

Agenda

Meeting name	Council
Date	Wednesday, 23 September 2020
Start time	6.30 pm
Venue	By remote video conference
Other information	This meeting is open to the public

Members of the Council are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the following items of business.

Edd de Coverly
Chief Executive

Membership

Councillors	M. Graham MBE (Chair)	P. Faulkner (Vice-Chair)
	T. Bains	R. Bindloss
	R. Browne	S. Carter
	P. Chandler	R. Child
	P. Cumbers	R. de Burle
	J. Douglas	C. Evans
	C. Fisher	A. Freer-Jones
	M. Glancy	A. Hewson
	L. Higgins	E. Holmes
	J. Illingworth	S. Lumley
	J. Orson	A. Pearson
	P. Posnett MBE	D. Pritchett
	R. Smedley	M. Steadman
	J. Wilkinson	P. Wood

Quorum: 14 Councillors

Meeting enquiries	Democratic Services
Email	democracy@melton.gov.uk
Agenda despatched	Tuesday, 15 September 2020

No.	Item	Page No.
	<p>REMOTE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS</p> <p>Meeting Participants:</p> <p><u>Zoom video conference webinar:</u></p> <p>An invitation will be sent to Members for this meeting</p> <p>Public Access:</p> <p>View Council meeting</p>	
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2020</p>	1 - 18
3.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Members to declare any interest as appropriate in respect of items to be considered at this meeting.</p>	19 - 20
4.	MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS	
5.	<p>ELECTION OF MAYOR</p> <p>To elect the Mayor for the period until the Annual Meeting in 2021</p>	
6.	<p>VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR</p> <p>To receive a vote of thanks for the retiring Mayor</p>	
7.	<p>ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR</p> <p>To elect the Deputy Mayor for the period until the Annual Meeting in 2021</p>	
8.	<p>NEW MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>The new Mayor to make any announcements</p>	
9.	LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
10.	<p>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>In accordance with the Constitution, Members of the Council may answer questions from the public of which notice has been given.</p> <p>No questions were received</p>	

11.	<p>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS</p> <p>In accordance with the Constitution, a Member may ask the Leader, the Chair of the Council or a Committee Chair, a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Borough.</p> <p>The following question has been received from Councillor Lumley:</p> <p><i>‘Can Melton Borough Council improve the condition of alleyways and bridleways in the Borough by;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. establishing ownership of all alleyways/bridleways within the Borough to enable swift action to be taken on ad-hoc cleaning/fly-tipping issues</i> <i>2. introducing a cleaning maintenance programme for alleyways and bridleways within the Borough that are within its ownership</i> <i>3. encouraging partner organisations to introduce a similar cleaning maintenance programme where alleyways and bridleways are within their ownership/responsibility’</i> <p>The Leader to respond</p>	
12.	<p>MOTIONS ON NOTICE</p> <p>In accordance with the Constitution, motions on notice must be signed by at least two Members and be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Melton Borough.</p> <p>No motions were received</p>	
13.	<p>ADOPTION OF REFRESHED CORPORATE STRATEGY 2020-2024 AND COVID-19 RECOVERY UPDATE</p> <p>To consider the refreshed Corporate Strategy and note the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and the actions the Council is taking as a result</p>	21 - 28
14.	<p>CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL</p> <p>There are no recommendations from Cabinet for the Council to consider at this meeting</p>	
15.	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES</p> <p>There are no recommendations or reports from committees</p>	

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Minutes

Meeting name	Council
Date	Wednesday, 22 July 2020
Start time	6.30 pm
Venue	By remote video conference

Present:

Chair Councillor M. Graham MBE (Chair)

Councillors

P. Faulkner (Vice-Chair)	R. Bindloss
R. Browne	S. Carter
P. Chandler	P. Cumbers
R. de Burle	J. Douglas
C. Evans	A. Freer-Jones
M. Glancy	L. Higgins
E. Holmes	J. Illingworth
S. Lumley	J. Orson
A. Pearson	P. Posnett MBE
D. Pritchett	R. Smedley
M. Steadman	J. Wilkinson
P. Wood	

Officers

- Chief Executive
- Director for Governance and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
- Director for Growth and Regeneration
- Director for Housing and Communities
- Assistant Director for Planning and Delivery
- Corporate Services Manager
- Democratic Services Manager
- Democratic Services Officer (SE)

The Reverend Kevin Ashby offered prayers.

Minute No.	Minute
	<p>MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Mayor announced that as the meeting was to be held as a remote conference on Zoom, any Member participating by remote link who declared an interest in any item of business in terms which required them to leave the room must ensure that they cannot be seen or heard during the agenda item.</p> <p>He explained the process for connection failure and that should the link not be re-established before the end of the meeting then the presumption would be that the meeting should continue to deal with the item providing the meeting remains quorate. Should the meeting no longer be quorate the meeting shall be adjourned and any remaining items of business would be deferred. Any Member who had been absent from the debate on a particular item due to connection failure must abstain from the vote on that item.</p> <p>The Mayor explained that Members would use the functionality of the software to speak and each Member would be asked in turn for their vote at the appropriate time.</p> <p>He advised that the meeting would be recorded and live-streamed on You Tube.</p>
CO13	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Child, Fisher and Hewson. Councillor Bains was also not present.</p>
CO14	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>(a) The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2020 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.</p> <p>(b) The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14 May 2020 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.</p>
CO15	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Councillors Orson, Pearson and Posnett MBE each declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due to their roles as County Councillors.</p> <p><u>Minute CO27 : Motion - Release of Sky Lanterns and Balloons</u></p> <p>Councillors Chandler, Holmes and Orson advised that they were members of the National Farmers' Union and asked for this to be recorded in relation to this item.</p>
CO16	<p>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>The Mayor advised that he had no activities to report since the Annual Meeting. He understood there had been a suggestion for a remote VJ service in August and would represent the Borough if this went ahead. He hoped to be able to handover the chain of office at the September Council meeting.</p>

CO17

LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader congratulated the Mayor on his video speech and raising of the flag to celebrate Armed Forces Day.

The Leader stated

'Tonight we have some important business on our agenda relating to finance, the establishment of a constitutional review group and reviewing the annual report from our scrutiny committee. We also have three important motions that I look forward to discussing with all members later.

