by the amount stated as the Council Tax base in parts of the Council are, calculated by the Council in accordance with section 34(3) of the act as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its areas to which one or more special items relate.

(8) District/Parish Councils Tax rates

The amounts set out in table c appendix 6 to this report being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 23(6) and 23(7) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5(1) of the act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band d, calculated by the Council in accordance with section 36(1) of the act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

23. Major precepting authorities

The amounts set out in table d appendix 6 to this report are the amounts notified by Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Combined Fire Authority in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as their precepts for 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings listed be noted.

24. Council tax base – all bands

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 23(8) (table c appendix 6) and 24 (table d appendix 6) above, the Council in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the amounts of Council Tax for the Council's area for the year 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown in table e appendix 6.

25. Referendums relating to council tax increases

The relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21 is not excessive be noted.

## **67. INVESTMENT STRATEGY - SERVICE AND COMMERCIAL 2020/21**

Councillor N J Rushton presented the report to Members.

He advised that it was a strategy requirement introduced for Councils in 2019 and that it set out how the Council would support local public services by lending to them or buying shares in them. He highlighted that approved limits had been set to limit the amount that the Council could lend and that the limits had been designed with reference to potential investment areas in 2019/20.

He added that the strategy also set out the Council's commercial property investments, its current portfolio and reliance on the income stream.

It was moved by Councillor N J Rushton, seconded by Councillor R Ashman and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Investment Strategy – Service and Commercial 2020/21 be approved.

## **68. THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY MANAGEMENT 2020/21 AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2020/21-2022/23**

Councillor N J Rushton presented the report to Members.

He advised that the report asked Council to approve the statement for 2020/2, which complied with all the statutory, regulatory and professional requirements. He noted that the strategy was concerned with how the Council invested its surplus cash and set out how the Council could choose to invest.

He informed Members that the investments would be one of the ways that the savings would be delivered under the Journey to Self Sufficiency Programme. He highlighted the table that projected the Council's treasury position to 2025 aligned with the Council's budgets and medium term financial plan and that the Council had a borrowing need identified in 2022/23 of £5.5m, which would be monitored by the Head of Finance.

Councillor J Legrys stated that he had every faith in the team but sought clarification that due diligence was being given to the loans provided to other partners and what would the authority do if they could not be repaid.

The Head of Finance advised when lending to other local authority partners the loan is underwritten by Council Tax and NNDR in that area so there is risk in the timing of the recovery of the loan but not in the redemption of it.

Councillor N J Rushton took the opportunity to thank the Head of Finance and the Finance team for all the hard work that they put in, adding that the Head of Finance was an asset to the Council.

It was moved by Councillor N J Rushton, seconded by Councillor R Ashman and

**RESOLVED THAT:**

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21, Treasury Management Prudential Indicators – revised 2019/20 and 2020/21 to 2022/23 and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement be approved.

## **69. GENDER PAY GAP REPORT 2019**

Councillor R Ashman presented the report to Members.

He advised that it was a statutory requirement to calculate, report and publish the percentage differences in pay between male and female employees in the Councils workforce, otherwise known as the "Gender Pay Gap".

He informed Members that the report was based on data from March 2019 in accordance with the requirements and that it was important to note that Gender pay was different to Equal Pay. He noted that all of the jobs were graded according to job evaluation and whatever job people do the pay band was the same, regardless of the gender of the employee.

He highlighted that the Gender pay measures the difference between men and women's average earnings across the organisation and the Council's gender pay gap shows that the females mean hourly rate was 1.45% lower than males, and the median hourly rate is 3.2% lower than males. He added that the gap had reduced from the previous year when the respective rates were 1.91% and 4.44%.

He was pleased to report a narrowing of the gender pay gap again that year and that a review of all Human resources policies and the support that was provided to encourage

females at all levels to develop their careers with authority was being reviewed to help move to a position where there was no pay gap.

Councillor C Sewell advised that the Labour group fully supported the report and were committed to reduce the gender pay gap. She noted that there was a lot of lower paid females and felt that it required more work and support.

Councillor R Ashman welcomed the support and advised that there was a lot of important challenges in the gender gap and a great deal of work still to do. He felt that cross Council support would help to get to zero.

It was moved by Councillor R Ashman, seconded by Councillor G Hoults and

RESOLVED THAT:

The report be noted.

## **70. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2020/21**

Councillor R Ashman presented the report to Members.

