



MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

12 OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT

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

Chief Executive
Strategic Director (KA), Head of Communications
Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods
Democracy & Involvement Officer

Mr John Cade, Chairman of the Welland Remuneration Panel
Mr Roger Sheridan – Project Manager, RPT Consulting

Mr Malcom Johnson from the Welby Lane Mission Church offered prayers

CO39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Botterill, Hurrell, Glancy, Manderson, Orson, Rhodes, and Wyatt.

CO40. MINUTES

Having been proposed by the Leader and seconded by Councillor Higgins, the following sets of minutes were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor as a correct record:

- (1) the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 July 2016;
- (2) the Extraordinary Meeting held on 27 July 2016;
- (3) the Extraordinary Meeting held on 1 September 2016;

Councillor Simpson raised two points of accuracy regarding the fourth set of minutes for the Extraordinary Meeting held on 19 September 2016. She asked that the following amendments be made to more accurately reflect the points she had

made in debate. She asked if she could listen to the recording to check what had been said.

On page 58, first sentence of the second bullet point to be deleted and replaced with the following: *“a Member stated she had not supported the distribution of the excess of housing allocations solely in the villages, but across the villages **and** the town. She stated that the council had a choice of housing of a demographic figure of 195 dwellings per annum, a mid -range of 220 per annum, and for maximum economic growth 245 dwellings per annum.*

If the lesser demographic figure of 195 had been chosen, this would have meant a reduction of 1250 houses would need to be built over the plan period. And 35% of that would be fewer houses to be allocated in the villages.”

The second amendment proposed by Councillor Simpson was to add a new bullet point 4 to read: *“a point of order was made in response to the Deputy Leader, that the 35% of housing attributed to the villages would only be shared by the villages with housing allocations, not all the villages.”*

The Leader proposed that having regard to the extent of the correction requested, and given that there were members of the public present at that meeting, the recording of the meeting should be checked first. As seconder, Councillor Higgins agreed with this amendment.

The Chief Executive, whilst indicating she understood the reasons behind Councillor Simpson’s request, expressed some concern at setting a precedent which would involve a certain amount of officer time. The Leader proposed that the matter be delegated to the Chief Executive and that confirmation of the minutes be deferred to the next meeting. Councillor Simpson accepted that the matter could be dealt with by way of delegation.

A vote was taken on acceptance of the three sets of minutes dated 20 July, 27 July, and 1 September with the minutes of 19 September being deferred. This was carried.

CO41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Holmes declared a personal and pecuniary interest in any matters relating to housing development and indicated she would leave the room if any such matter was discussed.

Councillor Greenow declared a personal and pecuniary interest in the Leisure Vision item as a member of the Leisure Village and indicated he would leave the room when this matter was discussed.

CO42. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Mayor reported he had attended 40 events since the last scheduled meeting of the Council on 20 July. Particular highlights included:

- the official opening of Melton's Skatepark in Prior's Close
- the prize presentation for the Melton Borough Council Allotment Competition held at Parkside
- the visit by the High Sheriff of Leicestershire, Professor Surinder Sharma and his wife to the town. The High Sheriff had been particularly impressed with the Council's various projects and initiatives in working with the community;
- presenting prizes at the Eastern Sheep Association's Ram Sale at the Cattle Market;
- attending the Melton Young Farmers Club 80th anniversary dinner dance;
- attending the 1279 (Melton) Squadron's Awards Evening and Dining In Night. He had been very impressed with the way the young people had conducted themselves during these occasions;
- the Melton Food Festival at the Cattle Market which was growing in size each year;
- performing the official opening of the refurbished Mowbray Court residents' home with Rosemary Conley CBE;
- being invited to the Seniors' Day by Councillor Cumbers held recently at Parkside.

The Mayor then thanked his Deputy for his support and that of his Consort for the engagements they had attended on behalf of the Mayor and Mayoress. He invited Councillor Bains to report on recent activities undertaken.

