

To: Cabinet

Date: 21 July 2021

Report/Comments of: Scrutiny Committee Chairman

Title: Lake Terrace Review – Allegations made by  
Leicestershire County Council in February 2021

<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT CONSIDERED</b>	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Lake Terrace Review – Allegations made by Leicestershire County Council in February 2021
<b>Purpose/Description of Report:</b>	To inform Cabinet of the verbal report made by the Scrutiny Committee Chairman at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14 June 2021
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Cllr Pat Cumber, Scrutiny Committee Chairman
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	N/A

## **1. Introduction and Overview**

The Scrutiny Committee met on 14 June 2021 to receive the Scrutiny Committee Chairman's verbal report on the allegations made by Leicestershire County Council in February 2021 in relation to land at Lake Terrace. Full details of the report can be found [here](#).

The Scrutiny Chairman confirmed that her comments would be shared with Cabinet.

## **2. Summary of Scrutiny Chairman's Report for Cabinet Consideration**

On 11 February 2021, at the Scrutiny Committee meeting, Councillor Chris Evans requested that an item be added to Scrutiny's Workplan – to review serious allegations made by Leicestershire County Council (LCC) at a recent Cabinet meeting, publicly criticising the conduct and competence of Melton Borough Council (MBC) Senior Officers and Members in relation to a housing scheme and land disposal off Lake Terrace, Melton Mowbray.

Although Councillor Evans was correct in bringing these allegations to Committee, he produced no evidence to indicate that the allegations might be true.

The Committee therefore agreed that an investigation was necessary in order to understand how this housing scheme had been dealt with and whether there was any truth in the LCC allegations.

The Scrutiny Chairman and Vice-Chair, Cllr Rob Bindloss, undertook a thorough review of the whole process, gathering information regarding land registry, land searches, planning, land ownership and any other matter related to this windfall site and reviewing the comments made at the LCC Cabinet meeting on 5 February 2021.

The detailed investigation confirmed that throughout the process, MBC had acted professionally, in accordance with the law, and with extreme care. No evidence could be found to support the allegations reported to the Scrutiny Committee on 11 February.

The review has shown that MBC officers have served the Council professionally, diligently and with the best interests of Melton and our Council at heart.

MBC considers itself a reliable and honest partner to many organisations including LCC, such effective partnership working is essential to achieve positive outcomes for our community that we are all here to serve and support.

**Written by: Scrutiny Committee Chairman – full report presented to the Scrutiny Committee on 14 June 2021.**