



MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

20 JULY 2016

PRESENT

Councillor D.R. Wright (Mayor)
P.M. Baguley, T.S. Bains, M. Blase, T. Beaken, G.E. Botterill, P.M. Chandler,
T. Culley, P. Cumbers, R. de Burle, J. M. Douglas, M. Glancy,
M.C.R. Graham MBE, T. Greenow, L. Higgins,
E. Holmes, E. Hutchison, J. Hurrell, J. Illingworth, S. Lumley,
A. Pearson, J.B. Rhodes, M. Sheldon, J. Simpson, J. Wyatt

Chief Executive
Strategic Director (KA), Head of Communications & Monitoring Officer,
Head of Regulatory Services, Central Services Manager
Democracy & Involvement Officer

Dr. Neal Swettenham offered prayers

CO16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Manderson, Orson, and Posnett.

CO17. MINUTES

Subject to including the initial 'P' of Councillor Chandler's first name in the attendance list, the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27 April 2016 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2016 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

CO18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Pearson and Rhodes each declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due to their roles as County Councillors.

Councillors Graham MBE and Holmes each declared a personal and pecuniary interest in minute CO27, Progress with the Development of a Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy having regard to land within their respective ownership. They indicated they would leave the room when this item was discussed.

CO19. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Before the Mayor's announcements, the immediate past Mayor, Councillor Jeanne Douglas presented a cheque from the proceeds of her 2015/16 Mayor's Appeal to Mr Darren Bickenell, Director of the Belvoir Castle Cricket & Countryside Trust.

Councillor Douglas paid tribute to Mr Michael Cooke of the Trust who was unable to be present that night. Mr Cooke had worked hard to help her with her quiz nights and had given advice and support for fundraising during her year of office. She thanked everyone who had supported her fund raising activities. Mr Bicknell also added his thanks on behalf of the Trust to everyone who had supported the appeal. In concluding, Councillor Douglas advised that the proceeds of her Appeal were being divided equally with her other recipient charity, the Leicestershire & Rutland branch of the homeless charity Emmaus. Their Director, Mr Mir Juma, had not been able to attend the meeting and sent his apologies. Alternative arrangements would be made for the cheque hand over to him. Members were further advised that Mr Juma had recently been given a High Sheriff Award for his work with the charity.

The Mayor then

(a) reported on the engagements he and the Mayoress had attended since the Annual Meeting where he had represented the Council on 25 occasions, highlighting in particular the following:

- SKDC, Bourne and Stamford Mayoral Civic Services
- Commemorative services for the:
 - Battle of the Somme at Melton & Leicester
 - Battle of Jutland at Brooksby where they had met the granddaughter of Vice Admiral Beatty
- HMS Quorn Freedom of the Town Parade
- Afternoon Tea Party for the Boroughs 90 year olds to celebrate HM The Queens 90th birthday
- Awarding talented Primary School pupils who entered the competition to draw a picture of the Queen, at: Croxton Kerrial, Frisby, Harby, St Frances Catholic and Swallowdale Primary schools

- The Civic Service at Bottesford on 26 June, and
- on Sunday 17 July - awarding prizes at the Women's CiCLE race that took place at Melton

(b) thanked the Deputy Mayor and his Consort for deputising for him and the Mayoress on the occasions they had been unable to attend appointments;

(c) reported that the Mayor's diary continued to fill with further appointments;

(d) advised Members of the following dates to note in their diaries:

- the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 27 July and a further Extraordinary Meeting on 1 September 2016 for the Melton Local Plan;
- the official opening of the Skatepark in Melton on Saturday 30 July to which all Members were welcome;
- a planned visit to Melton by the High Sheriff of Leicestershire on 31 August who was very interested in the Me & My Learning project and how the Council operates in general.