First of all I would like to raise the crisis impacting on the agricultural industry throughout the Melton Borough. Agriculture is still one of our largest employers and very valuable to Melton Mowbray. Agriculture has been subjected to a combination of events which have created a perfect storm which started with the torrential rainfall on 29th September 2019 and continued throughout the whole of October, November, December, January and into February. This area was affected more than others and I have witnessed the terrible state of the crops first hand from my frequent journeys to Kings Lynn. All this is on top of the impact of Covid which has also hit the hospitality and dairy farm industry. I applaud the Government's financial aid to dairy farmers but farmers mainly work alone and there are concerns for their mental health too. To discuss how the Council can support farmers through this crisis, I will be initiating a meeting between the Council and the National Farmers' Union.

We are now in our fourth month responding to the Coronavirus outbreak and I want to, once again, reiterate my sincere thanks and gratitude for the way this Council has responded. Working with our community and voluntary partners, our Community Hub has delivered over 2,200 food parcels and over 200 prescriptions. Through the government business grants we have paid out nearly £11m to over 950 businesses, as well as providing guidance and support. Throughout this entire time I am proud that we can say we have been 'here for Melton' and we will continue to be so now and in the future.

The pandemic has clearly had a significant impact both in terms of public health and the economy and we are now refocussing on recovery and how we support our communities and businesses to rebuild. It is not going to be easy and that is why we are calling upon government to do more to support us financially as we lead the local response. At a time when the demand for our services, and need for our support, have never been greater, we are finding ourselves under significant financial pressure. Yes, the government has supported local councils but we are concerned they have not taken account of our individual circumstances and we may still be left with a sizeable gap. We are still working through the details of the third round of funding but please be assured that if the funding remains insufficient I will be writing directly to the Secretary of State to make our case for additional help.

As lockdown has started to ease, we have worked closely with local partners to ensure a successful retail, and then more recently, hospitality sector reopening. It has been pleasing to see that the measures introduced have allowed these businesses to reopen safely and the people of Melton have responded very positively. We have also been working hard to enable local businesses to recover as quickly as possible. As well as the grants schemes mentioned earlier we facilitated a business webinar a few weeks ago and relaxed regulations so those providing hospitality can maximise outdoor space. We have also facilitated the start of a new café culture which we hope will start to develop further and help the reinvigoration of our town.

Alongside the response and recovery, other areas of business continue. The recent meeting of the Housing Improvement Board continues to show we are making positive progress in this important area of business. As we have got to grips with our long standing housing challenge, health and safety has been of paramount importance the whole time and I am delighted that the steps we have taken to increase compliance over the last year are more and more becoming business as usual.

In mid-June we launched our new customer self-service platform, IEG4. This replaced a number of older systems and will enable the Council to significantly improve its online offer to residents. Over the next month we will be increasing our promotion of the new system and encouraging residents to sign up to more online services.

We await the government's white paper into Devolution which we understand is due to be published in the Autumn. We will obviously digest the contents with our neighbouring councils and will consider how we can ensure we are best placed to secure the required increase in investment and focus the East Midlands requires. As you will be aware, improving rail connectivity between Melton and Nottingham has been a long standing aspiration of mine and building on work we undertook last year, alongside our MP, we recently submitted a bid to government for further funding to develop the business case and create a direct access through Syston. I look forward to receiving the outcome from this bid later in the year.

I will now turn to the latest developments in relation to the relief road. Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to the officers of this council for their incredible work to deliver a robust and credible Masterplan within the timescales required. At a time when the vast majority of our resources were being refocussed on responding to the crisis we maintained a commitment to this priority and did not let ourselves or our community down.

I am though very frustrated and disappointed by the approach taken by Leicestershire County Council and their attempt to blame this council for their decision not to accept the Housing Infrastructure Fund. From the outset I must start by reminding everyone that they are the highways authority and they are the education authority. We have worked with them and will continue to do so, but the bottom-line is that if they choose not to accept the Housing Infrastructure Fund then

it is a matter for them, and something for which they must accept responsibility.

It is worth reminding ourselves of what has taken place to get us to this point:

- 1. In October 2018 our Local Plan was adopted, which included the three parts of the relief road but no secondary school.*
- 2. Even before the ink was dry on our Local Plan, the County Council massively increased their requirements for developer contributions for education which created the need for additional primary schools and another secondary school which weren't in the original plan.*
- 3. Inevitably this put huge pressure on viability, but we have worked with them to overcome this and in November 2019 we agreed the basis of a risk share agreement to support infrastructure costs.*
- 4. We understood that everything was then in place for the Housing Infrastructure Funding to be secured but in February 2020 the goal posts changed again and they now needed the Masterplan to be completed before they would accept the HIF money.*
- 5. Even in the middle of the current crisis we diverted resources to accelerate delivery of the Masterplan, which we did on time and to an excellent standard.*
- 6. Now they tell us that is not enough and we have to provide a 'guarantee' on developer contributions.*

So what exactly does a guarantee mean? They haven't told us, but in the last 5 years, Melton Borough Council has secured over £32m towards County Council services and infrastructure. This compares to just £3m secured for all other agencies including ourselves during that time. £25m of this is for the MMDR and education. Of the 55 s106 agreements processed during that time there are only 2 where the County Council's full requests have not been met; and the value of these was very low. In financial terms over the last 5 years Melton Borough Council has secured 99.5% of what the County Council has asked for. If this level of past performance doesn't provide the required assurance or the 'guarantee', what would? 99.7%, 99.9%? What more do they want?

As recently as April we offered to form a joint delivery team with the County Council so that we could work together on securing the HIF. This was rejected by them.

We remain ready to refresh the current viability appraisal and work with the County Council on a development strategy which could be completed in a matter of weeks. We are happy to review options which would assist with improving viability and which could still see the HIF money secured.

Melton Borough Council has done everything it possibly can to deliver the road and to suggest otherwise is both illogical and totally unjustified. This is their responsibility and they cannot just pass the buck.

I feel I also have to share my disappointment in relation to the conduct of the Leicestershire County Council colleagues at their recent Cabinet meeting where this was discussed.

At a time of national crisis, we should all be working together for the benefit of our communities, not seeking to disrespect, criticise or undermine each other. There is a £30m investment in Melton at stake and seeing County Council Cabinet Members, smirking and making some highly unprofessional comments about Melton Borough Council during their meeting was totally inappropriate and unjustified. I am also extremely concerned by some of the reasons their Cabinet gave for not accepting the HIF money.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources suggested the development of the Masterplan had not involved the Developers. This is just plain wrong and the main developers were fully engaged in the process and supportive of the preferred options. With the question of viability such a key consideration, it is deeply troubling that his decision was made on the basis of this inaccurate understanding.

