



MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

16 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT

Councillor J. Douglas (Mayor)
T.S. Bains, G.E. Botterill, P.M. Chandler,
T. Culley, P. Cumbers, R. de Burle, P. Faulkner, M. Glancy,
M.C.R. Graham MBE, L. Higgins, E. Hutchison, S. Lumley,
V. Manderson, J.T. Orson, A. Pearson, J.B. Rhodes,
M. Sheldon, J. Simpson, D.R. Wright, J. Wyatt

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

The Reverend Kevin Ashby offered prayers

CO48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Baguley, Beaken, Greenow, Holmes, Hurrell, Illingworth, and Posnett.

CO49. MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 October 2015 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

CO50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

CO51. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

(a) stated that since the October meeting of the Council, the Mayoral diary had been busy with 48 engagements including school visits. She had visited a number of primary schools in the wider Borough area and had found this had given her an invaluable insight into the running of the schools which were of a very high standard and deserving of their good reputation;

(b) mentioned that she had developed her speech giving skills and found that enthusiasm and a smile went a long way;

(c) highlighted a number of events she had attended. These included meeting with the Walking with the Wounded team at County Hall as they were part way through their walk of Britain, the Lord Lieutenant's Concert to commemorate the end of World War II at The Curve Theatre in Leicester, and the Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth's Masked Ball for which she had made her own mask;

(d) stressed the importance of prioritising local events and cited as examples a ceremony to honour the 156 Battalion Parachute Regiment and the Battle of Arnhem at PERA and a talk she had given on her role as Mayor to the Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray;

(e) reported on the recent successful twinning visit by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Leader of the Sochaczew Council and referred to the gift of a decorated Christmas tree that they had sent which was on display in Parkside reception. The Mayor expressed her thanks and appreciation to Councillor Pam Posnett for her help and support in hosting the Polish guests;

(f) thanked her Deputy, Councillor Lumley, for his continuing support and the listed the events he had recently attended on her behalf;

(g) concluded by referring to the successful Carols by Candlelight service at St Mary's Church and the Mayor's Christmas Staff Lunch which would be taking place the following day to which Members were welcome. The Mayor also invited Members to join her after the meeting for a seasonal drink and light refreshments.

CO52. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Councillor Rhodes

(a) began his announcements by reporting that the Council had made significant progress in the development of the Local Plan since the October meeting of the Council. Approval had been given at the Extraordinary Meeting on 8 December to move forward to the consultation stage which would run for 12 weeks starting on 11 January 2016;

(b) highlighted the aspect of the Local Plan concerning self build and custom build; many first time buyers were finding it difficult to raise a deposit for a home and were considering reducing the cost by doing some or all of the work themselves. Currently the structure of the housing market did not encourage this because housing finance arrangements were not available. However, the Government wanted to change this and the Planning and Housing Bill currently before Parliament contained provisions to bring that about. The Leader stated that he had attended a seminar in London where the Housing Minister and experts in the field explained how this could be done. Officers and the working group would be encouraged to give this consideration to ensure that the final version of the Local Plan contained workable policies to encourage those resourceful people to get on the housing ladder. This was common practice on the continent and the Leader suggested that Melton could lead the way in this regard as it had in so many other ways;

(c) referred to the construction work which had been taking place in Prior's Close adjacent to Parkside recently which was for the new Melton Skate Park now completed ahead of schedule. It was state of the art and one of the best in the country. The Council had provided most of the finance for this project and demonstrated that it was a council for all age groups;

(d) spoke about the recent twinning visit by the civic guests from Sochaczew referred to by the Mayor in her announcements. Discussions had taken place during the visit about future co-operation and information exchange between the two communities and councils strengthening the friendship which continued to flourish to the benefit of everyone. The Leader referred to Councillor Posnett, who was absent from this meeting as she was with Strategic Director, Christine Marshall, meeting with a government minister about possible future developments in Melton Mowbray; Councillor Posnett was the driving force behind the continuing co-operation with Sochaczew and it would not be anywhere near as successful without her efforts and tenacity;

(e) concluded by thanking all officers for their commitment to the Council over the past year and wished them and Members the compliments of the season.

On behalf of the Leader of the Opposition Group, Councillor Culley wished all officers and Members a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

CO53. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received.

CO54. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

CO55. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Governance Committee: 23 November 2015 – Minute G40 Annual Report on Equality & Diversity

Councillor Chandler referred to the recommendation from the Governance Committee concerning the Single Equality Scheme and moved the recommendation as set out on the Order Paper circulated at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councillor Sheldon.