CO20. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the absence of the Leader, Councillor Posnett, the Deputy Leader, Councillor Higgins

(a) began by paying tribute to the murdered MP, Jo Cox and the recent victims of the terrorist attack in Nice, France. In the light of these appalling incidents it was time for Councillors to review their own personal safety and how they went about conducting their surgeries. Councillor Higgins reminded Members that Melton had a good record of community cohesion and that the Council worked closely with the Police, the PCC, and local partners to reduce crime and the causes of crime and that work would continue. Councillor Graham was commended for his lead on community safety issues;

(b) referred to the recent EU Referendum result; regardless of which side people campaigned on, the decision to leave the EU was clear and decisive and that must be respected. It was unclear how Brexit would affect the Council or local government but the Leader would be asking the Chief Executive to advise and keep a watching brief;

(c) mentioned the new Government under the new Prime Minister, Mrs Theresa May MP who had been supported by the Melton & Rutland MP, Sir Alan Duncan. The Leader had expressed the wish that the Council would all support her as she tried to bring unity not only to the country but also the Conservative Party. Councillor Higgins referred to Sir Alan's recent appointment under Mrs May's Government as Foreign Office Minister and recommended that the Council send a letter of congratulations to him on his appointment. Members indicated their agreement to this proposal. Councillor Higgins also paid tribute to Mr David Cameron's achievements whilst he had been Prime Minister and referred to the local improvements for the community through the Conservative led administration at the Council;

(d) provided an update to the bid for a Combined Authority which had been submitted to the Government. The decision now rests with the new Communities & Local Government Secretary, Sajid Javid MP. His predecessor, Geg Clark MP had told a plenary session of the LGA Conference early this month that it looked good and that he had been particularly impressed with the “joined up nature” of the bid and how it had demonstrated “good local partnerships” – a point on which the Deputy Leader took the opportunity to emphasise as being paramount for success. Meetings were still taking place with Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, the 7 Districts, and the LLEP who were progressing plans for working together.

(e) referred to the economic uncertainty following the Brexit decision and possible changes in policy from the new Government. The current financial situation remained challenging for the Council and in order to meet these challenges, the Leader was working with officers to develop an efficiency plan setting out a range of measures and options for closing the funding gap shown by the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The emphasis of the efficiency plan would be to look to reduce costs and generate additional income as a priority over service reductions. To oversee this work, an Economic Board and a Transformation & Efficiency Board was to be formed with Members and officers working together;

(f) reported on the redevelopment of the Cattle Market which was progressing well with work running slightly ahead of plan. The end result will make an excellent new facility for Melton;

(g) concluded on the progression of the Local Plan work despite recent staffing pressures. The Leader had placed on record her thanks to the staff in the planning department for their professionalism and believed that the Council was lucky to have them working for the authority. Leicestershire County Council had begun to plan the route of the bypass road and senior officers and the Leader would continue to hold regular meetings with them and other stakeholders, including Sir Alan Duncan MP whose support had been and would be vital in securing Government funding. Councillor Higgins referred to the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 27 July on the Local Plan, stressing the vital importance of all local authority partners working together to support Melton Borough to be a place where businesses want to come and people want to live and work. Councillor Higgins stressed the key importance of the Local Plan providing enough homes for the future needs of the community and its residents.

As Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Holmes made reference to the Deputy Leader’s comments about the Conservative Party and the Conservative Administration Members on the Council and wished to make clear that she and the other Opposition Members were also trying to do their best for the residents of the Borough and this should be every Councillor’s aim regardless of party. Councillor Higgins acknowledged the Member’s point.

RESOLVED: That the Mayor send a letter to Sir Alan Duncan MP on behalf of the Council congratulating him on his recent appointment as Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CO21. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received.

CO22. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

CO23. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) Governance Committee: 28 June 2016 – Minute G.13 Review of Member Complaint Process

Councillor Chandler introduced the first recommendation from the Governance Committee which she requested be dealt with as a separate vote. In moving the recommendation, she explained that the purpose of the review was to streamline the procedure. Councillor Sheldon seconded the motion. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to adopt the revised Member Complaint Process.