Equally concerning was the suggestion by the former Portfolio Holder for Children's Services that the level of developer contributions associated with a live, undetermined planning application was a justification for refusing the HIF money. As mentioned previously, our performance in securing infrastructure funding for the County Council is impeccable, with 99.5% of requests secured over the last 5 years. There is simply no justification for refusing the HIF money on this basis.

I raised this very point with the County Council's Portfolio Holder for highways at the recent Members Advisory Group, and challenged him to explain his own reasoning for rejecting the money and what he was going to do about the risk it creates for infrastructure delivery more generally across Leicestershire. He did not respond.

It was ironic that the County's Deputy Leader articulated precisely the challenge faced by planning authorities like ourselves; sharing his experience of developers wanting to renegotiate s106 agreements. We certainly recognise that challenge and I would also welcome his thoughts for how we might prevent that in future - if we are to provide the kind of 'guarantee' seemingly required by the County Council?

We fully appreciate the significant risk faced by the County Council in relation to infrastructure funding, but as I have demonstrated, we have done all we can to support them – delivering our Local Plan, establishing the basis for a risk share agreement, securing 99.5% of developer contributions they have asked for and completing the Masterplan on time. If the County Council chose not to accept the HIF money it is their decision, and their failure to follow through on the commitment they made. If that is what they want to do, they need to grow up, be brave and accept responsibility for that decision, rather than blaming us or anyone else.

We continue to liaise with Homes England and even now, we stand ready to work with the County Council, in good faith, to secure the HIF money and deliver the road. It is not too late and we await their response.'

Councillor Holmes thanked the Leader for taking the time to look into the difficulties

	<p>faced by the agricultural industry and offered her support in providing statistics during this time.</p> <p>Councillor Cumbers agreed that it was a sensible approach to meet with the NFU and work out a way forward to help the local farming industry.</p> <p>The Leader thanked the Councillors for their comments and for recognising the seriousness of the situation that farmers are facing at the current time.</p>
CO18	<p>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>There were no public questions received.</p>
CO19	<p>CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL</p> <p>The Council received the following two reports and recommendations from Cabinet for determination.</p> <p><u>(a) TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20</u></p> <p>Councillor de Burle, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Resources, moved the recommendation and drew Members' attention to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Treasury Management Annual Report was presented to Council following its scrutiny by Cabinet in the previous week • Treasury management was about managing the Council's resources effectively to maximise on any benefits that could be achieved from it • The team had a consistent record of over performance demonstrated against a reference group made up of other public bodies • The investment return for the year averaged out at 1.25% which was an increase over 2018/19 and generated an additional £138k more than was budgeted for across General Fund and Housing Revenue Account • The Council's activities in 2019/20 produced a total of £310k in income for which the Team should be thanked • Regrettably advised that the outlook for 2020/21 was very challenging with Covid impacting negatively on investment returns from reduced rates and the lower cash balances available for investment <p>Councillor Orson seconded the motion.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u></p> <p>To APPROVE the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2019-20.</p> <p><u>(b) GENERAL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT 2019/20 - PROVISIONAL YEAR END POSITION</u></p>

Councillor de Burle, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Resources, moved the recommendation and drew Members' attention to the following:

- Due to resources being diverted to the Covid pandemic, it was an achievement that the accounts had been closed for 2019/20;
- There was a slight understand on budgets at the year end and a larger underspend on special expenses;
- The financial impact of the pandemic was significant and the Council was going to have to exercise extreme caution on its activities from hereon;
- There was still much uncertainty on the residual amount the Council may have to fund from its own resources;
- The longer term impact would be greater including debt collection and how much the Council would be able to recover;
- The pandemic would restrict the Council's ability to fund risk assessed eventualities from the unallocated reserves as there was a massive demand on these reserves;
- The Council was carefully monitoring reserves, looking for savings, assessing unspent budgets in quarter 1 and options to mitigate unfunded Covid costs;
- Cabinet recommended that £300k be reallocated to support any unfunded Covid expenditure. This reserve had been increased at it was felt appropriate at this time to reallocate a portion to offset ;
- The situation was ever changing and was constantly under review but the situation remained challenging.

Councillor Orson seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

To **APPROVE** the allocation of £300k of the business rates equalisation reserve to support any unfunded Covid-19 expenditure.

CO20

REVIEW OF CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

Councillor Freer-Jones, Portfolio Holder for Climate, Access and Engagement, presented a report to consider proposed amendments to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and moved the recommendation. She then drew Members' attention to the following:

- These new rules had been subject to extensive review by Welland Procurement to ensure they reflected changes in the Law, best practice and changes required that result from internal reviews on how the Council operated. There had also been extensive engagement with internal stakeholders;
- The Contract Procedure Rules were supported by the Procurement Toolkit

which was intended to be a reference point for officers when undertaking a procurement exercise;

- Cabinet also approved the 2020-2024 Annual Procurement Appraisal and Framework on 15 July 2020, which set out how the Council would promote effective procurement across the Council, as well as summarised how the Council would adopt a strategic approach to sustainable procurement based on national and regional drivers, best practice and recommendations on sustainable procurement;
- Subject to approval, the updated Contract Procedure Rules would come in to effect from 1 September 2020, and would be incorporated into the Constitution accordingly. This deferred effective date would allow sufficient time for Council Officers to receive training.

Councillor ORSON seconded the motion

Councillor Evans moved an amendment that the following be added to the end of the motion as follows:

'And this document is referred back to the Audit and Standards Committee for review to include the risks and benefits to Melton Borough Council as host of the Welland procurement and providing procedures to Member Councils.'

Councillor Pritchett seconded the amendment.

Councillor Freer-Jones sought clarity on the validity of the amendment from the Monitoring Officer and it was established that the amendment was acceptable as it was not in disagreement with the document but was adding to the existing motion.

(The Mayor lost remote connection, the meeting was silent whilst waiting for the Mayor to re-join and he regained connection after a short period.)

Councillor Pritchett explained his reasoning for the amendment which was to refer the document back to the Audit and Standards Committee for further review to consider risks as well as other concerns relating to procedures which he felt needed more detail and depth. If the amendment was not accepted he would vote against the motion and ask for his vote to be recorded.

The Leader felt the document had previously been reviewed and reflected best practice therefore he would vote for the motion.

Councillor Freer-Jones felt that the amendment could have been previously raised to enable more preparation and a discussion on what was required. As it stood she felt unclear as to what was requested.

