



SUMMONS TO COUNCIL

date Thursday, 17 December 2020 venue Virtual Meeting
commencing at 10:30

You are hereby requested to attend the above Meeting to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business on the Agenda as under.

Chief Executive

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 October 2020 | 1 - 24 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note 3) | |
| | (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests | |
| | (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 4 | Chairman's Business | |
| 5 | Constituency Issues (see note 4) | |
| 6a | Presentation of Petitions (if any) (see note 5) | |
| 6b | Responses to Petitions Presented to the Chairman of the County Council | 25 - 32 |
| 7 | Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2020-21 | 33 - 40 |

8 Questions

a) Questions to Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority

b) Questions to Committee Chairmen

9 NOTICE OF MOTION

Motion One

This Council notes that spending on public transport per head in the East Midlands was only £268 last year. This is the fourth year in a row that the East Midlands has had the lowest public transport spend in the country. This compares unfavourably with the West Midlands who saw £467 spent per head at the same time. The UK average was £481 per year according to figures released by East Midlands Councils.

This Council further notes the decision to pause the Eastern Leg of HS2b. The news HS2 has been shelved from Birmingham to Leeds, via the East Midlands in favour of the Western Leg of Crewe to Manchester is a disaster for our region. This decision will cost this region hundreds of millions of pounds in regeneration opportunities. This is catastrophic for our region.

This Council believes that it is imperative that HS2b is delivered in full. The Eastern Leg of HS2 is critical to the long-term economic success of the East Midlands. This must include the East Midlands Hub Station at Toton.

This Council also notes the lack of progress with the campaign to fully electrify the Midlands' Mainline.

We therefore call for an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport and all key stakeholders to make the case for urgent investment in public transport in Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands including the reinstatement of the electrification of the Midlands' Mainline and the unpausing of the Eastern Leg of HS2b.

Councillor Jason Zadrozny Councillor Rachel Madden

Motion Two

Nottinghamshire County Council notes that from 1st May to 31st October – Value Added Tax (VAT) was set at a zero rate on supplies of PPE as defined by Public Health England's coronavirus (COVID-19) PPE guidance on 24 April 2020.

This Council notes that from November 1st, face masks and gloves now cost more after the government said a waiver of VAT on personal protective equipment (PPE) would not be extended.

The Treasury has confirmed that the 20% sales tax would once more apply to protective equipment bought by firms and consumers after the six-month exemption.

This is a tax on safety and leaves the poorest vulnerable in our County and is having an adverse impact on businesses and ordinary people who are legally bound to use masks in shops and on public transport.

We note that food and convenience store owners and other businesses that are obliged to use PPE are now facing increased costs just when they are struggling most. An increase of 20% is a significant amount and has led to increases in price for PPE equipment, it has slowed demand and is acting as a barrier to buying PPE for some, at a time when many people's income has been reduced due to the pandemic.

This Council asks the Leaders of the Ashfield Independents, Conservative / Mansfield Independents and Labour groups to write a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak MP and Treasury Minister Jesse Norman MP to call for this decision to be reversed and that a zero rate on VAT on supplies of PPE is reintroduced until we get to grips with the coronavirus pandemic.

Councillor David Martin Councillor Helen-Ann Smith

Motion Three

This Council is concerned that water companies continue to allow the discharge of significant amounts of untreated sewage into our watercourses and waterways during periods of heavy rainfall.

It has been reported that in their respective regions last year (2019), untreated sewage was released almost 40,000 times by Severn Trent Water and more than 10,000 times by Anglian Water.

This Council resolves to write to Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water seeking an explanation and demanding that they invest more in the monitoring and reduction of these discharges, in order to prevent raw sewage polluting this county's watercourses, killing wildlife, damaging biodiversity and undermining all attempts to create a cleaner, better environment.

Councillor Richard Jackson Councillor Bruce Laughton

Motion Four

This Council:

- recognises the significant increase in the number of Nottinghamshire people working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic and the contribution this has made to reducing the 'R' (reproduction) number especially during the early stages of the lockdown;
- anticipates that this increase in home working could bring about a permanent change to the way some organisations, businesses and employees work in the future, even after the country returns to more 'normal' circumstances;
- believes that many people have worked from home very happily and successfully, but understands why others have found this change of routine and working environment to be isolating and stressful;
- urges employers across Nottinghamshire to ensure that their employees working from home are given the practical and personal support they need, so that this does not have a negative impact on their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Councillor Dr John Doddy Councillor Kevin Rostance

Motion Five

This council notes that on 20th March 2020, as part of his pandemic response package, the Chancellor provided a £20 a week uplift to the basic rate of Universal Credit. This was to reflect the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit.

This council further notes that in April 2021, this benefit will end, leaving the level of unemployment support at its lowest ever relative to average earnings, and meaning many families income will be below the poverty line.

Therefore this council resolves to:

1. Write to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak and to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson demanding that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.

2. Work with other local government organisations to form a coalition to pressure the government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.