(b) The Deputy Mayor briefly listed a number of events he had attended and spoke about how enjoyable they had been and the impression left on him and his Consort. He had been particularly impressed by what he had seen at the Melton Mowbray Scouts Camp during the summer.

(c) The Mayor informed the Council that it was his pleasure to make the formal appointment of the Mayor's Cadet. The Mayor explained

- the role of the Mayor's Cadet was to accompany the Mayor to a number of appropriate public civic events which includes the Remembrance Parade and Service, Fly the Flag for Armed Forces Day, the Battle of Britain Commemorative Parade and Service, and the Civic Service. At such events, the Mayor's Cadet may be asked to read or perform a duty such as carrying a wreath for the Mayor;
- The Mayor's Cadet also brought a closer visible association with local cadets of the armed forces, positive public perception, and a role which is considered to be a honour and reward for those cadets selected. Mayor's Cadets have been introduced by various councils across the country. The Mayor's Cadet would be given a badge to be worn on their uniform during their year of office.

- The Mayor's Cadet would be accountable to the Mayor of the Borough of Melton via the Squadron Officer Commanding. The role ran alongside any normal squadron duties as a cadet NCO. The Mayor's Cadet would take an active role in supporting the Borough and presenting to the Borough Council about their time as Mayor's Cadet at the end of their term of office.

The Mayor introduced the Officer Commanding from 1279 (Melton Mowbray) Squadron Air Training Corps, Flight Lieutenant Dan McGlynn and the Squadron's chosen candidate, Cadet Corporal Samuel Page.

Flight Lieutenant McGlynn thanked the Mayor for supporting and endorsing this appointment which was part of developing ways of working together with the Council. The appointment of a Mayor's Cadet was to recognise the work of the Cadets and reward them. Flight Lt McGlynn briefly spoke on Cadet Corporal Page's qualities and attributes which made him a highly commended candidate for this role. It was fitting that the appointment should be made in the 75th anniversary year of the Air Training Corps; Melton's 1279 Squadron had been one of the original units that had been formed 75 years ago.

The Mayor formally presented Cadet Corporal Page with his badge of office after which the Council showed its appreciation by giving Cadet Corporal Page a round of applause.

[Councillor Beaken entered the meeting at 6.50pm during the above item.]

CO43. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader presented her report to Council, during which she

- (a) thanked all Members for their support in agreeing the additional meetings required in order to meet the timetable for the consultation on the Local Plan. The Head of Regulatory Services and his team had worked hard to produce all the documents required for the six week public consultation;
- (b) referred to her recent attendance at the Rural Service Conference where it had been interesting to hear how other areas work to solve problems about rural issues. Louise Driver from Leicestershire County Council had spoken at the conference and Melton's Food Enterprise Zone had generated much interest;
- (c) reported on her visit to the Cattle Market with members of REEA Committee to look at how the work was progressing. The market partners explained how they were developing their plans and how they were carrying on work themselves in order to improve the facilities. Work on the project was to schedule and within budget;
- (d) referred to a visit to the House of Lords she had undertaken with the Chief Executive where they had met Lord Patel of Bradford and a company who was carrying out work for the Council. They were very interested in the co-location working at Parkside and how the Council had developed the Me and My Learning project. Both Lord Patel and the company wished to visit Parkside;