It was suggested that the review could go through the proposed new Constitution Review Working Group and this would be the appropriate way forward for a constitutional matter. Councillor Freer-Jones accepted this approach.

However Councillor Evans felt that the Audit and Standards Committee was best qualified to review this type of document and his amendment stood although he

understood the Constitution Review Working Group would consider the document for inclusion in the Constitution. Councillor Pritchett was in agreement with this approach.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

RESOLVED

To **APPROVE** the updated Contract Procedure Rules as attached in Appendix A, with an implementation date of 1st September 2020 (to allow sufficient time for Council Officers to receive training) and this document is referred back to the Audit and Standards Committee for review to include the risks and benefits to Melton Borough Council as host of the Welland procurement and providing procedures to Member Councils.

CO21

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Councillor Cumbers, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, proposed the report for noting which gave an overview of the work done by the Scrutiny Committee during the year 2019/20 and gave a brief introduction as follows:

- Thanked the Scrutiny Committee Members for their enthusiasm for their work and the Democratic Services Team for their support;
- The Scrutiny Annual Report was considered good practice and was an excellent opportunity to highlight the work of the Committee throughout the year and also report on outcomes and proposals for improvement for the coming Municipal Year. The Scrutiny Committee reviewed and approved the report at its meeting in March 2020;
- She hoped that Members would agree that they had developed a sound foundation for the work of Scrutiny in its inaugural year; working collaboratively with Cabinet; challenging in an open and constructive way; developing relationships with officers; to ensure outcome based focus and maintaining an outcomes-based focus on improving delivery of services to the community;
- There was still much to do, the report details some proposals for the coming year and the Committee would also continue to self-evaluate and respond to feedback on how it could improve and develop. The Committee was currently developing its annual work plan, unfortunately this had been delayed by the current national crisis but they began this work at a very productive Scrutiny Workshop last week and they hoped to finalise at the September meeting;
- She was pleased to be able to highlight the work of the Committee and increase the profile of Scrutiny across the Council and externally and welcomed comments from Members.

Councillor Bindloss seconded.

The Leader thanked the Scrutiny Committee and explained that Cabinet and Scrutiny worked hand in hand. They had produced some good work and looked forward to challenging work in the future.

Councillor Cumbers thanked the Leader for his comments and reiterated that Scrutiny had a good working relationship with the Cabinet.

	The Council NOTED the Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20 (Appendix A).
CO22	<p>REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer introduced a report for the Council to approve the revised political balance calculations and allocation of seats on committees in accordance with statutory requirements (as set out in the report) following an event that altered the political balance between the Groups.</p> <p>Councillor ORSON moved the recommendations and provided a brief introduction to the report.</p> <p>Councillor HIGGINS seconded the motion.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u></p> <p>(1) To APPROVE the political balance calculations at paragraph 4.1 of the report;</p> <p>(2) To APPROVE the allocation of seats to Political Groups shown at paragraph 4.2 of the report;</p> <p>(3) To APPROVE the election of Councillor Mel Steadman as Chairman to the Licensing Committee and Councillor Tejpal Bains as Vice Chairman to the Licensing Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/21.</p>
CO23	<p>ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING GROUP</p> <p>Councillor Freer-Jones, Portfolio Holder for Climate, Access and Engagement, moved the recommendations and gave a brief introduction to the report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Annual Council Meeting held on 14 May 2020, the Leader of the Council committed to the establishment of a Constitution Review Working Group which would be responsible for regular review of the constitution, ensuring that it remains relevant, accurate and lawful; • The report and the accompanying Terms of Reference specify that the group should have cross-party membership to ensure that there was representation across the whole council. • It was proposed that the group would look at both general and more specific reviews of the Constitution. The group would undertake these reviews in the light of changes to legislation, amendments to Council policy and procedure and accepted best practice. The group would formulate reports and draft changes to the Constitution, which would then be considered by Council; • The proposal was to also include the Member Development Group in the remit of the Group to allow for efficiencies. • Details on the purpose, scope and composition of the group were set out in the report and the Terms of Reference at Appendix A and she welcomed questions. <p>Councillor Orson seconded the motion.</p> <p>Councillor Evans proposed an amendment to recommendations 2 and 3 of the report and considered that political balance should be adhered to as representatives of the Council and the group be made up of 4 Members being 3 Conservatives and 1 Opposition Member. He added that the non-aligned Members had not formed a group and could not represent each other.</p>

	<p>Councillor Orson stated that he would vote against the amendment as the existing composition reflected the whole Council. He added that the non-aligned Members had agreed between them that Councillor Illingworth would take the non-aligned seat.</p> <p>On being put to the vote the amendment FELL.</p> <p>Debate continued on the substantive motion:</p> <p>Councillor Holmes said that she had previously been a single Councillor in opposition and explained that the LGA stance was to include independent Councillors where possible.</p> <p>Councillor Freer-Jones also felt that there should be representation across the whole Council and the motion was more inclusive than the amendment.</p> <p>Councillor Lumley advised that due to an impending investigation, he chose not be appointed to any committees or groups at this time but understood Councillor Holmes' point.</p> <p><i>(Councillor Chandler lost remote connection during this item and was not present for the vote.)</i></p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u></p> <p>(1) To APPROVE the establishment of the Constitution Review Working Group;</p> <p>(2) To APPROVE the purpose, remit and composition of the group as set out in the Terms of Reference (Appendix A);</p> <p>(3) To APPROVE the membership of the working group for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/21 (Appendix B);</p> <p>(4) To AMEND Chapter 2, Part 6 of the MBC Constitution to reflect amendments to the delegations as described in Section 5.</p>
CO24	<p>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS</p> <p>There were no questions from Members received.</p>
CO25	<p>MOTIONS ON NOTICE</p> <p>In accordance with the Constitution, motions on notice must be signed by at least two Members and be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Melton Borough. The following three motions met the constitutional requirement and were considered by the Council.</p>
CO26	<p>MOTION - ANTI-RACISM</p> <p>In support of the motion, Councillor Orson said</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'We live in unprecedented times, but despite the heavy burden placed upon us all by this crisis, I am incredibly proud of how both our community and this</i>

council has responded. Melton is an amazing place and it is a great privilege to live here and serve here, but we cannot ignore that covid-19 will mean that the things which make our communities unequal will become even more pronounced;