He advised Members that it was a statutory requirement to advise Council annually of the pay and benefit arrangements for the Senior Officers of the Council and highlighted the following changes that applied to the report:-

- There have been two changes to the senior management team during the year with the appointment of a new Strategic Director, and a Joint Strategic Planning Manager.
- The Council adopted the “voluntary” Living Wage some years ago in April 2014, which raised the minimum pay rates for the Council’s lowest paid employees. The Council adopted the revised rate of £9.30 per hour when the rate was revised in November 2019.
- The cost of living settlement which would normally apply from April 1<sup>st</sup> had not yet been agreed. The settlement was agreed at national level in negotiations between the trade unions and national employers. An offer of 2% made by the Local Government employers was rejected by the trade unions, so the negotiations were continuing.
- The ratio between the highest paid officer and the median average pay decreased slightly, from a factor of 5.16 to 5.05.

It was moved by Councillor R Ashman, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Council’s Pay Policy Statement 2020/21, as attached at appendix 1 of the report be approved.

Councillor D Tebbutt entered the meeting at 6.42pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12 pm

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 23 JUNE 2020



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS, ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Robert Ashman Deputy Leader	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">The Council's Constitution.</a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Amendments to individual Members Allowances will need to be made to the budget in respect of any changes to SRAs in accordance with the rates agreed by Council at its meeting on 25 February 2020	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	In determining the membership of committees, account must be taken of the requirements of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and 1991 made under sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These Regulations require that seats on committees and sub-committees are allocated to the political groups in a way which reflects the overall balance on the Council; with some exceptions to any committees/working groups established under the Constitution.	
	The Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 determine that the existing vacant seat and any which may occur during the current civic year may not be filled by election until 6 May 2021.	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	There are no implications	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To appoint the committees and groups of the Council and members to serve thereon and also to elect the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>(A) TO MAKE THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEES AND GROUPS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 1.2 OF THE REPORT.</b></p> <p><b>(B) THAT CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN BE APPOINTED FOR THE COMMITTEES AND GROUPS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 3.1 OF THE REPORT.</b></p>	

## **1.0 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES AND GROUPS**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Constitution Members must, at the Council's Annual Meeting, receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each board or committee and appoint to those boards or committees.
- 1.2 The committees and groups include:
- Appointments Committee (*4 Members plus appropriate Portfolio Holder*)
  - Audit and Governance Committee (*10 Members*)
  - Electoral Review Working Party (*5 Members*)
  - Employee Joint Consultative Committee (*6 Members*)
  - Investigatory Committee (*5 Members*)
  - Licensing Committee (*17 Members*)
  - Local Plan Committee (*11 Members*)
  - Planning Committee (*11 Members*)
  - Community Scrutiny Committee (*10 Members*)
  - Corporate Scrutiny Committee (*10 Members*)

## **2.0 POLITICAL BALANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- 2.1 The allocation of seats on ordinary committees must be the same proportion as the number of members of the Authority as a whole. The Council has a duty when allocating or reviewing the allocation of seats on committees to give effect so far as is reasonably practicable to the following four principles:-
- (i) all the seats are not allocated to the same political group;
  - (ii) the majority of the seats go to the political group in the majority on the full Council;
  - (iii) subject to the above two principles, the total number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Authority are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the group's representation on the full Council; and
  - (iv) subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each committee are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the group's representation on the Council.
- 2.2 As Members are aware, there is a vacancy in the Worthington and Breedon Ward and the Regulations determine that this vacant seat and any which may occur during the current civic year may not be filled by election until 6 May 2021 at the earliest.
- 2.3 The proportionality calculations have therefore been based on 37 members and one vacant position. The overall result requires no changes to the existing allocation of seats. This will be reviewed once the outcome of any by-election is known.

## **3.0 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN**

- 3.1 Members are asked to appoint the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen to the following:
- Appointments Committee
  - Audit and Governance Committee
  - Investigatory Committee
  - Licensing Committee
  - Local Plan Committee
  - Planning Committee

- Community Scrutiny Committee
- Corporate Scrutiny Committee

#### 4.0 NOMINATIONS

- 4.1 Nominations for the seats on the above committees and groups will be circulated at the meeting.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	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:	The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and 1991 made under sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
Safeguarding:	Not applicable
Equalities/Diversity:	The process ensures that all committees have a politically balanced make up.
Customer Impact:	Not applicable
Economic and Social Impact:	Not applicable
Environment and Climate Change:	Not applicable
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Political Group Leaders
Risks:	Failure to appoint to the relevant Committees would put the Council in breach of its duties and compromise the legality and integrity of any future decisions.
Officer Contact	Elizabeth Warhurst Head of Legal and Commercial Services <a href="mailto:elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

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# APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS, ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN

## NOMINATIONS

### APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (4 members plus appropriate Portfolio Holder)

Current Membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Chairman:</b> Councillor R Blunt <b>Deputy Chairman:</b> Councillor R Ashman  Councillor A C Saffell Councillor S Sheahan Appropriate Portfolio Holder	<b>Chairman:</b> <b>Deputy Chairman:</b>  Appropriate Portfolio Holder
Substitutes: Councillors R D Bayliss, C Benfield, J Legrys, N J Rushton	Substitutes: Councillors

### AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (10 members)

Current Membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Chairman:</b> Councillor V Richichi <b>Deputy Chairman:</b> Councillor D Harrison  Councillor C Benfield Councillor D Bigby Councillor J Clarke Councillor L Gillard Councillor S Gillard Councillor M Hay Councillor S Sheahan Councillor M B Wyatt	<b>Chairman:</b> <b>Deputy Chairman:</b>

### COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY

Current membership	Nominees for 2020/21
Ward members for Bardon, Broom Leys, Castle Rock, Coalville East, Coalville West, Greenhill, Snibston North, Snibston South and Thringstone:  Councillor R Adams Councillor N Clarke Councillor J Cotterill Councillor D Everitt Councillor J Geary Councillor J Legrys Councillor P Purver Councillor M Specht Councillor M B Wyatt	Ward members for Bardon, Broom Leys, Castle Rock, Coalville East, Coalville West, Greenhill, Snibston North, Snibston South and Thringstone:  Councillor E Allman Councillor A Black Councillor A Bridgen Councillor D Everitt Councillor M French Councillor J Geary Councillor J Legrys Councillor J Windram Councillor M B Wyatt

**COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (10 members)**

Current membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Chairman:</b> Councillor D Harrison <b>Deputy Chairman:</b> Councillor K Merrie  Councillor A Bridgen Councillor C Benfield Councillor T Eynon Councillor J Geary Councillor G Hoults Councillor B Harrison-Rushton Councillor D Tebbutt Councillor M B Wyatt	<b>Chairman:</b> <b>Deputy Chairman:</b>
Substitutes: Councillors E Allman, A Black, J Clarke, M Hay, V Richichi, C Sewell	Substitutes: Councillors

**CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (10 members)**

Current membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Chairman:</b> Councillor R Boam <b>Deputy Chairman:</b> Councillor J Hoults  Councillor E Allman Councillor V Richichi Councillor N Smith Councillor A Bridgen Councillor R Johnson Councillor S Sheahan Councillor D Tebbutt Councillor M B Wyatt	<b>Chairman:</b> <b>Deputy Chairman:</b>
Substitutes: Councillors C Benfield, D Bigby, D Everitt, M French, K Merrie and 1 Vacant	Substitutes: Councillors

**ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY (5 members)**

Current membership	Nominees for 2020/21
Councillor R Ashman Councillor R Blunt Councillor N J Rushton Councillor S Sheahan Councillor M B Wyatt	
Substitutes: Councillors R D Bayliss, M French, T Gillard, C Sewell	Substitutes: Councillors

**EMPLOYEE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (5 members)**

Current membership	Nominees for 2020/21
Councillor J Clarke Councillor J Geary Councillor G Hoult Councillor J Hoult Councillor M B Wyatt	
Substitutes: Councillors A Black, L Gillard, S Gillard, R Johnson	Substitutes: Councillors

**INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE (5 members)**

Current membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Chairman:</b> Councillor R Blunt <b>Deputy Chairman:</b> Councillor R Ashman  Councillor J Clarke Councillor A C Saffell Councillor S Sheahan	<b>Chairman:</b> <b>Deputy Chairman:</b>
Substitutes: Councillors E Allman, R D Bayliss, D Everitt, G Hoult	Substitutes: Councillors

**LICENSING COMMITTEE (17 members)**

Current membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Chairman:</b> Councillor J Clarke <b>Deputy Chairman:</b> Councillor N Smith  Councillor E Allman Councillor D Everitt Councillor T Eynon Councillor M French Councillor D Harrison Councillor B Harrison-Rushton Councillor M Hay Councillor G Hoult Councillor J Hoult Councillor K Merrie Councillor V Richichi Councillor A C Saffell Councillor S Sheahan Councillor M B Wyatt 1 Vacant Seat	<b>Chairman:</b> <b>Deputy Chairman:</b>
Substitutes: Councillors C Benfield, A Black, R Boam, R Canny, J Geary, L Gillard, D R Johnson, J Windram and 1 Vacant Seat	Substitutes: Councillors

## LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE (11 members)

Current membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Chairman:</b> Councillor J Bridges <b>Deputy Chairman:</b> Councillor D Harrison  Councillor D Bigby Councillor R Boam Councillor J Hoult Councillor R Johnson Councillor J Legrys Councillor V Richichi Councillor A C Saffell Councillor N Smith Councillor M B Wyatt	<b>Chairman:</b> <b>Deputy Chairman:</b>
Substitutes: Councillors A Black, R Canny, J Clarke, D Everitt, J Geary, G Hoult, K Merrie	Substitutes: Councillors

## PLANNING COMMITTEE (11 members)

Current membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Chairman:</b> Councillor N Smith <b>Deputy Chairman:</b> Councillor R Boam  Councillor A Bridgen Councillor R Canny Councillor J Clarke Councillor D Everitt Councillor J Hoult Councillor D Harrison Councillor J Legrys Councillor R Johnson Councillor M B Wyatt	<b>Chairman:</b> <b>Deputy Chairman:</b>
Substitutes: Councillors E Allman, A Black, J Bridges, J Geary, G Hoult, D Bigby, V Richichi	Substitutes: Councillors

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 23 JUNE 2020



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMUNITY BODIES</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Robert Ashman Deputy Leader	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Correspondence from Community Bodies requesting nominations held in Room 122 (Democratic Services).	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	There are no financial implications	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	The Constitution advises that the Council has nomination rights to a large number of different organisations, referred to as community bodies. The practice of making nominations to community bodies is a benefit to the Council and the links created contribute to the social well-being of the district.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	There are no staffing and corporate implications	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To approve the nominations for representatives on community bodies for the forthcoming year.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT REPRESENTATIVES BE APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE COMMUNITY BODIES LISTED AT APPENDIX 1</b>	

**1.0 COMMUNITY BODIES**

- 1.1 The Council appoints representatives to various community bodies as attached at Appendix 1. The list of community bodies is reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current.
- 1.2 A review was last undertaken in January 2020. During the review, it was established that all the community bodies still required representatives.
- 1.3 There are a number of community bodies that require ward related appointments. Councillor Boam is currently picking up issues relating to the Worthington and Breedon Ward and it is recommended that he be nominated to any community bodies in this ward until such a time that a by-election is held.
- 1.4 Members are asked to appoint representatives to the remaining community bodies for the forthcoming municipal year. Members are reminded that any community bodies they are appointed to by Council need to be recorded on their register of interests. The requisite form will be circulated to members following the meeting.

## 2.0 NOMINATIONS

2.1 Nominations to the community bodies will be circulated at the meeting.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	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:	Terms of reference for each community body
Safeguarding:	Not applicable
Equalities/Diversity:	The process ensures that the most appropriate member is appointed to the community body
Customer Impact:	Not applicable
Economic and Social Impact:	Not applicable
Environment and Climate Change:	Not applicable
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Political Group Leaders
Risks:	Failure to appoint to the relevant community bodies would put the Council in breach of its duties and compromise the integrity of its relationship with community bodies in the district.
Officer Contact	Elizabeth Warhurst Head of Legal and Commercial Services <a href="mailto:elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

## APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMUNITY BODIES

## NOMINATIONS

Body	Current Membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Bardon Hill Quarries Liaison Committee</b> (2 seats)	Councillors A Black and J Windram	
<b>Breedon Quarry Liaison Committee</b> (1 seat)	Vacant (as Worthington and Breedon Ward Member)	
<b>CCTV Operations Management Group</b> (1 seat)	Councillor R Ashman (as relevant Portfolio Holder)	
<b>Cliffe Hill Quarry Liaison Committee</b> (1 seat)	Councillor V Richichi	
<b>Coalville and District Town Twinning Association</b> (2 seats)	Councillors J Clarke and G Hoult	
<b>Coalville Town Football Club Committee</b> (1 seat)	Councillor J Geary	
<b>East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative Committee</b> (1 seat & 1 substitute)	Councillors N Smith (as Chair of Planning Committee) (sub R Boam (as Deputy Chair of Planning Committee))	
<b>East Midlands Airport Liaison Panel</b> (7 seats)	Councillors R Canny (as Castle Donington Central Ward Member), B Harrison-Rushton (as Kegworth Ward Member), M Hay (as Castle Donington Park Ward Member), N J Rushton (as Long Whatton and Diseworth Ward Member), A C Saffell (as Castle Donington Castle Ward Member), C Sewell (as Daleacre Hill Ward Member) and Vacant (as Worthington and Breedon Ward Member)	
<b>Equalities and Access Group</b> (6 seats)	Councillors D Everitt, T Eynon, D Harrison, G Hoult, V Richichi and N Smith	
<b>Former Lount Landfill Site Liaison Committee</b> (2 seats)	Councillors R Boam and Vacant	
<b>Grace Dieu Priory Trust</b> (2 seats)	Councillors D Everitt and N Smith	
<b>Home Start - North West Leicestershire</b> (1 seat)	Councillor R D Bayliss (as relevant Portfolio Holder)	
<b>Hood Park / Ivanhoe Steering Committee</b> (1 seat)	Councillor G Hoult	
<b>Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel</b> (1 seat)	Councillor A Woodman (as relevant Portfolio Holder)	