(b) Governance Committee: 28 June 2016 – Minute G.15 Constitution Updates 2016-17

Councillor Chandler referred to the recommended updates to the 2016/17 Constitution set out as parts 8(b) and 8(c) on the agenda subject to an amendment to the proposed membership numbers of the new Transformation & Efficiency Board. The Policy, Finance & Administration Committee had requested that this Board be comprised of 7 members instead of 5.

The Order Paper circulated at the meeting set out the nominations of the Conservative Group for the Economy Board, the Transformation & Efficiency Board, the Award of Merit Task Group and the Performance Management Task Group. Councillor Graham drew Members' attention to an error in the nominations for the Task Groups; he asked that he be nominated for the Performance Management Task Group and not the Award of Merit Task Group.

Councillor Holmes had nominated herself as the Opposition member on the Economy Board, the Transformation & Efficiency Board, the Award of Merit Task Group and the Performance Management Group due to the other Opposition Group members' work commitments.

Subject to the change to the membership of the Transformation & Efficiency Board, and the nominations put forward, the motion was proposed by Councillor Chandler and seconded by Councillor Sheldon.

Following a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the following updates to the Constitution be adopted:

(1) Part 6 – Members’ Allowances Scheme

To note the revised Members’ Allowances Scheme following the recent NJC Pay Award of 1.0 % as set out at Appendix A;

(2) Town Area Committee – new delegation

To approve a new delegation to the Town Area Committee to enable the Committee to be consulted on relevant policy matters that affect the town as follows :-

6. To carry out a consultative role with respect to any policy matters which relate to or could impact upon the town of Melton Mowbray (this is in addition to those matters set out at 3 and 4 above);

(3) Political Balance of Working Groups

(i) The principle of working groups being politically balanced across working groups as well as within each working group be approved in the same way as for Committees and Sub Committees. The following table shows the allocation of seats across the current number of working groups :-

Group	No. of Councillors	Percentage	Allocation of Seats over 6 Working Groups
Conservative	25	89.29%	40.18 = 40
Independent	2	7.14%	3.21 = 3
Single Cllr	1	3.57%	1.61 = 2
Totals	28	100%	45 seats

(ii) The following table shows the allocation of seats for approval across the current working groups :-

Working Groups 2016-17	Budget & Strategic Planning (6)	Cattle Market (8)	Joint Staff (7)	Melton Local Plan (9)	Sports, Leisure & Culture (9)	Tenant Consultative (6)	Total
Conservative	5 (5.36%)	7 (7.14%)	6 (6.25%)	8 (8.04%)	8 (8.04%)	5 (5.36%)	39
Independent	0 (0.43%)	1 (0.57%)	1 (0.50%)	1 (0.64%)	1 (0.64%)	0 (0.43%)	4
Single Cllr (Labour)	1 (0.21%)	0 (0.29%)	0 (0.25%)	0 (0.32%)	0 (0.32%)	1 (0.21%)	2
Totals	6	8	7	9	9	6	45

(4) New Working Group - Economy Board

To approve the establishment of a new working group called the Economy Board, terms of reference to be as set out at Appendix B.

The political balance within the new group and taking account of the extra seats across 7 working groups be as follows :-

Working Groups 2016-17	Economy Board (7)
Conservative	6 (6.25%)
Independent	1 (0.50%)
Single Cllr (Labour)	0 (0.25%)
Totals	7

The Membership of the Economy Board to comprise Councillors Cumbers, Holmes, Hutchison, Glancy, Greenow, Posnett, and Sheldon.

(5) New Task and Finish Group – Transformation & Efficiency Board

To approve the establishment of a new task and finish group called the Transformation & Efficiency Board comprising 7 Members that reports to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee with the terms of reference to be as set out at Appendix C to the report to Governance Committee on 28 June 2016.

The Membership of the Transformation & Efficiency Board to comprise Councillors Illingworth, Higgins, Holmes, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, and Rhodes.

(c) Governance Committee: 28 June 2016 – Minute G.16 Reconstitution of Task Groups

RESOLVED: that

(1) the membership of the Award of Merit Task Group be as follows: Councillors Bains, Chandler, Glancy, Holmes, and Wright.