- Now more than ever we will need to redouble our efforts to challenge disadvantage and discrimination and ensure we lead from the front in seeking a fair and inclusive society for all;*
- The tragic death of George Floyd and the outpouring of concern expressed by millions across the country highlights the very real issues that many face and reminds us that we must not be complacent, and that we must keep up the fight against racism, discrimination and inequality;*
- As a Council we need to continuously challenge ourselves, by asking what we can do better, we must create an environment where everyone, from any racial background feels able to speak up and expose racism with the confidence that the Council will respond in a supportive and proactive way. We must better understand the views of those who feel disadvantaged in our society and we must seek out and tackle discrimination and prejudice wherever it exists. We should not re-write our history but must learn from mistakes of the past and ensure they are not repeated;*
- We must recognise the unconscious bias within us all, which will shape our thinking and influence our behaviours, and which can lead to inadvertent discrimination. And let's be clear, whether intentional or not, discrimination is discrimination and we must all take responsibility for the impact of our own biases and prejudices and work to combat them;*
- This Council welcomes and values the diversity of its workforce, the people and the communities in the Borough, and everyone who uses our services. The strength of our organisation comes from the richness of our diversity and all that we can learn from each other. We are all worthy of respect and dignity, and all of us should be judged by our actions not by the colour of our skin or any other innate characteristic. We must work hard to promote inclusivity and celebrate diversity, I know that we are working hard to achieve this throughout the organisation, but we must continue to look for ways in which we can improve;*
- As leaders of this organisation we must not shy away from difficult conversations, but rather foster an environment where questions can be asked and honest self-reflection encouraged. We should recognise these are complex issues and should approach them with gentle humility, rather than arrogance and pomposity. We should encourage debate and discussion such that we collectively learn and develop, rather than becoming more entrenched in our views. Through our collective dialogue and determination to do better and tackle discrimination we can respond to any inadequacies with an optimistic spirit and positive action;*
- I would therefore request that Members join me in supporting the following motion.'*

The Council resolves :

To reaffirm its commitment to promoting equality and fairness for all, and condemns any and all forms of racism and all discrimination; wherever it is found.

As a Council to challenge ourselves to do more and commit to do the following

- Develop our councillors and workforce and take time to learn more about racism and understand the impact on our communities.

- Deliver the objectives set out in the Corporate Equalities Policy;
- Ask the Council's Scrutiny Committee to consider the government's recently published "Covid-19: Understanding the impact on BAME communities" report and consider the implications for Council services and the community and make recommendations to Cabinet as to how the Council should respond; and
- Designate one elected member as an Equalities Champion who will work with the Council's Equalities lead officer on this agenda, providing further challenge and support to officers, Cabinet and Council as appropriate

(Councillor Chandler here re-joined the meeting.)

Councillor Browne seconded the motion and relayed his personal experiences of racism from living in Northern Ireland during the troubles and emphasised how important it was for leaders to work together and ensure all people were able to integrate together.

Councillor Evans felt this was a sensitive subject area and although he supported the motion he considered there were bigger issues to deal with during the pandemic.

Several Members spoke in support of the motion and it was suggested that equalities training be arranged for Members and Officers to attend together.

RESOLVED

To reaffirm its commitment to promoting equality and fairness for all, and condemns any and all forms of racism and all discrimination; wherever it is found.

As a Council to challenge ourselves to do more and commit to do the following

- Develop our councillors and workforce and take time to learn more about racism and understand the impact on our communities.
- Deliver the objectives set out in the Corporate Equalities Policy;
- Ask the Council's Scrutiny Committee to consider the government's recently published "Covid-19: Understanding the impact on BAME communities" report and consider the implications for Council services and the community and make recommendations to Cabinet as to how the Council should respond; and
- Designate one elected member as an Equalities Champion who will work with the Council's Equalities lead officer on this agenda, providing further challenge and support to officers, Cabinet and Council as appropriate

(Unanimous)

(Councillor Illingworth left the meeting during the preceding item and on leaving expressed his support for the motion and that he would have voted in favour had he been present at the time of the vote.)

(Councillor Wood left the meeting during the preceding item and did not vote

thereon.)

CO27

MOTION - RELEASE OF SKY LANTERNS AND BALLOONS

In support of the motion, Councillor Orson said

- *'Many organisations have drawn attention to the problem of sky lantern and balloon releases and the call to ban such releases nationally is supported by the Marine Conservation Society, RSPCA, RSPB, BASC and the National Farmers' Union;*
- *Releasing of sky lanterns may appear an impressive sight, but they can be dangerous and there is no way of predicting where they will land;*
- *Some of the main dangers include:*
 - *Lanterns have caused fires on an industrial scale; destroying acres of crops, farm buildings and stored food supplies as well as killing or injuring farm animals;*
 - *Lanterns and balloons cause significant litter problems on land and sea posing a risk to livestock and marine animals which mistake balloons for food;*
 - *Lanterns being mistaken for distress flares increasing false alarm call outs in coastal areas; and*
 - *Lanterns and balloons causing Injury or death to animals through ingestion, entanglement and entrapment.*
- *Numerous UK local authorities have agreed to implement a ban on balloon and lantern releases on their land as a result of increasing concerns relating to the dangers highlighted above;*
- *There is currently no UK legislation available to control this issue, but in order to demonstrate the Council's continued commitment to improving the attractiveness of the Borough and tackling the detrimental impact of debris resulting from such releases, I propose that Council supports the following motion:'*

The Council resolves :

- To ban the use and release of sky lanterns and helium balloons meant for release on all Council-owned public open space;
- To discourage the release of Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons at any events licensed by Melton Borough Council and request third parties who lease Council property to observe the ban on balloon and sky lantern releases;
- To delegate authority to the Director for Governance and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate, Access and Engagement to make any consequential changes to Council policies and agreements in relation to the use of Council land as a result of this motion;
- To promote information to local people, leading to better understanding of the damage sky lanterns do

Councillor Freer-Jones seconded the motion and explained that these lanterns and balloons caused nuisance and pressure on the emergency services due to false alarms and distress signals raised when they landed.

Members were in support of the motion and raised concerns as to how they could be stopped and what were the enforcement arrangements.

The Leader responded that Councils had to show leadership and place pressure on Government for legislation and he would contact the local MP to raise the issue. The Regulatory Team would enforce the Council's decision.