Body	Current Membership	Nominees for 2020/21
<b>Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Forum</b> (1 seat)	Councillor J Clarke	
<b>Local Government Association – General Assembly</b> (1 seat)	Councillor R Blunt (as Leader of the Council)	
<b>Mantle Community Arts</b> (2 seats)	Councillors J Geary and A Woodman	
<b>Moirra Furnace Trust</b> (1 seat)	Councillor D Bigby	
<b>MSV Donington Park Consultative Forum</b> (7 seats)	Councillors R Canny (as Castle Donington Central Ward Member), B Harrison-Rushton (as Kegworth Ward Member), M Hay (as Castle Donington Park Ward Member), N J Rushton (as Long Whatton and Diseworth Ward Member), A C Saffell (as Castle Donington Castle Ward Member), C Sewell (as Daleacre Hill Ward Member) and Vacant (as Worthington and Breedon Ward Member)	
<b>The National Forest Charitable Trust</b> (1 seat)	Councillor J Clarke and Chief Executive (ex-officio)	
<b>New Albion Revised Liaison Committee</b> (1 seat)	Councillor G Hoult	
<b>North West Leicestershire Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Taxi Licensing Forum</b> (3 seats)	Councillors J Bridges, J Clarke (as Chairman of Licensing Committee) and N Smith (as Deputy Chairman of Licensing Committee)	
<b>North West Leicestershire Staying Healthy Partnership</b> (1 seat)	Councillor A Woodman (as relevant Portfolio Holder)	
<b>North West Leicestershire Tourism Promotions Board</b> (1 seat)	Councillor A Woodman (as relevant Portfolio Holder)	
<b>Ravenstone Hospital Charity</b> (2 seats)	Councillors V Richichi and N Smith	
<b>Redbank Manufacturing Liaison Committee</b> (1 seat)	Councillor D Bigby	
<b>Safer North West Leicestershire Partnership</b> (1 seat)	Councillor A Woodman (as relevant Portfolio Holder)	
<b>Whitwick Quarry Liaison Committee</b> (3 seats)	Councillors L Gillard, S Gillard and T Gillard	



## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 23 JUNE 2020



Title of Report	SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2020/21	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Robert Ashman Deputy Leader	
<b>Background Papers</b>	None	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	There are no financial implications	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	The Constitution advises that the Council will agree its schedule of meetings for each forthcoming municipal year. Legal advice has been provided to the Council on the implications of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meeting and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("The Regulations"). Meetings are being run in line with the law and constitution.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	There are no staffing and corporate implications	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To agree the schedule of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2020/21 BE AGREED.</b>	

**1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 Each year Council are asked to approve the schedule of meetings for the forthcoming year. The proposed schedule of meetings is attached at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 1.2 For reasons of administrative efficiency, the schedule of meetings for 2020/21 includes some dates for June 2021. This is to enable members to have notice of these meetings well in advance.

**2.0 MAIN FEATURES OF THE SCHEDULE**

- 2.1 When compiling the schedule of meetings, regard has been had to the Council's service and financial planning timetable which includes the budget process, and the proposed meeting schedules of Leicestershire County Council and the Parish Councils within North West Leicestershire.

- 2.2 Meetings of the main committees have been programmed for the municipal year 2020/21 as follows:

Audit and Governance Committee	5
Cabinet	10
Coalville Special Expenses Working Party	4
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	6
Community Scrutiny Committee	5
Council	4 + Annual Meeting
Licensing Committee	4
Local Plan Committee	6
Planning Committee	12