Before moving to the vote, a point was raised about the Council's equality and diversity questionnaire; concern was expressed that it did not fully capture the range of disabilities which in turn could affect how the Council worked with certain people and how they presented in terms of service delivery. Mental health issues were one form of disability and the Council needed to improve on this. Also, the Council was dealing with an aging population; the average age of men in Leicestershire was 75 but the healthy living age was 64 which meant there was a potential period of 9 years when an older male could be living with some form of disability. The Council therefore needed to ask more in depth questions relating to age and mental health to identify these potential needs. Councillor Chandler confirmed the points raised would be given consideration to take on board.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED:

(1) to note and endorse the updates to the Single Equality Scheme and to approve the Scheme's inclusion within the Council's Constitution;

(1) delegated authority be given to the Head of Central Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Equalities to update the Single Equality Scheme with any comments received from the Council's Management Team and submit the scheme to Full Council for inclusion in the Council's Constitution;

(2) to approve the change to the Council's Constitution with effect from the Annual Meeting in 2016 that the membership of the Governance Committee includes the Lead Member for Equalities.

(2) the structure of Committees include the Lead Member for Equalities on this Committee and this change in arrangements take place in May 2016 when Committee seats were reviewed at the Annual Meeting. As this was a constitutional change, this be referred to Full Council for adoption.

Governance Committee: 23 November 2015 – Minute G44 Constitutional Update.

Councillor Chandler referred to the recommendation from the Governance Committee concerning a number of new delegations to officers and moved the recommendation as set out on the Order Paper circulated at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councillor Sheldon.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following new Delegations to Officers be approved and included within the Constitution :-

(1) To the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

In consultation with Head of Central Services to make any necessary changes to the Discretionary Business Rates Grant Scheme, that will improve the scheme to meet the purpose of providing targeted support to businesses.

(2) To the Head of Regulatory Services

To authorise officers to utilise the powers under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policy Act 2014 commensurate with their role and responsibilities.

(3) To the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

To authorise officers to utilise the powers under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policy Act 2014 commensurate with their role and responsibilities.

(4) To the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

To designate External Agencies Officers (ie. Regulated Social Landlords dealing with ASB, housing issues) to utilise the powers under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policy Act 2014 commensurate with their role and responsibilities, where this be determined to be appropriate.

CO56. 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	8 October 2015
Town Area Committee	19 October 2015
Planning Committee	29 October 2015
Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	4 November 2015
Licensing Committee	9 November 2015
Town Area Committee	16 November 2015
Community & Social Affairs Committee	18 November 2015
Planning Committee	19 November 2015
Governance Committee	23 November 2015
Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	1 December 2015

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

(c) It was noted that Councillor Baguley's name had been spelt incorrectly in the minutes of the Licensing Committee dated 9 November 2015 and this error would be amended at the Committee's next meeting;

(d) A Member referred to minute C.37 of the CSA Committee dated 18 November 2015 concerning the Supporting Leicestershire Families programme. Following examination of its mid term financial strategy, the Leicestershire County Council had changed its funding of the Children's Centres. The SLF programme had led the way forward in delivering this service and officers and Members were congratulated. Following the changes, some concerns had been raised by service users. However, as a result of good communication and a desire to work together it was heartening to see the positive results. Some additional funding had been allocated to ensure the service coped with the transition phase; it also provided an opportunity to see how the service could be improved at a reduced costs. The Chairman of the CSA Committee confirmed he would pass these comments onto the relevant officers.

RESOLVED: To note the reports of Committees.

CO57. MOTION ON NOTICE

No Motions on Notice were submitted under Procedure Rule 11.

CO58. MID YEAR REPORT ON THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2015-16

In a report previously circulated, the Head of Central Services had provided Members with a mid year treasury review in order that the Council could monitor its performance in accordance with CIPFA Treasury Management Panel's recommendations. The report also incorporated the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of capital expenditure and the Council's Prudential indicators.

In commending the report to Members, the Leader highlighted paragraph 3.3 which advised that the underlying economic environment remained difficult for the Council. The options for placing monies with counterparties was restricted. In relation to the prudential indicators, there was still substantial debt on the Housing Revenue Account but this was imposed on the Council by Government and so there was little that could be done about it other than to pay as little interest as possible. The Leader moved the recommendations contained in the report and this was seconded by Councillor de Burle.

By way of an economic update, a Member advised that the US had just announced a slight increase in its interest rates which had resulted in the stock market reacting accordingly. The Member stated that he missed the debate that ensued in the past under this topic when former Councillor Matthew O'Callaghan OBE was a member of this Council.

A vote was then taken on the motion which was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (1) The mid-year position on treasury activity for 2015-16 be noted;**
- (2) The mid-year position on prudential indicators be noted and approved;**
- (3) Reference to the changes to the credit methodology whereby certain ratings are not considered as key criteria in the choice of investment counterparties in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement be approved.**

CO59. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Wyatt, presented the report prepared by the Head of Regulatory Services and moved the recommendations contained therein. The motion was seconded by Councillor Cumbers.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that

- (1) the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles at Appendix A to the report circulated be approved;**
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Regulatory Services to consider any representations received within the remainder of the consultation period.**

CO60. LICENSING ACT 2003 – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Wyatt, presented the report prepared by the Head of Regulatory Services and moved the motion to adopt the Licensing Policy. The motion was seconded by Councillor Cumbers.

