

# Minutes

<b>Meeting name</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Thursday, 19 September 2024</b>
<b>Start time</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Parkside, Station Approach, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray LE13 1GH</b>

## Present:

**Chair** Councillor T. Webster (Chair)

**Councillors**

P. Allnatt	M. Brown
R. Browne	S. Butcher
D. Chubb	M. Clay
H. Cliff	S. Cox
P. Cumbers	M. Gordon
A. Hewson	L. Higgins
S. Lumley	J. Mason
J. Orson	R. Sharp

**Officers**

- Chief Executive
- Director for Housing and Communities (Deputy Chief Executive)
- Assistant Director for Planning
- Legal Services Manager
- Senior Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer
- Democratic Services Officer (HA)

The Reverend Dr Mary Barr offered prayers.

Minute No.	Minute																								
CO28	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adcock, I Atherton, S Atherton, Carter, Child, Evans, Freer, Glancy, S Orson, Pritchett and Thwaites.</p>																								
CO29	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2024 and of the extraordinary meeting held on 5 September 2024 were confirmed.</p> <p>(For 16, Against 0, Abstentions 1)</p>																								
CO30	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>An other registerable interest in respect of Councillor J. Orson was noted as being on record for any matters which related to the Leicestershire County Council.</p> <p>Councillor J. Orson declared a pecuniary interest relation to CO37 (Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation), and stated that he would withdraw from the meeting when the report is considered.</p> <p>Councillor Browne declared a personal interest relation to CO35 (Motion on 80th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden). He stated that he would leave the room when the motion is being considered.</p>																								
CO31	<p><b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>The Mayor provided Members with an update on events he has attended since the last Council meeting. The full list of events are outlined below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 1368 1401 2092"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="288 1368 660 1413">Date</th> <th data-bbox="660 1368 1032 1413">Event</th> <th data-bbox="1032 1368 1401 1413">Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1413 660 1496">Saturday 27 July 2024</td> <td data-bbox="660 1413 1032 1496">World Amateur Pork Pie Championships</td> <td data-bbox="1032 1413 1401 1496">The Grainstore Brewery, Oakham</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1496 660 1579">Friday 9 August 2024</td> <td data-bbox="660 1496 1032 1579">Opening of Crown Inn, Old Dalby</td> <td data-bbox="1032 1496 1401 1579">Old Dalby</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1579 660 1662">Saturday 10 August 2024</td> <td data-bbox="660 1579 1032 1662">British and Irish Tug of War Championships</td> <td data-bbox="1032 1579 1401 1662">Melton Play Close</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1662 660 1744">Saturday 17 August 2024</td> <td data-bbox="660 1662 1032 1744">Official opening of the new Leisure Facilities</td> <td data-bbox="1032 1662 1401 1744">Waterfield Leisure Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1744 660 1921">Saturday 17 August 2024</td> <td data-bbox="660 1744 1032 1921">Service to mark anniversary of the death of King Richard III</td> <td data-bbox="1032 1744 1401 1921">Leicester Cathedral</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1921 660 2004">Monday 19 August 2024</td> <td data-bbox="660 1921 1032 2004">Meet with Rotary Club</td> <td data-bbox="1032 1921 1401 2004">Sysonby Knoll Hotel</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 2004 660 2092">Wednesday 21 August 2024</td> <td data-bbox="660 2004 1032 2092">Welcome service new Methodist Minister</td> <td data-bbox="1032 2004 1401 2092">Frisby Methodist Church</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Event	Location	Saturday 27 July 2024	World Amateur Pork Pie Championships	The Grainstore Brewery, Oakham	Friday 9 August 2024	Opening of Crown Inn, Old Dalby	Old Dalby	Saturday 10 August 2024	British and Irish Tug of War Championships	Melton Play Close	Saturday 17 August 2024	Official opening of the new Leisure Facilities	Waterfield Leisure Centre	Saturday 17 August 2024	Service to mark anniversary of the death of King Richard III	Leicester Cathedral	Monday 19 August 2024	Meet with Rotary Club	Sysonby Knoll Hotel	Wednesday 21 August 2024	Welcome service new Methodist Minister	Frisby Methodist Church
Date	Event	Location																							
Saturday 27 July 2024	World Amateur Pork Pie Championships	The Grainstore Brewery, Oakham																							
Friday 9 August 2024	Opening of Crown Inn, Old Dalby	Old Dalby																							
Saturday 10 August 2024	British and Irish Tug of War Championships	Melton Play Close																							
Saturday 17 August 2024	Official opening of the new Leisure Facilities	Waterfield Leisure Centre																							
Saturday 17 August 2024	Service to mark anniversary of the death of King Richard III	Leicester Cathedral																							
Monday 19 August 2024	Meet with Rotary Club	Sysonby Knoll Hotel																							
Wednesday 21 August 2024	Welcome service new Methodist Minister	Frisby Methodist Church																							