RESOLVED

- To ban the use and release of sky lanterns and helium balloons meant for release on all Council-owned public open space;
- To discourage the release of Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons at any events licensed by Melton Borough Council and request third parties who lease Council property to observe the ban on balloon and sky lantern releases;
- To delegate authority to the Director for Governance and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate, Access and Engagement to make any consequential changes to Council policies and agreements in relation to the use of Council land as a result of this motion;
- To promote information to local people, leading to better understanding of the damage sky lanterns do

(Unanimous)

(Although not present at the meeting, it was requested that Councillor Hewson's support for the motion be reported in the minutes.)

CO28

MOTION - FAIRTRADE

Councillor Smedley outlined a revised motion set out below which had been previously circulated to Members. Councillor Smedley proposed the motion and gave the following introduction:

- *'Since the FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the UK in 1994 consumer demand for these products has grown and this is thanks to the efforts of grassroots campaigners and pioneering businesses.*
- *I believe that that the recently agreed International Fair Trade Charter should be welcomed as it rightfully states that rising inequality, entrenched poverty and a deepening ecological crisis have led the global community to seek different models of business and trade that drive fair and sustainable economies.*
- *The Fairtrade principles of paying a 'premium' that is wholly managed by farmers and workers themselves, and of minimum prices to protect producers from market volatility are crucial to systemic change.*
- *I strongly believe that local authorities and other public bodies should support this fantastic cause that improves the standard of living for so many people less fortunate than ourselves ensuring that they are free of exploitation modern slavery.'*

The revised motion was as follows:

The Council resolves :

- To support the Melton Fairtrade Borough Steering Group in their 2019 renewal application, to renew Melton Borough's Fairtrade status.

- To actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- To support the promotion and use of Fairtrade refreshments within the Council premises, including meeting rooms, community centres and Council Offices.

Councillor Orson seconded the motion and congratulated Councillor Smedley on her commitment in drafting and presenting this motion.

There were some Member comments relating to the cost and quality of Fairtrade products especially those used previously at the Council Offices. It was noted the Fairtrade did not produce milk and therefore had no impact on local dairy farmers. However there was concern that products should be locally sourced where possible.

Councillor Smedley responded that Fairtrade was a choice and was not to be forced on people but it was about promoting Fairtrade suppliers and by purchasing the products customers were helping someone a lot less fortunate than themselves. Most products available under the Fairtrade umbrella could not be sourced or produced locally.

RESOLVED

- To support the Melton Fairtrade Borough Steering Group in their 2019 renewal application, to renew Melton Borough's Fairtrade status.
- To actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- To support the promotion and use of Fairtrade refreshments within the Council premises, including meeting rooms, community centres and Council Offices.

CO29	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES There were no recommendations and reports from Committees.</p>
CO30	<p>REPORT ON CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS The Council considered a report on the use of the Chief Executive's Emergency Powers under Section 12.3 of Chapter 2, Part 4 of the Melton Borough Council Constitution (Officer Scheme of Delegation).</p> <p>Councillor Orson moved the recommendation to note the decisions made by the Chief Executive under emergency powers. Councillor Higgins seconded the motion.</p> <p>The Council NOTED the decisions made by the Chief Executive under emergency powers.</p>

The meeting closed at: 9.20 pm

Mayor

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Advice on Members' Interests

COUNCIL MEETINGS - COMMITTEE MINUTES : DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Interests need not be declared at Full Council in relation to Committee Minutes which do not become the subject of debate at Full Council (i.e. Minutes referred to solely on a page by page basis when working through the Minutes of each Committee.)

An interest must be declared at Full Council as soon as it becomes apparent that a relevant Committee Minute is to be debated – this applies even if an interest has been declared at Committee and is recorded in the Minutes of that Committee.

PERSONAL AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

If the issue being discussed affects you, your family or a close associate more than other people in the area, you have a personal and non-pecuniary interest. You also have a personal interest if the issue relates to an interest you must register under paragraph 9 of the Members' Code of Conduct.

You must state that you have a personal and non-pecuniary interest and the nature of your interest. You may stay, take part and vote in the meeting.

PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

If a member of the public, who knows all the relevant facts, would view your personal interest in the issue being discussed to be so great that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest and it affects your or the other person or bodies' financial position or relates to any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration then **you must state that you have a pecuniary interest, the nature of the interest and you must leave the room***. You must not seek improperly to influence a decision on that matter unless you have previously obtained a dispensation from the Authority's Audit and Standards Committee.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

If you are present at any meeting of the Council and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered or being considered at the meeting, if the interest is not already registered, you must disclose the interest to the meeting. You must not participate in the discussion or the vote and you must leave the room.

You may not attend a meeting or stay in the room as either an Observer Councillor or *Ward Councillor or as a member of the public if you have a pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interest*.

BIAS

If you have been involved in an issue in such a manner or to such an extent that the public are likely to perceive you to be biased in your judgement of the public interest (bias) then you should not take part in the decision-making process; you should leave the room. **You should state that your position in this matter prohibits you from taking part.** You may request permission of the Chair to address the meeting prior to leaving the room. The Chair will need to assess whether you have a useful contribution to make or whether complying with this request would prejudice the proceedings. A personal, pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interest will take precedence over bias.

In each case above, you should make your declaration at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as you are aware of the issue being discussed.*

*There are some exceptions – please refer to paragraphs 3.12(2) and 3.12(3) of the Code of Conduct

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Helping people | Shaping places



Council

23 September 2020

Report of: Councillor Joe Orson - Leader of the Council

Adoption of refreshed Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 and Covid-19 Recovery Update

Corporate Priority:	The Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 creates a set of Corporate priorities for the next 4 years.
Relevant Ward Member(s):	All
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	N/A
Exempt Information:	No

1 Summary

1.1 In February 2020, the Council approved a new Corporate Strategy 2020-2024, just prior to the national lockdown and the start of the Covid-19 crisis. Since then the Council has led the local response and initial recovery, and has reviewed and reflected upon the implications for our strategy. In this context, this report provides a summary of the coronavirus response to date and sets out the proposed updated Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 for approval. The strategy sets out the Council’s Mission, Vision, Values, and refreshed Priorities and Key Actions for the coming 4 years. It has been developed taking into account the current and anticipated challenges facing the Council and the community and draws upon evidence, including the results from the Residents’ Survey and public consultation.

2 Recommendation(s)

<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the updated Corporate Strategy as attached at Appendix A. 2. Notes the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and the actions the Council is taking as a result.