(2) the membership of the Performance Management Task Group be as follows: Councillors Chandler, Glancy, Graham, Holmes, Pearson, and Wyatt.

**(d) Policy, Finance & Administration Committee: 12 July 2016 : Minute P7
ICT Protocol for Members**

The recommendations as set out in the order paper were moved by Councillor Higgins and seconded by Councillor Hurrell.

Before moving to the vote, Councillor Wright raised a query regarding the Council's use of Windows 7 as part of the standard equipment issued to Councillors (page 10 of the ICT Protocol for Members refers) as he thought this was an older version of the software. The Chief Executive advised that Councillor Wright had previously raised this issue with her and she had instructed the appropriate officer to reply in writing to all Members on the detail behind the Council's use of Windows 7.

A Member then raised a point about the proposed trial of a new method of secure emails for Members and associated security issues around the protection of their data. The Chief Executive advised that this new method was in relation to the Modern.gov committee management software to be installed; it would not relate to any other email addresses held on Members' laptops which would be totally separate. However, she acknowledged that data protection principles would still apply. A vote was then taken following which the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- (1) to approve the revised ICT Protocol for Members for adoption in the Council's Constitution;
- (2) to also grant delegated authority to the Head of Communications to amend the protocol in line with best practice and changes to legislation.

**(e) Policy, Finance & Administration Committee: 12 July 2016 – Minute P8 –
Melton Borough Local Authority Lottery**

The recommendation from the PFA Committee regarding officer delegation in relation to the Local Authority Lottery was moved by Councillor Higgins and seconded by Councillor Hurrell. Upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: That delegation be granted to the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods to act as the responsible officer in relation to the lottery licence with the Gambling Commission and the Council's Constitution be updated accordingly.

CO24. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

- (a) In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.1, the Chairmen of Committees were to respond to any questions upon items of reports of Committees when those items were received or were under consideration by the Council as follows :-

Planning Committee

21 April 2016

Planning Committee	26 May 2016
Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	8 June 2016
Planning Committee	16 June 2016
Community & Social Affairs Committee	22 June 2016
Governance Committee	28 June 2016
Planning Committee	7 July 2016
Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	12 July 2016

(b) It was reported that there were no questions received under Procedure Rule 10.5.

(c) Councillor Blase indicated that he wished to raise a question on exempt minute P18 from the PFA Committee minutes. The Chief Executive advised this would be taken at the end of the meeting as a decision would be required to exclude the press and public.

RESOLVED: To note the reports of Committees.

CO25. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

There had been no motions on notice received by the deadline in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.1.

CO26. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2015-16

Members had before them a report by the Head of Central Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which explained set out a summary of the Council's Treasury activities in 2015-16 and also covered the actual position on the Prudential Indicators in accordance with the Prudential Code.

The report was presented by and moved for approval by Councillor de Burle during which he stated that 2015-16 had been a difficult trading year. He wished to place on record congratulations to the Treasury Management team for their hard work in maintaining borrowing levels, increasing the investment balances by £1.2M, and increasing income from those investments. The motion was seconded by Councillor Sheldon.

In endorsing the comments made by Councillor de Burle, a Member requested that the Council's thanks be passed on to the Head of Central Services and her team, but in particular to a recently retired member of staff, Mr Robert Child, who had overseen the Council's investments for many years. The Member recognised that financial forecasting was very difficult and that this report had been prepared before the outcome of the Referendum. Referring to paragraph 3.3 in the report which highlighted that recent changes in the regulatory environment placed a much greater onus on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities, he asked that post the Brexit decision, if there were any major changes arising, Members be briefed at the earliest opportunity. The Chief

Executive confirmed that Members would receive a prompt briefing. A vote then ensued and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2015-16 be approved;
- (2) the actual position on Prudential Indicators for 2015-16 be noted;
- (3) a letter be sent to Mr Robert Child to express the thanks and appreciation from the Council for his work in connection with the Treasury Management Activities.

[Councillors Graham and Holmes here left the meeting.]