Friday 23 August 2024	Mayor's Charity Quiz Night	Parkside, Melton Mowbray
Sunday 25 August 2024	Great Vale Show	Hose Village Hall
Tuesday 3 September 2024	Met with Air Cadets	Squadron Unit, Melton Mowbray
Wednesday 4 September 2024	Long Service Award - 40 years Debbie Brown	Parkside, Melton Mowbray
Sunday 8 September 2024	Newark 84th year of Battle of Britain	Newark Town Hall
Friday 13 September 2024	Blaby - Chairman at Home Event	Blaby District Council
Saturday 14 September 2024	Fairtrade Birthday tea	Gloucester House
Sunday 15 September 2024	Battle of Britain parade	St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray
Tuesday 18 September 2024	Airborne Heritage Trail, Arnhem 80 Cycle Ride	Parkside, Melton Mowbray

Following the announcement, the outgoing Mayor's Cadet, Cadet Flight Sergeant Ella Wheatley, gave a presentation on his year as the Mayor's Cadet to Council. After the presentation, the Mayor presented Cadet Flight Sergeant Wheatley with a certificate.

Cadet Sergeant Charlotte Spencer was appointed as the Mayor's Cadet for 2024/25 and received a certificate.

CO32

**LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader opened his announcements by stating that, due to an emergency stay in hospital last week, he was unable to attend the Battle of Britain service Sunday last.

The Leader thanked staff in reducing rent arrears from 9.14% to 5.9%. He added that the current performance shows continued focus and determination to address arrears proactively but, at the same time, work with tenants to find realistic and affordable solutions in a sensitive and caring way.

Members were informed that the Leader attended the Strategic Growth Plan Members Advisory Group, which is attended by Councils across Leicestershire. He reported that there continues to be collaborative and constructive working with determination to seek solutions across the party-political divide.

The Leader informed Members that the County Council are reporting delay and cost escalation with the Northern and Eastern sections of the MMDR.

The Leader assured everyone that the Council, while not being directly involved, would support the County Council in any way it is able to do so. In addition, the

	<p>Leader assured Members that the Council are continuing to work with all partners to secure the implementation of the southern section of the MMDR.</p>
CO33	<p><b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> No questions from the public had been received.</p>
CO34	<p><b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS</b> Seven questions from Members had been received and they were taken in the order that they were received.</p> <p>Question 1 Councillor Lumley asked the Leader the following question:</p> <p><i>Can emergency funds be transferred to the Corporate Property team, for this current financial year (2024/25), to carry out essential maintenance works this winter on the Melton Borough Council (MBC)-owned Mill Street, Melton Mowbray town area car park, a stretch of footpath in the Country Park behind Redwood Avenue, town area allotments, and key routeways around Thorpe Road cemetery, to name a few?</i></p> <p>In responding to the question, the Leader stated that he would address the question in two parts: the drawing down of emergency funds and to allocate the money to four specific tasks and one open ended area of expenditure.</p> <p>The Leader clarified that, for the avoidance of doubt, the Council does not maintain emergency funds per se. This has been the case for some years due to financial constraints.</p> <p>The Council does maintain reserves and the Leader has summarised the regulations and procedures for drawing on reserves in year on a separate note which has been tabled at the meeting.</p> <p>In relation to the four specific tasks (car park, footpath, cemetery &amp; allotments), the Leader agrees that these have been relatively neglected for some years. For the first three, the Leader suggested that he, Councillor Lumley and his fellow Ward Councillor, Councillor Glancy, look at these upon Councillor Glancy's return. For allotments across Melton, the Leader already mentioned his resolve to build on the work of colleague Councillor Cox alongside the assistance from Melton Lions to improve the situation.</p> <p>The Leader added that for the current financial year, budgets have been allocated and asset improvements have been prioritised, including taking account of health and safety and risk. The Leader added that if Councillor Lumley could provide a list of his specific requests, then he would arrange for them to be assessed against the prioritisation criteria in place. Should there be immediate risks or health and safety requirements, officers would advise on any in year budgetary needs. Officers can</p>

also assess the need and timing for other improvements works, for consideration as part of future budget setting arrangements.

