

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Abbey Room, Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2024

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chair)

Councillors M B Wyatt, T Gillard, K Merrie MBE, A C Saffell and A C Woodman

In Attendance: Councillors J Legrys and P Moulton

Officers: Mrs A Thomas, Mr J Arnold, Mr P Stone, Ms K Hiller and Mr T Devonshire

**71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor N Rushton.

**72. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

**73. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no questions received.

**74. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2024 were considered.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor T Saffell, and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

**75. LGA PEER REVIEW**

The Infrastructure Portfolio Holder presented the report.

The Chair commended the Chief Executive for requesting the Peer Review and welcomed its positive findings.

The Chief Executive welcomed the positive stakeholder feedback, and said the authority would demonstrate to the Peer Review Team in Spring 2025 the progress made against the post-review action plan.

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

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The LGA Peer Review Team's feedback and key recommendations to the Council following its Corporate Peer Challenge in June 2024 be noted and accepted.
2. The action plan prepared in response to the peer review feedback be approved.

**Reason for decision:** For Cabinet to consider the report from the Local Government Association's Peer Review Team on its Corporate Peer Challenge and Action Plan that has been prepared to address the recommendations made.

## 76. CONSULTATION ON ENABLING REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING AT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS

The Infrastructure Portfolio Holder presented the report.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for their recommendation, and he shared that Committee's support for remote attendance and aversion to proxy voting.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that Cabinet needed to make a decision on recommendation 1 separately from the other recommendations.

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

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The response to consultation suggested by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 5 December 2024, to answer "no" to question 10 of the consultation, be agreed.
2. The suggested response to the Government's consultation on "enabling remote meetings and proxy voting at local authority meetings" be agreed and the Chief Executive be authorised to submit the response on the Council's behalf.
3. That the consultation is open to the public and Councillors until 19 December 2024 be noted.

**Reason for decision:** to enable the Council to submit a response to the Government's consultation on enabling remote meetings and proxy voting at local authority meetings.

## 77. DRAFT LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

The Planning Portfolio Holder presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor T Saffell, seconded by Councillor K Merrie, and

RESOLVED THAT:

The draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy, referred to in paragraph 3.7 of the report, be approved to go out to public consultation.

**Reason for decision:** Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new statutory duty placed on local government in England, as part of the Environment Act 2021. It requires local authorities to work together to develop Local Nature Recovery Strategies across 48 areas in England.

Under the Environment Act 2021, Leicestershire County Council was appointed the 'responsible authority' for the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Leicestershire County Council requires each of the seven local authorities in Leicestershire to seek authority to go out to public consultation.

## 78. EXTENSION OF THE COALVILLE CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT ORDER

The Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder presented the report.

The Chair supported the scheme as a contribution to regenerating Coalville.

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It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor T Saffell, and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The draft Coalville Conservation Area Local Development Order, at appendix 1, be endorsed for a 28-day period of public consultation.
2. The draft Coalville Frontage Improvement Scheme Design Guide, at appendix 2, be endorsed for a 28-day period of consultation.
3. Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration, for the consideration of any responses to consultation.
4. Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration, (subject to consideration of the consultation responses) to adopt the extension of the Coalville Conservation Area Local Development order for a period of one year expiring on 31 January 2026.

**Reason for decision:** To support the conclusion of the Coalville Frontage Improvement Scheme, by making it easier for property owners to undertake specified improvements the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 provides for the local planning authority

#### **79. ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEM**

RESOLVED THAT:

By reason of special circumstance in that an additional item of business needs to be considered before the next meeting of the Local Plan Committee, the item entitled "Appointment of East Midlands Freeport Company Representative" be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100B(4)(B) of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **80. APPOINTMENT OF EAST MIDLANDS FREEPORT COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE**

The Infrastructure Portfolio Holder presented the report.

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

RESOLVED THAT:

The function to make decisions on behalf of the Council as member of the East Midlands Freeport Company be delegated to the Chief Executive, once the Council has joined the company.

**Reason for decision:** Under the constitution it is a function of Cabinet to make decisions on behalf the Council as a 'member' of the company. The East Midlands Freeport Company requires a named individual to take part in those decisions and attend meetings as required. Cabinet is, therefore, being asked to delegate that function to the Chief Executive.

#### **81. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was moved by Councillor R Blunt, seconded by Councillor T Gillard, and

RESOLVED THAT:

In pursuance of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public

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be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**Reason for decision:** To enable the consideration of exempt information.

**82. PURCHASE OF LAND AT WOOD ROAD AND VICTORIA ROAD, ELLISTOWN**

The Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder presented the report.

A discussion was had.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor K Merrie, and

RESOLVED THAT:

The recommendation contained within the report be approved.

**Reason for decision:** Ownership of the land will allow it to be used to support the delivery of Council projects and services particularly those outlined in the District Wide Regeneration Framework. The decision to purchase land is a function of Cabinet.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 5.18 pm