CO27. PROGRESS WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MELTON MOWBRAY TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Councillor Higgins presented the report prepared by the Head of Regulatory Services (and as previously circulated with the agenda) which provided an update on progress towards a transport strategy for Melton Mowbray, including the provision of an outer relief road. Since the report to the Council on 24 September 2015, further transport study work had been undertaken and agreement was now sought on the way forward, including prioritising the development of a preferred route for the eastern part of an Outer Relief Road.

Councillor Higgins moved the recommendations contained in the report and in so doing

- (a) stated that it represented a further tranche of analysis which highlighted the routes which were subject to severe congestion at peak times;
- (b) paid tribute to Councillor Rhodes in pushing forward the progress to date for the solution of an outer relief road;
- (c) highlighted the section of the report which dealt with the routing options for the outer relief road and the benefits of both the east and west approaches;
- (d) stated that the Council would work closely with the County Council and would have a central role in attracting developer contributions. A bid via the LLEP for funding would also be made;
- (e) advised Members that further updates would be made to the Council as and when they arose.

Councillor Chandler seconded the motion, commenting that this report fitted in with the Melton Local Plan. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: that the Council

(1) agrees to continue to work alongside the Highway Authority towards the development of the Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy (MMTS) as outlined in the report, including the prioritisation of a preferred route and business case for the development of the eastern section of an outer relief road;

(2) agrees to continue to seek funding towards the MMTS via the Transport Strategy Fund established by the Highway Authority, in the form of developer contributions from proposals where they are relevant to this issue;

(3) supports all appropriate opportunities to secure funding working alongside the Highway Authority, such as submitting a bid via the LLEP to the DfT for the Large Local Major Scheme Fund;

(4) instructs that updates are to be reported Council on the progress of the Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy including the development of the eastern ORR business case.

[Councillors Graham and Holmes here returned to the meeting.]

CO28. LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN: STRATEGIC GROWTH STATEMENT

Members had before them a report prepared by the Head of Regulatory Services which sought approval to endorse the Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan – Stage 1: Strategic Growth Statement. The Statement formed the first part of a three stage process to prepare a Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire. The ten partners who have agreed to prepare a Strategic Growth Plan are the seven District Councils of Leicestershire, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP).

In commending the report to Members, Councillor Higgins referred

(a) to the good example of working with district, city and county partners;

(b) to the Statement as the initial stage of the Growth Plan which although was not a statutory plan, it would play a key role going forward in planning and the development of Local Plans as it fulfilled some important elements of the duty to co-operate;

(c) to the key objectives of the Plan, highlighting in particular the necessity to have sustainable rural communities, increased wages for employees and growing businesses in the area.

A Member commented on the attractiveness of Melton Borough in terms of its heritage and countryside, describing it as a 'jewel in the crown' of Leicestershire; Melton as a town was improving but the Council needed to plan for the future and this could only be done with support from its partners within the County by securing funding from the Government, controlling growth and managing the infrastructure. The Council needed to ensure Melton Borough was part of this Strategic Growth Plan, to promote its vision and heritage. A reference was made to the objectives on page 23 of the final draft, commenting that farmers' markets use to be promoted and a suggestion made that this should be included. The Chief Executive advised that this suggestion would be taken as an officer instruction and the Head of Regulatory Services would exercise his delegation in consultation with the district, city and county partners.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hurrell. Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council

(1) approves the Strategic Growth Statement for the purpose of consultation (the Strategic Growth Statement is included as Appendix A to the report; and

(b) authorises the Head of Regulatory Services to make any minor drafting or formatting changes which do not change the overall sense or purpose of the document arising out of consideration of the Statement by the other partner authorities.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information: Exempt Information) under Paragraph 3.

CO29. MINUTE P.18 – LEISURE VISION FINANCES

Clarification was sought and given by the Chief Executive regarding the delivery of phase 1 of the Leisure Vision project. Members noted that a further report would be made to the Governance Committee in September.

The meeting, which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7.30 p.m.

Mayor