- (e) informed Members that Lord Bach, the Leicestershire Police & Crime Commissioner had visited the Council last week to discuss Melton. He had also met with Councillor Graham MBE and officers of the Safer Communities team;
- (f) acknowledged Members' wish to have a briefing on the Council's plans for Commercialism and undertook to arrange this;
- (g) referred to her attendance at the Conservative Party Conference where she had met most of the Leicestershire MP's and was able to speak with them about Melton and give them the leaflet about the Melton Distributor Road; all were supportive. Sir Alan Duncan MP was supporting the bid to the Government for £2M for Growth Fund to allow the Council to engineer the route of the Eastern Distributor Road. He had written to Chris Grayling MP and intends to speak to him again on the Council's behalf. The message from the Conference was one of growth, particularly the need for more houses. She had spoken at a meeting about Town Centre Regeneration. She had been part of a panel that included the President of the British Property Federation and two CEO's from other property development companies. She had received a number of questions about the vision for Melton;
- (h) referred to the item on the agenda concerning a Combined Authority: at the Conference during one meeting, Sajid Javid MP had said that a Mayor was necessary, but at other meetings the message was that all applications would be looked at, the ones including Mayors would be looked at first. Leicestershire appeared to be unique with Leicester, the County, and all 7 Districts, 3 University Deans, the LEP, and the Chamber of Trade in support of our Bid. Rutland had expressed an interest in being an associate member;
- (i) concluded by referring to her visit that day with Councillor Higgins to the House of Commons where further discussions had taken place with Sir Alan and the Chairman of the LEP on the Council's Bid for the relief road;
- (j) reminded Members to attend the briefing for the Melton Local Plan the following evening.

CO44. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted from members of the public.

CO45. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

CO46. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) Policy, Finance & Administration Committee: 7 September 2016 – Melton Borough Community Lottery

The Leader moved approval of the Constitution being amended in accordance with the recommendation set out in the Order Paper. Councillor Higgins seconded the

motion and in so doing thanked the Leader and Officers for taking this forward. He said it represented the Council's first steps towards a commercialism approach. A Member commended the Leader's vision commenting on the importance of looking at other opportunities to increase income. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED: The Council's Constitution be amended by the Full Council to permit the Policy Finance and Administration Committee to have the budget responsibility for the lottery and overview of the management of the service.

(b) Governance Committee: 20 September 2016 – Money Laundering Policy

The Chairman of the Governance Committee, Councillor Chandler, commended the recommendation from the Committee to Members, stating that it was a straight forward policy recommended by CIFPA. Councillor Sheldon seconded the motion.

The Chief Executive then responded to a request for clarification on what Members were being asked to vote upon as the report circulated in relation to this item contained two parts. She explained that to assist Members, the original report submitted to the Committee had been re-circulated with the Council agenda; it was only that part of the recommendation on the Order paper that concerned referral to Full Council which was for consideration tonight. In future, the relevant part could be highlighted on the original report to make it clear.

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

RESOLVED: that the Money Laundering Policy be approved for adoption into the Council's Constitution.

CO47. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

(a) Members had before them the reports of the following Committees upon which the Chairmen of those Committees may be asked to answer any questions upon items when those items are being received or under consideration by the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1 of the Constitution :-

Town Area Committee	25 July 2016
Planning Committee	28 July 2016
Planning Committee	18 August 2016
Town Area Committee	22 August 2016
Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	31 August 2016
Ad hoc Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	7 September 2016

Planning Committee	8 September 2016
Community & Social Affairs Committee	14 September 2016
Governance Committee	20 September 2016
Town Area Committee	22 September 2016
Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	28 September 2016

(b) Councillor Holmes stated that she had submitted her apologies for absence for the Ad Hoc meeting of the Policy, Finance & Administration Committee held on 7 September 2016. There being no other comments or questions in relation to the sets of minutes presented, the reports of the committees were noted.

CO48. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

There were no motions on notice submitted.

CO49. WELLAND REMUNERATION PANEL – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES

The Mayor referred to an additional paper which had been circulated at the meeting for Members’ information which gave the comparisons between the Members’ Allowances adopted by the other Leicestershire and Welland authorities and Melton Borough Council. This information had been made available to the Panel.