3 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 To set the strategic direction of the Council for the next four years and to establish a set of affordable corporate priorities which provide clarity and focus at a time of ongoing significant financial pressures.
- 3.2 The new strategy seeks to find a balance between affordability and ambition; a balance between investing in core services and new initiatives and has been updated to factor in the ongoing impacts of Covid-19.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Council approved a new Corporate Strategy for the period 2020 to 2024 in February 2020 alongside setting a balanced budget for the 2020/21 financial year. The aim of this strategy was to set the strategic direction of the Council for the next four years and to establish a set of affordable corporate priorities which provide clarity and focus at a time of ongoing significant financial pressures. The development of the strategy followed wide ranging community engagement.
- 4.2 The impact of the Covid-19 crisis prevented the strategy being publically launched. As the Council has responded to the crisis and developed its strategy for recovery, it was appropriate and necessary to reconsider the Corporate Strategy and what amendments may be required to ensure it appropriately captures future actions and focus required as a result.

5 Main Considerations

- 5.1 The implications and impact of Covid-19 on our communities and businesses are and will be significant. To facilitate a comprehensive review of the Corporate Strategy, members and officers have worked through the impact both alongside the Scrutiny Committee and more broadly through strategic development sessions with all Members. Whilst it has been agreed that many of the original priorities and focus remain appropriate, the Corporate Strategy has now been updated to reflect the changing needs and the Council's response to Covid-19. The refreshed strategy document is attached at Appendix A.
- 5.2 Following the national lockdown, as government guidance allowed restrictions to ease, the Council moved to getting services restarted. Alongside this the Council has undertaken impact assessments and established recovery plans in relation to the following themes:
- Place, Town Centre and Economy
 - People and Communities
 - Environment and Infrastructure
 - Melton Borough Council as an organisation

These themes and the associated assessment have informed the development of the updated strategy.

- 5.3 The key changes to the original strategy arising from the Covid-19 pandemic are as follows:

Greater emphasis on supporting the impacts on the community within Priority 1: It is anticipated there will be increases in unemployment and financial, mental wellbeing and physical health needs. The Council had already made commitments to refocus and integrate the way it provides support to residents in need and the learning from the success of the Community Support hub will be incorporated into any new approach.

Greater emphasis on finding more sustainable solutions to homelessness and temporary accommodation: The Council's commitment to improve council homes and landlord services remains unchanged but now includes an additional focus on utilising existing and new stock to provide better temporary accommodation for those who need it.

Reaffirmation of delivering inclusive growth: The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated inequalities and made them more pronounced. The Council's commitment to inclusive growth, aligned with the government's levelling up agenda, has never been more important. The strategy retains the clear commitment to deliver a number of key priorities; including the Manufacturing Zones, using our assets for housing, securing a sustainable future for the Melton Sports Village and lobbying for a second GP surgery. It also refocuses activity on supporting the town centre recovery and refocussing the rural pub scheme to support the wider hospitality and farming sector; so affected by the current situation.

Sustain the environmental benefits: Despite the huge challenges of lockdown, an unintended benefit was the reduction in carbon emissions and improvements in air quality. Despite the easing of restrictions, many continue to work from home and traffic levels and resultant pollution have not returned to pre-lockdown levels. There is an opportunity to reinforce and sustain increased utilisation of sustainable transport like cycling and the other existing commitments within the strategy.

Adapting to the 'new normal' with a new organisational operating model: Over the last six months the Council has had to reshape its operations to deliver many services remotely. The priorities within the 'Great Council' section have therefore changed to recognise that whilst face to face interactions will always be important there is a greater need to ensure the necessary support and infrastructure is in place to meet enhanced homeworking. This includes the need to respond to the different requirements for the associated ICT infrastructure, as well as taking into account changing customer expectations. Supporting these new areas of focus, the refreshed strategy also recognises the need to secure the Council's future financial sustainability in an even more challenging context. The Council's commitment to increase our community focus remains, but has been enhanced to solidify and intensify the tremendous community response and connections made through the crisis. It is hoped the Council can strike a new 'deal' to fundamentally reset how we work with and support those we serve.

- 5.4 The strategy is supported by a fuller list of management actions and a suite of performance measures is also being developed to monitor performance and achievement of the actions and priorities set out in the strategy. These will be reported to Cabinet on a regular basis.
- 5.5 Recognising the current situation remains dynamic the Council will keep the strategy under regular review and this will be supported through the recent establishment of the Scrutiny Recovery task and finish groups for People and Place who will be meeting regularly over the next six months.
- 5.6 A summary of some key actions and interventions undertaken by the Council in relation to the Covid-19 response is listed below:
- In implementing the governments Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant fund and Small Business grant fund alongside a subsequent Discretionary grant fund, £11.086m was paid to 1025 local businesses;

- Supported local Businesses by applying the government funded Retail discount and Nursey discount to over 350 eligible business rates accounts. With revised bills subsequently having been issued to those businesses;
- Nearly 3,000 food parcels and 200 prescriptions delivered by the Community Support hub volunteers;
- Worked with the local fire service to identify vulnerable tenants calling into the hub in relation to mental health and fire safety concerns. The fire service undertook a secondary triage with these individuals and offered further wraparound support. We were asked to share this good practice with other local authorities (not restricted to Leicestershire) and Chief Housing Officers Group;
- The Borough of Melton was recognised as one of the top 5 areas in the country for the proportion of NHS volunteer responders deployed;
- Melton have deployed 90% of the Borough's volunteers registered with Voluntary Action Leicester (VAL); the highest in the County. The volunteers were originally facilitated by the Community Hub with a handover to Voluntary Action Leicestershire (VAL) after VAL mobilised their site;
- The Council's community efforts were cited by the Local Government Association as best practice for Community Hubs and were also featured on BBC East Midlands Today;
- 20 remote meetings held sustaining the democratic process (Over 1000 YouTube views);
- Maintained strong communications both internally and externally with approx. 93k visits to our Covid-19 web pages ,over 200 social media messages and specific communications to staff through a dedicated "Lockdown Lowdown" newsletter;
- Supported the community with specific advice and support with 3442 Covid-19 calls handled and 1166 on line support requests dealt with;
- Processed 319 new claims for local council tax and housing benefit support in addition to applying 1393 accounts with additional government funded council tax support totalling £196,695.38;
- Provided an enhanced level of financial monitoring to ensure the financial impact of Covid-19 could be contained within the councils revenue budget and available reserves including the submission of numerous monitoring reports to central government tracking expenditure, lost income and the timely and accurate application of business and individual grant support;
- Provided direct financial support and worked alongside the leisure contractor to ensure Melton's leisure facilities were one of the first to open across the country/county;
- Ensured the town centre was up and ready for business post lockdown with 2m social distancing tape deployed over 2 kilometres of the town centre and town ambassadors available to support visitors over the initial days post lockdown;
- Barriers were erected from Market Place to Sage Cross Street to allow extra social distancing space for pedestrians. This was particularly useful where the railings from Market Place to Windsor Street restrict social distancing in a space where there were also queues for some businesses like The Yorkshire Trading Company. Also undertook regular disinfecting and increased cleansing of town centre touch points;
- Led on the reopening of the night time economy alongside partner agencies, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for visitors;