Before moving to the vote, a Member referred to the relaxation of the licensing burden on those looking to stage live music; he supported this as Melton had a lively music scene and accordingly should be known as the rural capital of live music as well as food.

Following a vote the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: That the Licensing Policy be adopted.

CO61. PROPOSED LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Members had before them a report prepared by the Chief Executive which sought approval of the countywide proposal to create a Combined Authority for Leicester and Leicestershire under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and

Construction Act 2009. A combined authority operates as a public body with its own legal personality but was not a merger of existing local authorities. A Governance Review (appended to the report) was undertaken by the nine local authorities of Leicester and Leicestershire during August and September 2015 which had found that the best governance model to enable economic and transport improvements in the local area was a combined authority.

In presenting the report to Members, the Leader referred to the combined authority agreed between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire authorities. All the other Leicestershire councils and Leicester City had agreed and Melton was now last in the chain formally to approve the proposal. He acknowledged that there was some criticism of the arrangement citing it as a 'Trojan horse'. However, this was not the case as there was no movement of power from the individual authorities to the Combined Authority. The powers were quite modest at the moment but may be extended in the future for example, to health and 'blue light services' but this would require discussion with Rutland County Council who had yet to take any decisions on the matter but had expressed an interest.

Members' attention was drawn to the scheme set out in the report and the explanation of the Constitution. The Leader advised that in the course of negotiations with the Government, minor changes may have to be made but in the event of any major changes being required, the scheme would be referred back to the Full Council. Accordingly, he moved the recommendations contained in the report.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Higgins stated that the proposal would allow this Council, and the Borough, to be part of the strategic agenda for Leicestershire; the area of strategic transport planning and investment would hopefully serve the Melton area well in its quest for making the case for funding for the much needed road infrastructure. The County Council already supported the Borough on the need for economic and social benefits that would result from investment in the road infrastructure. In regard to general economic development and skills, Councillor Higgins proposed that in branding itself as the rural capital of food, the Council should look towards promoting food design, nutrition, science, and technology. The MARS' operation at Waltham on the Wolds was a world leader in pet food design and science and it was suggested this technology could be expanded to human food products to capitalise on the food manufacturing companies in the Borough. He also referred to the successful model of Me and My Learning and expressed the hope that what Melton had done in supporting people to become independent could be developed county wide. With these as examples, and many more, a strong case for a Combined Authority could be made which would benefit Melton Borough.

Concern was expressed that despite wide consultation on the proposal there had been little response; looking back over time, different initiatives had come and gone and the Leader was asked whether the Council had an exit strategy should the Combined Authority fail – did the Council have the power to leave the scheme?

The Leader reiterated his earlier comments that if the scope of the scheme went beyond the proposal presented in the report, it would have to come back to the Full Council and what powers the Council had to approve could be used to pull out. He emphasised that if significant amounts of funding became available as a result of

this arrangement then the Borough would benefit and urged Members to be hopeful at this stage.

Support was expressed for the motion as Combined Authorities were effectively the 'only show in town' and represented a considerable opportunity in the future to cross local authority boundaries. However, this was not without some concern as Leicester City had dictated on some issues but the proposal would not be achieved without their co-operation. There was already some disarray with the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire scheme. Commenting on the points raised by Councillor Higgins, the Chairman of REEA Committee advised that officers had been asked to produce a report for the Committee's first meeting in January on the expansion of the food brand and food technology. A comment was then made on the Members' briefing held before the Council meeting on the Melton Food Enterprise Zone and the Local Development Order.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that

- (1) the Scheme for the Combined Authority ("the Scheme") be approved;**
- (2) the Governance Review be approved;**
- (3) the publication of the Scheme and its submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government be authorised;**
- (4) the Chief Executive be authorised, following consultation with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition, to make any final amendments to the Scheme and Governance Review prior to their submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government in December 2015 or January 2016;**
- (5) the Chief Executive be authorised, following consultation with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition, to enter into discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government and such other Government departments and other persons as are considered necessary by the Chief Executive to agree the terms of Order (subject to (7) below) establishing the Combined Authority and to approve the final form of the Order on behalf of the Borough Council; and**
- (6) the Chief Executive be authorised, following consultation with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition :**
 - (i) to negotiate, agree and execute all ancillary documents in support of the operation of the Combined Authority, including (without limitation) the constitution of the Combined Authority; and**
 - (ii) to take all decisions and actions necessary to enable the establishment of the Combined Authority (subject to (8) below);**
- (7) if such discussions result in any proposed significant departure from or variation to the Scheme as approved by Council the terms and the final form of the Order will be referred to Council for a decision;**

- (8) the delegation in (6) above relates to any documents, decisions or actions required in accordance with the Council resolution (1), (2) and (3) set out above. Any significant departure will be referred to Council for a decision.**

The meeting, which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7.25 p.m.

Mayor