- 2.3 Please note that the Cabinet meetings are included in the schedule for information only as the frequency, dates and times of the meetings are agreed by the Leader.
- 2.4 The meetings of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party are also included for information only as these dates are agreed by the Working Party.
- 2.5 Due to the current COVID 19 situation there has been a national deferment in the deadlines for statutory accounting, and as such, the final audited accounts will not be considered at the July meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee. A potential, additional meeting of the committee has been included in the schedule for Wednesday, 30 September, for this year only, should the final audit of the accounts have taken place. If this is not the case then the accounts will be taken to the October meeting. Officers will notify the Audit & Governance Committee members as soon as practically possible if the additional meeting is required.
- 2.6 The Coronavirus Act 2020 enabled the Secretary of State to make regulations governing local authority meetings. Regulations came into force on 4 April which the council's formal meetings to be held remotely. These regulations remain in force until 7 May 2021. The new regulations enable Councils to hold virtual meetings during the COVID 19 crisis until such a time as normal business is resumed. A Cross Party Member Working Group is regularly meeting to discuss the arrangements for remote meetings which are in line with the current government guidance and linked to the national COVID 19 alert scale. At the time of writing this report, only key officers and the Chair of the Committee, where requested, are attending the council offices for these meetings. This will be regularly reviewed as the COVID 19 alert levels change.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	All Council Priorities
Policy Considerations:	The Terms of Reference for each committee
Safeguarding:	Not applicable
Equalities/Diversity:	Not applicable
Customer Impact:	Not applicable

Economic and Social Impact:	Not applicable.
Environment and Climate Change:	Not applicable
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Corporate Leadership Team Strategy Group Performance Team Leicestershire County Council Town and Parish Councils
Risks:	Failure to agree the schedule of meetings will put the Council in breach of its constitutional duties and compromise the integrity of its decision making processes.
Officer Contact	Elizabeth Warhurst Head of Legal and Commercial Services <a href="mailto:elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

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## DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

### MAY 2020 – JUNE 2021

#### Timing of meetings

Please note that the times of the meetings are as set out below, assuming normal business has been resumed. Virtual meetings will be at a time as agreed by the Chairman but no earlier than 5pm. Notification of this time will be provided at least 5 clear days before the meeting.

#### Audit & Governance Committee (6.30pm)

Weds, 22 July 2020  
Weds, 30 September 2020 (TBC)  
Weds, 21 October 2020  
Weds, 20 January 2021  
Weds, 21 April 2021

#### Cabinet (5.00pm)

Tues, 14 July 2020  
Tues, 22 September 2020  
Tues, 10 November 2020  
Tues, 08 December 2020  
Tues, 12 January 2021  
Tues, 02 February 2021 (Budget/Council Tax)  
Tues, 02 March 2021  
Tues, 30 March 2021  
Tues, 27 April 2021  
Tues, 08 Jun 2021

#### Coalville Special Expenses Working Party (6.30pm)

Tues, 30 June 2020  
Tues, 13 October 2020  
Tues, 15 December 2020  
Tues, 20 April 2021  
Tues, 15 June 2021

#### Community Scrutiny Committee (6.30pm)

Weds, 21 July 2020  
Weds, 28 October 2020  
Weds, 25 November 2020  
Weds, 10 February 2021  
Weds, 07 April 2021  
Weds, 19 May 2021

#### Corporate Scrutiny Committee (6.30pm)

Weds, 02 September 2020  
Weds, 11 November 2020 (Early Sight Budget)  
Weds, 09 December 2020  
Weds, 06 January 2021 (Budget –Feb Cabinet)  
Weds, 10 March 2021  
Weds, 09 June 2021

## APPENDIX 1

#### Council (6.30pm)

Tues, 23 June 2020 **(Annual)**  
Tues, 08 September 2020  
Tues, 17 November 2020  
Tues, 23 February 2021 (Budget/Council Tax)  
Tues, 11 May 2021 **(Annual)**  
Tues, 22 June 2021

#### Licensing Committee (6.30pm)

Weds, 09 September 2020  
Weds, 04 November 2020  
Weds, 24 February 2021  
Weds, 16 June 2021

#### Local Plan Committee (6.30pm)

Weds, 29 July 2020  
Weds, 16 September 2020  
Weds, 18 November 2020  
Weds, 27 January 2020  
Weds, 31 March 2021  
Weds, 26 May 2021

#### Planning Committee (6.30pm)

Tues, 07 July 2020  
Tues, 04 August 2020  
**Thurs**, 03 September 2020  
Tues, 06 October 2020  
Tues, 03 November 2020  
Tues, 01 December 2020  
Weds, 13 January 2021  
Tues, 09 February 2021  
Tues, 09 March 2021  
Tues, 13 April 2021  
Weds, 05 May 2021  
Weds, 02 June 2021

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Title of Report	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS	
Presented by	Councillor Robert Ashman Deputy Leader	
Background Papers	<a href="#">Council Report 26 June 2012 – Localism Act 2011 – new Standards regime</a>  <a href="#">Council Report 17 May 2016 - Appointment Of Independent Persons</a>  <a href="#">Council Report 21 May 2019 – Appointment of Independent Persons</a>	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	None	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	None except as stated in this Report	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no specific staffing issues arising from this Report.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To extend the term of office of the Independent Persons appointed under the Localism Act 2011	
Recommendations	<b>TO EXTEND THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSONS TO THE END OF THE 2020-2021 MUNICIPAL YEAR</b>	

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 26 June 2012 Council considered a report which detailed the changes to the role of the Independent Person introduced to the Standards Regime under the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.2 A joint recruitment exercise was undertaken with other County Authorities and Members were asked to formally appoint the nine successful applicants to a pool of Independent Persons who would be available to be called upon by both Members and the Monitoring Officer during any standards investigations. This process was repeated in 2016 and six applicants were successful in being appointed to the pool for the period ending May 2019. One has since resigned which leaves 5 Independent Persons making up the current pool.