Pride in place matters to the administration, but, resources need to be carefully managed and work is ongoing to evaluate how best to allocate resources to enhance green and open spaces. The Leaders stated that this would be done in a planned way and included within budget and service plans rather than on an emergency basis.

Councillor Lumley did not opt to ask a supplementary question.

#### Question 2

Councillor Lumley asked the Leader the following question:

*Can you (Leader) and senior MBC officers urgently meet with senior East Midlands region officers of the Environment Agency, to discuss the poor maintenance and improvement plan of water courses around the town area, plus flooding management for this winter and thereafter of water courses across the Borough?*

In responding, the Leader stated that all Members would be aware that the issue of flooding occupies a significant amount of his time and the Council's strategic thinking.

He reminded Council that the issue is multi-layered and detailed including drainage of surface water, management of sewage, fluvial flows, water retention on land, the water table below it and clean water management for life, work at times of drought and water contamination.

Most of the areas require long-term planning and significant investment and responsibilities lie across several agencies with the Environment Agency being just one.

The Leader informed Council he had a short meeting with the Environment Agency's Regional Senior Flood Risk Manager and the Assets Performance Team Leader. The Leader took the opportunity to add Councillor Lumley's specific points to the agenda. The Leader raised a wide range of strategic and practical issues of interest to all Ward Members including those sitting on the Planning Committee. The discussion was constructive all agreed further discussion, more information, meetings with other Members and site visits as appropriate.

The Council's Senior Planning Officer and lead on matters flooding was unable to join the meeting because of the Planning Appeal Inquiry.

Councillor Lumley did not opt to ask a supplementary question.

#### Question 3

Councillor Butcher asked the Leader the following question:

*Can I ask the Leader to please lobby for a fairer business rates system?*

*We can not control rents, but we could lobby for a fairer business rates system.*

*The Labour government mentioned this in their manifesto. Business wise, especially as we have a lot of independents, it is vital to survival for business in our town and borough.*

*With a smoking ban being talked about, this will have a big hit on hospitality, and the need for a more sensible business rates will be the difference between survival or closure. As Melton is the rural capital for drink & food, this will have a big impact?*

In responding, the Leader stated that he is always willing to lobby, and often do, any government on any issue relevant to the local or wider community, however the Leader reminded Members that the art of lobbying is to have a well thought out proposal.

The Leader added that there already exists a number of business rates relief schemes which may benefit independent businesses, the most relevant being;

- retail, hospitality and leisure rate relief which provides eligible businesses 75% relief for 2024/25 up to a maximum of £110k cash cap limit per business. As such, this benefits smaller businesses by a greater degree;
- small business rates relief of 100% for eligible businesses with a rateable value of £12k or less. For business with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £15,000 the rate of relief will go down gradually from 100% to 0%. With limits for businesses with more than one property, again benefiting independent businesses more;
- rural rate relief of 100% for eligible businesses operating as the only shop, petrol station, public house or post office in an eligible rural area.

The Leader added that it is widely acknowledged in the sector that the business rates system is due an overhaul but it is a complex task. The Council would continue to highlight the issues arising from the funding of local councils generally including the business rates system which is an intrinsic part of this.

Councillor Butcher opted to ask a supplementary question and asked the Leader whether he would continue to lobby for the opening of the competition law to the public contract schemes to enable small business to participate, as outlined in the Leader's manifesto.

In response, the Leader stated that he would read the relevant point within the manifesto and respond to Councillor Butcher.