Mr John Cade, Chairman of the Welland Remuneration Panel, then presented the Panel’s report. He outlined the role of the Panel and emphasised that it was the Council’s decision to either accept the recommendations or not. He referred to the additional paper circulated which showed that Melton Borough was near the bottom end of the table in respect of the special responsibility allowances payable to chairmen of committees and the Deputy Leader. Mr Cade said the Panel was aware of the responsibility and commitment placed on committee chairmen, but also mindful of the sensitivity of increasing allowances in the current financial climate. The Panel was therefore recommending a modest increase for committee chairmen and the Deputy Leader to be effective from the date of this meeting should the recommendations be accepted by the Council. Mr Cade emphasised it was up to the individual Councillor whether they chose to claim the allowance.

Councillor Lumley thanked Mr Cade and the Panel for its work and proposed that the recommendations contained in its report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Councillor Illingworth.

A discussion ensued during which a comment was made that the role of chairman of the Planning Committee was potentially more demanding than other committees such as Licensing or Appeals. It was proposed as an amendment that the SRA for

the latter two committees be reduced and the Planning Committee chairman's SRA be increased. The amendment failed to find a seconder.

Another Member suggested that a fairer way of distributing the allowances be found without increasing the overall amount required. A question was also raised on the cost of placing public notices in the local press to which the Chief Executive responded she would supply Members with the information concerning the regulations governing publication of Members' Allowance schemes. The Member stated in view of the Government limiting the staff pay increase to 1% he could not support raising Members' allowances above that figure. The Leader advised Members of her personal decision not to claim an allowance, stressing it was for each Member to decide. She made the point that some Members, because of their own personal financial situation, may need to claim their allowances. She acknowledged the comments made about the relative demands on different committee chairmen but pointed out that all Members were given an opportunity to submit their views to the Panel but few had chosen to do so.

A further point was raised that the allowances scheme was also in place to ensure that those who aspired to become Councillors could do so without being adversely affected financially. This point was supported as it was important for democracy that Councillors came from a wide range of backgrounds and it should not be financially difficult to become a Councillor. At the end of the debate, Mr Cade acknowledged the points raised and the sensitivities around these issues. A vote was then taken on the motion and carried by a majority. Councillor Chandler requested that her abstention from voting be recorded.

RESOLVED: that

(1) the recommendations contained in the report by the independent Welland Remuneration Panel be accepted as set out below and implemented with effect from the date of this meeting;

- (i) the basic allowance remain unaltered;
- (ii) the Special Responsibility Allowance for Committee Chairs and the Deputy Leader be increased to £3,964 pa apart from the Chair of the Appeals Committee where it will be to £2,100 pa;
- (iii) all other Special Responsibility Allowances remain the same;
- (iv) no change be made to the Travel and Subsistence Expenses Scheme or the Childcare and Carers Allowance Scheme;
- (v) allowances continue to be index linked to NJC Pay Awards.

(2) publicity be arranged ensuring that Public Notice is given and that copies of the report are available for inspection by members of the public;

(3) the Panel be thanked for its work;

(4) the members' Allowance Scheme contained in Part 6 of the Constitution be amended to reflect the changes approved at this meeting.

CO50. LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Members had before them a report by the Chief Executive which had previously circulated with the agenda. It sought approval of the countywide proposal to create a Combined Authority for Leicester and Leicestershire (LLCA). The Chief Executive explained that there were a number of documents which had been prepared in order to facilitate the functioning of the Combined Authority. These included the Constitution, an operating agreement, and an officer sharing agreement.

Following delegated authority granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Leader of the Opposition, she had taken the decision that as there had been some delay in the timetable initially provided by the Department of Communities and Local Government, it was appropriate that Council's approval was sought on the documents appended to the report.

The Leader moved the recommendations contained in the Order Paper which included the appointment of Members to serve on the LLCA and its committees. The Deputy Leader, Councillor Higgins seconded the motion and thanked the Chief Executive for previously explaining the detail of these documents to Members.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Holmes, expressed her disagreement that all the appointments should be to Members of the Conservative Group and that there should be an Opposition Member represented. The Leader said she did not disagree with the point being made by Councillor Holmes but that the appointments had to be politically balanced reflecting the councils' political make up across the whole LLCA area. The Chief Executive advised that Councillor Holmes had given her notice of this matter and advised Members of how the figures had been arrived at so that there were 9 Conservative places, 4 Labour, and 2 Liberal Democrat. Councillor Holmes reiterated her concern that an Independent Member should be included in the Melton Borough Council representation. In response to a question on whether the LLCA meetings would be held in public, the Chief Executive replied that she understood this would be the case. It was a public body and therefore it was to be expected that a number of meetings would be open to the public. She undertook to check and let Members know.