## 2.0 FUTURE RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- 2.1 A number of Monitoring Officers involved in the original joint recruitment exercise have expressed the view that the process was a success and produced a number of high quality candidates and they would like to see the process repeated when seeking to replace the current Independent Persons.

- 2.2 Existing Authorities currently utilising the pool of Independent Persons includes Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council. Melton Borough Council will be joining during this Municipal Year.
- 2.3 The Authority which led on the previous recruitment exercise has again agreed to lead on the 2020-2021 recruitment drive. However, due to difficulty in recruiting during the Covid 19 pandemic it is proposed to now run the exercise during the 2020-2021 municipal year with the new pool to be in place for the start of the 2021-2022 municipal year.

### 3.0 INTERIM MEASURES

- 3.1 Local Authorities are currently facing unprecedented challenges during from the Covid 19 pandemic with resources being diverted elsewhere and changes needing to be made in processes and practices. In addition there has also been a difficulty in recruiting a sufficient number of Independent Persons to create a wide enough pool from which to draw from in order to assist in delivering high standards of conduct amongst Councillors.
- 3.2 As an interim measure, and in order to facilitate an effective recruitment exercise, it is proposed that the term of appointment of this Council's Independent Persons is extended to the end of the 2020/21 Municipal Year. The Independent Persons have agreed in principle that they are willing to extend their term of appointment subject to Council confirming this extension.
- 3.3 It is recommended that this Council therefore extends the term of appointment of its remaining 5 Independent Persons and then participates in the joint recruitment exercise to appoint Independent Persons with effect from 2021/22 All the current IPs (listed below) have been contacted and have agreed to remain in post, with Council approval, until the end of the 2020/21 municipal year.

Mrs Christine Howell  
Mr Gordon Grimes  
Mr Michael Pearson  
Mr Richard Gough  
Mr Mark Shaw

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	List any relevant policies
Safeguarding:	Detail any safeguarding considerations made.
Equalities/Diversity:	Detail any equalities/diversity considerations made.
Customer Impact:	Detail any impact the decision will have on customers
Economic and Social Impact:	Detail any economic or social impact as a result of the decision.
Environment and Climate Change:	Detail any environment and climate change impact as a result of the decision.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Existing Independent Persons
Risks:	Outlined within the report
Officer Contact	Elizabeth Warhurst Head of Legal and Commercial Services <a href="mailto:elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>



**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL – 23 JUNE 2020**



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN QUARTER 4 2019/20</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Richard Blunt Leader	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">Council's Constitution</a>  <a href="#">Decision Record - Executive Arrangements - 19 March 2020</a>  <a href="#">Decision Record – Executive Arrangements for Virtual Meetings – 8 April 2020</a>  <a href="#">Record of decisions – 31 March 2020</a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Financial implications were taken into account by the Cabinet in reaching its decision. <b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	Legal implications were taken into account by the Cabinet in reaching the decisions. <b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	There are no staffing and corporate implications <b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	In accordance with the Council's Constitution, to formally report that the Cabinet or individual Portfolio Holders have taken decisions, which are considered to be urgent and, if delayed, would be likely to cause serious prejudice to the Council's interests.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT.</b>	

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Special Urgency Procedure in the Executive Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution states that, if the date by which an executive decision must be taken and the general exception Rule 16 cannot be followed, then the decision can only be taken if Cabinet has obtained the agreement of the relevant Scrutiny Chairman that the taking of the decision cannot be reasonably deferred. If the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee is unable to act, then the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, or in his/her absence the Deputy Chairman will suffice.
- 1.2 On the 19 March 2020, due to the national situation regarding COVID-19, the Leader took the decision to change the arrangements for the exercise of executive powers which was made at Council on 21 May 2019 for a temporary period as follows:

1. *In the first instance a decision will be made by the relevant portfolio holder*
2. *Should the portfolio holder be unavailable to act, then the decision will be made by any other member of the Cabinet.*

At the time of making the decision, the Leader stated that the arrangement would be kept under review.