- Health and safety has been a priority for the Council with suitable PPE being provided to front line and other officers in line with the Government Guidance to enable them to continue supporting the community and businesses during the pandemic;
- Continued weekly doorstep waste collections throughout the lockdown period;
- Provided ongoing temporary accommodation to over 40 individuals at risk of rough sleeping due to the pandemic;
- Worked closely with LCC and Radis to ensure the effective safeguarding of vulnerable tenants at Gretton Court;
- Provided enhanced assurance over systems, processes and payments made to minimise the risk of fraud and irregularity at a time when the risk of fraud is at an enhanced level;
- Facilitated enhanced homeworking through reconfiguring IT equipment for home use where this was not previously the case for some users and dealt with a significant increase in calls to the ICT helpdesk with 380 additional calls being dealt with between March and August 2020;
- Alongside responding to the pandemic the Council was also able to deliver the launch of the new customer engagement platform and CRM system with IEG4. The Council also completed the Masterplanning of Melton South to support the development of new homes and infrastructure.

6 Options Considered

- 6.1 To continue with the Corporate Strategy as approved in February 2020. This is not recommended as it would not adequately reflect the actions identified through the Covid recovery and limit the Council's ability to meet the changing needs arising as a result.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 The original strategy was subject to significant consultation with staff at all levels, it was led and driven by the Cabinet and all Members had the opportunity to feed in through a strategic development day. Prior to its approval at Council in February 2020 it was considered by the Scrutiny committee.
- 7.2 A Residents' Survey was undertaken during June/July 2019 and this was used to inform the development of the original strategy. The data will also be used to provide a baseline to measure improvement during the delivery of the strategy. The survey was based on the Local Government Association Survey (to allow a comparison to be made on a national basis).
- 7.3 A consultation on the original Corporate Strategy themes, the key investment decisions needed to deliver the Strategy and some of the difficult decisions that need to be taken – including increasing car park charges was undertaken between 16 December 2019 and end 6 January 2020.
- 7.4 In developing the revised Corporate Strategy there has been extensive consultation with members including a Strategic Development session with all members followed by a specific Scrutiny meeting. Staff representatives were engaged through the Joint Staff Working Group. Partners and other stakeholders were engaged through the specific remote meetings held with them.

7.5 A Staff Survey has also been undertaken to further develop the organisational aspects of the Covid recovery to assess the workforce needs that should be considered and met as the council moves forward to implementation.

8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

8.1 Following approval a formal launch will be commenced. The establishment of a visually appealing version of the strategy will be published online and in print, and promoted through multiple media channels and circulated to key personnel, partners and businesses. A social media campaign is in place which is supported by a video that has been produced to support the communication with the wider community. Different versions of the video are available to support the longevity of the campaign.

8.2 Internally the message will be cascaded to colleagues through team meetings and a range of visual materials so the new priorities are easily understood. The areas of focus will form part of the appraisal process for all employees which will be rolled out before the end of the year. It is intended to build up a portfolio of “stories” showing how the priorities have been met through the positive work of colleague in order to celebrate success and reinforce the mission, vision and values.

8.3 A set of performance measures at a service and corporate level is being developed which will assist with monitoring and tracking delivery of the strategy and the performance of services. Corporate measures will be reported to Cabinet regularly and published twice a year to the website.

9 Financial Implications

9.1 The detailed Financial Implications related to the delivery of the original Corporate Strategy were assessed and incorporated into the revenue and capital budget proposals and medium term financial strategy presented to Council in February 2020. Since that time the budget for 2020/21 has been significantly affected by covid. The budget is being regularly tracked and monitored and as further impact arises is being incorporated into the latest position. The process for producing the budget for 2021/22 and the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy will commence shortly and the impact of the corporate strategy on this and later years alongside the ongoing impact of covid will be considered and incorporated.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services

10 Legal and Governance Implications

10.1 The Corporate Strategy forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework and therefore must be approved by Council.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Director for Governance and Regulatory Services

11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

An equality impact assessment was considered for the original strategy and this has been updated to take into account the updated version.

12 Community Safety Implications

12.1 The Residents’ Survey identified some concerns within communities especially around anti-social behaviour and these concerns are being addressed through the new Corporate Strategy priority themes and the establishment of a Housing and Communities

Directorate, investment in the new structure and the Housing Improvement Plan which will increase the Council’s capability to support communities and improve safety.

13 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

13.1 The Corporate Strategy contains a specific priority relating to environmental and climate change implications “To protect our climate and enhance our rural natural environment”. Through the delivery of the specific actions sitting underneath this priority this should have a positive impact on this area.

14 Other Implications (where significant)

14.1 There are no other implications

15 Risk & Mitigation

Risk No	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk
1	Corporate Strategy priorities are not delivered.	Low	Critical	Medium Risk
2	Council is unable to finance key investments required within the strategy.	High	Critical	High Risk
3	Change of Government put new responsibilities/ direction on Local Government not considered within the new Strategy.	Very Low	Critical	Medium Risk

		Impact / Consequences			
		Negligible	Marginal	Critical	Catastrophic
Likelihood	Score/ definition	1	2	3	4
	6 Very High				
	5 High			2	
	4 Significant				
	3 Low			1	
	2 Very Low			3	
	1 Almost impossible				

Risk No	Mitigation
1	A new organisational structure has been put in place to deliver the new Strategy. Performance Measures are being developed to monitor performance, Portfolio Holders and Lead Directors will monitor progress, and Programme Boards will monitor ongoing progress.
2	Regular budget monitoring. Areas of financing already identified in some areas. Regular monitoring of the Strategy will identify early interventions required however the outcome of the fair funding review and the final implications of covid on the council's finances will have a significant impact which is currently unknown.
3	Work with new MP and partners across Leicestershire to mitigate any new responsibilities/direction identified

16 Background Papers

16.1 [Corporate strategy report to Council 26.2.20 \(Minute CO64\)](#)

17 Appendices

17.1 Appendix A Corporate Strategy

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