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

RESOLVED: That the Council

- (1) approves the Draft Constitution of the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) approves the draft Operating Agreement of the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority attached as Appendix 2 to the report;
- (3) authorises the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition, to make any final amendments to the Constitution and Operating Agreement prior to their adoption by the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority;
- (4) authorises the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition, to agree any minor changes to the Operating

Agreement in future following adoption of the document by the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority; and

- (5) agrees the appointment of the Leader, Councillor Pam Posnett and as substitute Deputy Leader, Councillor Leigh Higgins, as representatives from the Council to serve on the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority and the following Members to serve on its committees:

Transport Committee: Councillor John Wyatt (substitute: Councillor Leigh Higgins)

Planning Committee: Councillor Pam Posnett (substitute: Councillor Margaret Glancy)

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Pru Chandler (substitute: Councillor John Illingworth)

[Councillor Greenow here left the meeting]

CO51. LEISURE VISION

Members had previously been circulated with a report prepared by the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods in order for them to note and approve the Melton Sports & Leisure Vision Project Initiation Document (the work carried out as Phase 2 of the Leisure Vision Project). Following this stage, officers working with the Council's appointed consultants, RPT Consulting, would proceed to the Procurement Phase of the project.

In commending the report to Members and proposing the recommendations contained therein, the Deputy Leader thanked the Working Group for being forthright in its approach and exploring ideas. He said it was important that the project created income and was not a cost to be borne by residents. The Working Group had also been very firm on how the project management structure should be arranged. The Deputy Leader concluded by referring to the project's timescale and the financial implications.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Pearson who spoke on the financial burden which could be placed upon services by an inactive family. This project, he stated, represented the opportunity to make a real difference to the community and offer something special not just to residents but to others outside the Borough which would put Melton even further on the map. The Leader referred to recent discussions she had had with former Loughborough MP, Andy Reid, who was very keen to talk to the Council about its aspirations as he could see the significant advantages.

A Member expressed his concern, stating he felt unable to support the recommendations at this stage and cited lack of gateway reviews and success factors. He was not against the principle but wanted more detail. The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods gave an explanation of how the project would be managed both through the appointed consultants and an internal project team. He stressed that the key decisions would be made by the Council as the project progressed to each stage. The Deputy Leader reiterated that the Working Group had been very clear on the criteria for success in that it should not be a cost burden

to the Council and that the project should be income generating. He extended an invitation to the Member to meet with the Working Group to discuss the detail of the project.

A vote was then taken on the motion which was carried by a majority. Councillor Blase requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

RESOLVED:

(1) to thank the Melton Sports, Leisure & Culture Working Group (MSLCWG) for their work in progressing Phase 2 of the project;

(2) to approve the Leisure Vision Project Initiation Document (PID) (Attached as Appendix A) and supporting documents Appendices B-D (exempt Appendices E-G) to the report;

(3) to note that officers will now commence the procurement process as outlined in the PID;

(4) to approve that 'The Melton, Sports, Leisure & Culture Working Group' continues to operate under the new Terms of Reference of:

'To oversee the development of the project and consider the Procurement Reports for Full Council to be able to determine the way forward'

(5) to approve a short term (up to 6 month) extension to the current contract with SLM for the existing facility, as set out at section 6.3 of the report;

(6) to note the delegation exercised by the Chief Executive as outlined in section 3.8. of the report.

The meeting, which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 8.10 p.m.

Mayor