Councillor Alan Rhodes Councillor Nicki Brooks

Motion Six

This council notes that fireworks impact considerably on the health and wellbeing of the elderly and vulnerable in our communities, together with domestic pets and wildlife.

This council proposes:

1. To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to ensure that only silent fireworks are available for retail.
2. To undertake a proactive public awareness campaign, in partnership with public health and our district, borough and city councils, to encourage our residents to only attend silent firework displays.

Councillor Alan Rhodes Councillor Kate Foale

NOTES:-

(A) For Councillors

- (1) Members will be informed of the date and time of their Group meeting for Council by their Group Researcher.
- (2) Lunch will usually be taken at approximately 12.30pm.
- (3) (a) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Procedure Rules for Meetings of the Full Council. Those declaring must indicate whether their interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or a private interest and the reasons for the declaration.
(b) Any member or officer who declares a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item must withdraw from the meeting during discussion and voting upon it, unless a dispensation has been granted. Members or officers

requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (c) Declarations of interest will be recorded and included in the minutes of this meeting and it is therefore important that clear details are given by members and others in turn, to enable Democratic Services to record accurate information.
- (4) At any Full Council meeting except the budget meeting and an extraordinary meeting Members are given an opportunity to speak for up to three minutes on any issue which specifically relates to their division and is relevant to the services provided by the County Council. These speeches must relate specifically to the area the Member represents and should not be of a general nature. They are constituency speeches and therefore must relate to constituency issues only. This is an opportunity simply to air these issues in a Council meeting. It will not give rise to a debate on the issues or a question or answer session. There is a maximum time limit of 15 minutes for this item.
- (5) At any Full Council meeting except the budget meeting and an extraordinary meeting Members may present a petition to the Chairman of the County Council on any matter affecting the residents of their division, and in relation to which the County Council has powers or duties. The Member presenting the petition can introduce and speak about the petition for up to one minute. Members are reminded that there is a time limit of 15 minutes for the presentation of petitions, after which any petitions not yet presented will be received en bloc by the Chairman.
- (6) In relation to questions to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority and Committee Chairmen; after receiving an answer to their question, the Councillor asking the original question may ask one supplementary question on the same matter. There will be no additional supplementary questions.
- (7) Members' attention is drawn to the questions put to the Leader of the Council and the Chairmen of the Adult Social Care and Public Health, Children and Young People's, Communities and Place, Finance and Major Contracts Management and Governance and Ethics Committees under paragraphs 42, 46 and 47 of the Procedure Rules, and the answers to which are included at the back of the Council book.
- (8) Members are reminded that these papers may be recycled. Appropriate containers are located in the respective secretariats.
- (9) Commonly used points of order
 - 26 – Constituency issues must be about issues which specifically relate to the Member's division and is relevant to the services provided by the County Council

51 – Only 1 supplementary question per question is allowed from the Councillor who asked the original question and supplementary questions must be on the same matter

61 – The Mover or Seconder has spoken for more than 10 minutes when moving the motion

64 – The Member has spoken for more than 5 minutes

66 – The Member is not speaking to the subject under discussion

67 – The Member has already spoken on the motion

86 – Points of Order and Personal Explanations

96 – Disorderly conduct

(10) Time limit of speeches

Motions

64 – no longer than 5 minutes (subject to any exceptions set out in the Constitution)

Constituency Issues

26 – up to 3 minutes per speech allowed

29 – up to 15 minutes for this item allowed

Petitions

33 – up to one minute per petition allowed

37 – up to 15 minutes for this item allowed

Questions

45 – up to 60 minutes for this item allowed

(B) For Members of the Public

- (1) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80.

- (2) The papers enclosed with this agenda are available in large print if required. Copies can be requested by contacting the Customer Services Centre on 0300 500 80 80. Certain documents (for example appendices and plans to reports) may not be available electronically. Hard copies can be requested from the above contact.
- (3) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar –
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>



Nottinghamshire County Council

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 15 October 2020 (10.30 am – 5.29 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Stuart Wallace (Chairman)
Andy Sissons (Vice-Chairman)

Reg Adair
Pauline Allan
Chris Barnfather
Joyce Bosnjak
Ben Bradley
Nicki Brooks
Andrew Brown
Richard Butler
Steve Carr
John Clarke
Neil Clarke MBE
John Cottee
Jim Creamer
Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Samantha Deakin
Maureen Dobson
Dr John Doddy
Boyd Elliott
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner
Glynn Gilfoyle
Keith Girling
Kevin Greaves
John Handley
Tony Harper
Errol Henry JP
Paul Henshaw
Tom Hollis
Vaughan Hopewell
Richard Jackson
Roger Jackson

Eric Kerry
John Knight
Bruce Laughton
John Longdon
Rachel Madden
David Martin
Diana Meale
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Michael Payne
John Peck JP
Sheila Place
Liz Plant
Mike Pringle
Francis Purdue-Horan
Mike Quigley MBE
Alan Rhodes
Kevin Rostance
Phil Rostance
Mrs Sue Saddington
Helen-Ann Smith
Tracey Taylor
Parry Tsimbirdis
Steve Vickers
Keith Walker
Muriel Weisz
Andy Wetton
Gordon Wheeler
Jonathan Wheeler
Yvonne Woodhead
Martin Wright
Jason Zadrozny

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Anthony May | (Chief Executive) |
| Marjorie Toward | (Chief Executives) |
| Sara Allmond | (Chief Executives) |
| Adrian Smith | (Place) |

Plus, additional officers were present to provide technical support to Members.