- 1.3 On 4 April 2020 the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meeting and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("The Regulations") were passed pursuant to S78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. These regulations enabled council meetings, including those of the Executive to be held remotely. Having discussed the matter with the Chief Executive the Leader decided to change the executive arrangements to reflect the fact that the regulations were in place but also to allow for individual cabinet member decision making as a contingency measure. It is the Leaders strong preference for decisions to be made by Cabinet, collectively and the other arrangements should only be used in exceptional circumstances.

*The arrangements will be as follows:*

1. *Executive decisions shall be made by Cabinet, sitting as a collective body where that is practicable.*
  2. *Where Cabinet is not able to meet, the Executive decisions will be made by the relevant portfolio holder.*
  3. *Should the portfolio holder be unavailable to act, then the decision will be made by any other member of the Cabinet.*
- 1.4 Under the Special Urgency Procedure, the Leader is required to submit a quarterly report to the Council on the executive decisions taken under rule 17 in the preceding three months. The report will include the number of decisions taken and a summary of the matter about which each decision was made.
- 1.5 The reporting timetable for 2019/20 is as follows:-

			REPORT TO COUNCIL
Q1			10 September 2019
April	May	June	
Q2			19 November 2019
July	August	Sept	
Q3			25 February 2020
Oct	Nov	Dec	
Q4			23 June 2020
Jan	Feb	Mar	

- 1.6 No urgent decisions were taken by Cabinet in quarters 1 – 3 and as such, a quarterly report to Council was not required.

## **2.0 DECISIONS MADE DURING QUARTER 4**

- 2.1 Three urgent executive decisions were made during quarter 4. These were all taken on 31 March 2020 by the relevant individual Portfolio Holder. The decisions were:-

- Support to the Council's Leisure Operator in Light of the Coronavirus Situation
- Future High Streets Fund Business Case Development and Supporting Work
- Rent Policy Options in Response to COVID-19

- 2.2 In addition to this the Chairman of the Council agreed to waiver call-in on the decision relating to Rent Policy Options in Response to COVID-19.

2.3 A summary of each decision is detailed below.

### **3.0 SUPPORT TO THE COUNCIL'S LEISURE OPERATOR IN LIGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION**

3.1 With the closure of both Hood Park and Hermitage Leisure Centres on 19 March, the decision was to seek approval for an emergency financial support package for Everyone Active to ensure that their staff remained employed and that our leisure partner remained operational in the initial stages of the COVID-19 crisis.

### **4.0 FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND BUSINESS CASE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORTING WORK**

4.1 An urgent decision was required to approve an increase in budget for the Future High Streets Fund consultancy commissioned to prepare the full business case submission. The increased budget maximised the chances of making a successful funding bid to the Future High Streets Fund, which, at the time needed be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by 30 April 2020. If the decision was delayed it would result in missing the deadline for Future High Streets Fund submission and would likely cause the submission to fail.

4.2 In addition, an urgent decision was required to accept two grant awards totalling £130,000 from the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool funding. These grant awards were to support the council to further develop the regeneration projects identified through the Coalville Future High Street Fund and also to enhance cycling and pedestrian links in Coalville town centre. If the decision was delayed it would result in missing the deadline for accepting the two grant awards.

### **5.0 RENT POLICY OPTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

5.1 An urgent decision was required to provide a supportive policy environment to help tenants deal with the financial impact of the COVID-19 situation. The decision suspended our normal approach to rent arrears recovery and allowed staff greater discretion to agree individual payment arrangements with tenants based on the impact on their circumstances of COVID-19. These arrangements included agreeing to no payments for a period of time in appropriate circumstances and consideration of writing off debts in due course. The arrangements were initially for a period of 3 months with an option for the Strategic Director to extend for a further 3 months, with the normal policy being reintroduced by default after 6 months, unless an alternative decision was taken first.

5.2 The urgency of the decision was dictated by the desire to allow tenants to benefit from the flexibility afforded by the new approach as quickly as possible given the COVID-19 situation.

### **6.0 CONCLUSION**

6.1 In line with the Special Urgency Procedure the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decisions proposed were reasonable in all circumstances and that they should be treated as a matter of urgency.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	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:	As detailed on each report that was considered by
Safeguarding:	Not applicable
Equalities/Diversity:	Not applicable
Customer Impact:	Not applicable
Economic and Social Impact:	Not applicable.
Environment and Climate Change:	Not applicable
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Chairmen of the relevant Scrutiny Committees Chairman of the Council
Risks:	To comply with Special Urgency Rule 17 of Part 4.3 of the Council's Constitution, the decisions made by Cabinet are to be reported to Council.
Officer Contact	Elizabeth Warhurst Head of Legal and Commercial Services <a href="mailto:elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>