Question 4

Councillor J Orson asked the Leader the following question:

*Can I remind Council it is circa ten months since Melton Residents were informed by way of a MBC press release that ...*

*“Following positive work with health partners at the ICB, it is clear there is a compelling opportunity to explore the delivery of Melton Mowbray’s second GP surgery by utilising existing space within the council’s Parkside offices.*

*Whilst it is still subject to full viability assessment, this is our preferred option and we are now working closely with ICB colleagues to fully assess the costs and implications associated with it.”*

*Can the Leader now confirm work will start to convert Parkside to a Doctors Surgery before April 2026?*

In response, the Leader stated that work to develop a fully costed and designed business case for co-location of the additional GP practice in Melton continues. This work is in conjunction with integrated care board (ICB) health partners.

Before proceeding with any development it is imperative that there is a proposal that meets both the ICB’s and our the Council’s operational needs, as well as being affordable for all parties. The work is complex and Officers are not yet ready to report on the outcome of that work but hope to do so in the coming months.

If an affordable and deliverable business case could be established, then it would be presented formally to Cabinet and Council for full consideration as required.

Councillor J Orson opted to ask a supplementary question and asked the Leader whether he could confirm that work to convert Parkside into a Doctors’ surgery would commence before April 2026.

In response, the Leader explained he couldn’t confirm that work would commence before April 2026.

Question 5

Councillor J Orson asked the Leader the following question.

*Can the Leader please confirm the identity of the specialist(s) engaged by MBC to develop a case for the proposed GP surgery co-located at Parkside and at what cost to the Council?*

In response, the Leader stated that Melton Council and colleagues from the local Integrated Care Board (ICB) have been working together on the options for Parkside. Costs have been shared with the ICB under a Memorandum of

Understanding and are in the region of £33k for the council. Any specialist support that's required has been procured through the ICB.

The Leader stated that he does not know and does not need to know the names of specialists working under these arrangements. The specialists are design architects, Quantity Surveyors or similar, checking structural loading tolerances, fire safety, lift requirements, electrical and mechanical specifications, etc. They will be looking at the sort of issues and, crucially, to establish whether the proposition is doable practically and financially.

If Councillor Orson insists on knowing names, then the Council would need to ask the agreement of the ICB, and the individuals concerned.

Regarding the Council's financial contribution, this is not new money. It is essentially under the umbrella of the Asset Development Programme which was agreed under the previous administration and drawn from the £500,000 grant sourced by Local Enterprise Programme. This money supports the development and implementation of proposals for all Council assets.

As Members were approaching the time allowed for Members' questions, the Mayor proposed that Procedure Rule 13.7 of the Meetings General Procedure Rules should be suspended for the rest of the meeting so that the time limit of 20 minutes for Members' questions can be exceeded. Councillor Child seconded the motion.

## **RESOLVED**

### **Council**

#### **Suspended Procedure Rule 13.7 of the Meetings General Procedure Rules for the remainder of the meeting.**

(Unanimous)

Councillor J Orson opted to ask a supplementary question and asked the Leader whether he would let Members know the individuals and companies involved.

In response, the Leader explained that it was not in his gift to do so but would seek further advice from the Monitoring Officer.

#### **Question 6**

Councillor Browne asked the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance, Property and Resources the following question:

*Can the Portfolio Holder of Finance please confirm for the public record the cost of agency staff incurred in financial years 2022/23 and 2023/2024?*



In responding, the Portfolio Holder stated that it would be helpful to clarify exactly what is meant by 'agency' spend, as this can include a range of different things including project managers, interim cover for vacancies and temporary grant funded posts.

As per the comprehensive report provided to Scrutiny Committee in July 2022, the Council has a sophisticated and comprehensive approach to managing its resources flexibly and getting the balance right between a strong core team, and utilising external skills and capacity to support our busy agenda.

To respond to the specific question, the figures in the 'agency' budget code are £330,008 for 2022/23 and £689,140 for 2023/24.

In terms of the difference between years, there were a number of factors that caused such an increase and which demonstrate the justifiable reasons why costs are incurred:

- 1) The Monitoring officer role was vacant for a long period of time, along with a number of posts in the legal services team, where interim posts were utilised. These have now been recruited to.
- 2) We were operating a shared senior officer arrangement with Harborough for our waste and environmental service team, which was funded through this budget. Again this has now ended and our new Waste and Environmental Services manager has recently started with the Council.
- 3) A number of vacancies in development control which needed to be covered but which have now been recruited to.
- 4) Welland Procurement had a number of staff leaving at the same time which needed a service rebuild.

These costs were necessary to ensure the correct knowledge and expertise in these service areas, and also recognise the challenges across the sector of recruiting and retaining in a number of specialist service areas. All costs were managed within the budget envelope and indeed taking the budgets for agency and salary costs together in 2023/24 there was a net underspend of £190k for the year after accounting for these costs. So the Council's resources continue to be managed effectively and in the right way.

Councillor Browne opted to ask a supplementary question and asked that, considering the amount of vacancies and the ability to recruit to those vacancies, is the Council not big enough to continue in its present form and should look towards a partnership or become a part of a unitary authority.

In response, the Portfolio Holder explained that the Council have recruited to those vacancies. As the Council spend a significant amount on salaries, it was right that time is taken to consider how vacancies are filled. Members were reminded that the total salary bill is £8m and that agency spend constitutes only 8% of the bill.

In relation to the question as to whether the Council is big enough to continue, then a written answer would be provided.

#### Question 7

Councillor Gordon asked the Leader the following question:

*I have concerns as to whether Parkside is the best location for a second surgery in Melton Mowbray since there is a possibility of security breaches by patients, along with the possibility of infection of Council Staff who come into contact with patients, especially for Council Staff that have to use the one and only lift. Does the Leader agree that St Mary's Hospital would be ideally suited as a location for a second surgery, as it also has a Physiotherapy Department, x-ray machines and carries out blood tests?*

In responding, the Leader stated that discussions have been ongoing for some time with health partners regarding the most appropriate location for a second GP surgery. Some of your points appear to be more about issues regarding co-location with the Council, rather than the geographical location of a second surgery and on that basis, the Leader made the following points:

- Co-location with partner organisations is not new – any such arrangement would require agreement on the specific arrangements and protocols in place to enable partners to co-exist.
- Changes to the Parkside building would be required to accommodate a second GP surgery and, as you'd expect, discussions are ongoing about the best configuration to meet the needs of partner organisations, customers and patients. This would include plans regarding the layout and accessibility of the building, security and health and safety.

Officer will ensure that Councillor Gordon's points are considered as part of the project.

Regarding the suitability of St Mary's Hospital as a site for a second GP surgery, ultimately the choice about where to locate a GP practice is a matter for health partners and their preferred option is to work with the Council on co-location at Parkside, which the administration is happy to continue exploring with them.

Councillor Gordon opted to ask a supplementary question and asked could the Leader ask if the surgery was located at Parkside then would the Council have to relocate the offices, if there was another pandemic.

In response, the Leader confirmed that he would raise the issue and provide a response when he had an answer.

CO35

#### **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

At 7:22pm, prior to the consideration of this item, Councillor Browne left the

meeting.

The following motion was received from Councillor Higgins (Seconded by Councillor Allnatt).

### **80th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden**

*From the 17th to 25th of September 1944, Operation Market Garden took place in the German-occupied Netherlands. Today we mark the 80th Anniversary but also pay tribute to those involved in the operation, many of whom were based in the Borough.*

*The 10th Battalion was centred on the villages of Somerby, Thorpe Satchville, Burrough on the Hill and Twyford. The 11th Battalion was billeted in and around Melton Mowbray, as was the 156th Battalion, with their HQ at Staveley Lodge, now the Pera business park, with its four companies spread between Newport Lodge, Scalford Hall, and The Spinney.*

*Market Garden's objective was to create a 64 mi (103 km) salient into German territory with a bridgehead over the Lower Rhine River, creating an Allied invasion route into northern Germany, it was to hopefully shorten the war and liberate Europe. This was to be achieved by two sub-operations: seizing nine bridges with combined US and British airborne force ("Market") followed by British land forces swiftly following over the bridges ("Garden").*

*The airborne soldiers, numbering more than 41,000, were dropped at sites where they could capture key bridges and hold the terrain until the land forces arrived. The land forces consisted of ten armoured and motorised brigades with a similar number of soldiers.*

*Today the village of Somerby host an annual parade commemorating those who fought so bravely 80 years ago. Near the village of Burrough on the Hill is a magnificent memorial to the Parachute Regiment and recently the USAAF 315th Troop Carrier Group.*

*I would like the Council to join me to:*

- 1) Pay tribute and thank those who made the great sacrifice who fought in Arnhem and the wider Operation Market Garden;*
- 2) Thank historians, local and national, along with individuals and communities who not only detail the history of the Battle of Arnhem but equally importantly how the Melton Borough community remember those stationed here.*
- 3) Acknowledges the great work the Friends of the Tenth and the Parachute Regimental Association do, and will continue to do, within the Melton*

*Borough and Arnhem.*

- 4) *Thank the village of Somerby for hosting their annual remembrance event.*
- 5) *That the Mayor and all councillors write to the Mayor of Arnhem and Kingdom of the Netherlands Ambassador to the United Kingdom to express our continued and unwavering friendship between the people of the Borough of Melton and Arnhem in remembering the sacrifice by those 80 years ago in the cause of freedom.*

During the debate, the following comments were made:

- It was recognised that Operation Market Garden wasn't just British operation but an international one too including the involvement of a Polish Brigade and that it was right to recognise this.

### **RESOLVED**

**Melton Borough Council agreed to:**

- 1) **Pay tribute and thank those who made the great sacrifice who fought in Arnhem and the wider Operation Market Garden;**
- 2) **Thank historians, local and national, along with individuals and communities who not only detail the history of the Battle of Arnhem but equally importantly how the Melton Borough community remember those stationed here.**
- 3) **Acknowledges the great work the Friends of the Tenth and the Parachute Regimental Association do, and will continue to do, within the Melton Borough and Arnhem.**
- 4) **Thank the village of Somerby for hosting their annual remembrance event.**
- 5) **That the Mayor and all councillors write to the Mayor of Arnhem and Kingdom of the Netherlands Ambassador to the United Kingdom to express our continued and unwavering friendship between the people of the Borough of Melton and Arnhem in remembering the sacrifice by those 80 years ago in the cause of freedom.**

(Unanimous)

At 7:33pm, following the conclusion of this item, Councillor Browne returned to the meeting.

CO36

**URGENT ITEM - COUNCILLOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

	<p>Using the provision as set out in the Constitution under Chapter 3, Part 1, Procedural Rule 16, the Mayor permitted an urgent report to be tabled.</p> <p>The Chief Executive introduced the Councillor Leave of Absence report. The Leader moved the recommendation and the Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion.</p> <p>During the debate, the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was unfortunate that, due to the falling of meeting dates, the report had to be tabled as an urgent item. It was noted that this type of dispensation has been granted before and that Council should grant the dispensation in this instance.</li> <li>• It was noted that the Long Clawson and Stathern Ward has a second Ward Councillor, which is Councillor S Orson but that the Ward residents are welcome to contact the Leader’s office should they need to.</li> <li>• Having the paper at the last moment has made it difficult for Members to raise questions. Although does recognise that there is another Councillor representing the Ward.</li> <li>• A query was raised on whether the extension could be less than six months. It was clarified that the duration of the dispensation would be a matter for the Council. Six months would provide the flexibility to allow Councillor Evans to return given the position was still uncertain at this time.</li> <li>• Six months would be good, as Councillor Evans would have enough time to recover.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p><b>Council</b></p> <p><b>Approves Councillor Christopher Evans’s non-attendance at meetings of the Authority on medical grounds up to and including 16 May 2025 in accordance with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.</b></p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO37	<p><b>LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION</b></p> <p>At 7:47pm, prior to the consideration of this item, Councillor J Orson left the meeting and did not return.</p> <p>The Leader, Councillor Allnatt, presented Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation report and moved the recommendations. Councillor Cumbers seconded the motion.</p> <p>During the debate, the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A statement was read out on behalf of Councillor Glancy, who passed on her thanks to the Officers for their hard work.</li> <li>• The Leader of the Opposition stated that his group also supported the</li> </ul>

recommendations.

**RESOLVED**

**Council**

- 1) Notes the importance of proceeding to the Regulation 19 Consultation on the Pre-Submission Local Plan Update.**
- 2) Approves launching the Regulation 19 consultation in respect of the Local Plan Update once the consultation document is finalised, and delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Governance, Environment and Regulatory Services to finalise the consultation document in consultation with the Local Plan Members' Working Group.**
- 3) Approves launching a consultation for the Sustainability Appraisal alongside the Regulation 19 consultation on the Pre-Submission Local Plan Update document.**

(Unanimous)

The meeting closed at: 7.47 pm

Mayor