OPENING PRAYER AND MINUTE SILCENE

Upon the Council convening, prayers and a minute silence in memory of former County Councillor Vicki Smailes were led by the Chairman's Chaplain.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2020/014

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the County Council held on 23 July 2020 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

FORMER COUNTY COUNCILLOR VICKI SMAILES

Councillors Alan Rhodes, Mrs Kay Cutts, Glynn Gilfoyle, Parry Tsimbiridis and Joyce Bosnjak spoke in memory of former County Councillor Vicki Smailes.

PRESENTATION AND AWARDS

The Chairman announced the following award:

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Volunteering Certificate 2020. This recognised the 2,964 hours of voluntary service participants had achieved throughout their volunteering section of the award between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020 which had a calculated social value of £12,893 back into Nottinghamshire.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman updated members on the business he had carried out since the last meeting including attending the VJ Day commemorations and opening the refurbished Retford Library. The restrictions due to Coronavirus meant that many events and activities had been cancelled including the fundraising events for the Chairman's charity My Sight Nottinghamshire. The Chairman asked members to remember that many charities including My Sight Nottinghamshire were struggling to raise funds as fundraising activities were curtailed or cancelled.

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

None

6a. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented to the Chairman as indicated below: -

- (1) Councillor Tony Harper requesting road safety improvements at the junction of Main Street and Chewton Street, Eastwood
- (2) Councillor Jonathan Wheeler requesting a crossing along Beckside, Gamston
- (3) Councillor Dr John Doddy requesting a residents parking scheme on Eaton Road, Stapleford
- (4) Councillor Dr John Doddy requesting changes to the current residents parking scheme on Horace Avenue, Stapleford
- (5) Councillor Samantha Deakin requesting a residents parking scheme on Park Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield
- (6) Councillor Neil Clarke MBE requesting traffic calming measures on and around Carnarvon Place, Bingham
- (7) Councillor Michael Payne objecting to outline proposals for an access road to the proposed Redhill park and ride site
- (8) Councillor Michael Payne regarding road safety from Killisick Junior School
- (9) Councillor Yvonne Woodhead requesting a change to the speed limit on Warsop Lane, Blidworth / Rainworth

RESOLVED: 2020/015

That the petitions be referred to the appropriate Committees for consideration in accordance with the Procedure Rules, with a report being brought back to Council in due course.

6b. RESPONSE TO PETITION PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLVED: 2020/016

That the contents and actions taken as set out in the report be noted.

7. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY 2020-23

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2020/017 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Sue Saddington.

Following a debate the motion was put to the meeting and following the vote the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2020/017

That the Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Strategy 2020-23, set out in appendix 1 of the report be approved.

8. GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Councillor Andy Sissons introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2020/018 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Phil Rostance.

Following a debate the motion was put to the meeting and following the vote the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2020/018

That the achievements of the Governance and Ethics Committee be recognised and its intended areas of focus for the coming year be endorsed.

Councillor Bruce Laughton left the meeting for a short period during consideration of this item.

9. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Richard Butler introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2020/019 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE.

An amendment to the Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor David Martin and seconded by Councillor Alan Rhodes:-

- 1) To appoint Councillor ~~Kevin Rostance~~ **Joyce Bosnjak** as the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board until the annual meeting in 2021.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Andy Sissons as the Vice-Chairman of Governance and Ethics Committee until the annual meeting in 2021.

Councillor Bruce Laughton returned to the meeting during consideration of this item.

The meeting adjourned from 12.01pm – 12.15pm to enable the amendment to be validated and members to consider the proposed amendment.

The amendment was not accepted by the mover of the motion.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the meeting and following the vote the Chairman declared it was lost.

An amendment to the Motion set out below was moved by Councillor Alan Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Nicki Brooks:-

- 1) To appoint Councillor Kevin Rostance as the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board until the annual meeting in 2021.
- 2) To appoint Councillor ~~Andy Sissons~~ **Kate Foale** as the Vice-Chairman of Governance and Ethics Committee until the annual meeting in 2021.

The meeting adjourned from 12.41pm – 1.14pm to enable members to consider the proposed amendment and for lunch.

The amendment was not accepted by the mover of the amendment.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the meeting and following the vote the Chairman declared it was lost.

Following a debate on the original motion, it was put to the meeting. The requisite number of members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 34 members voted '**For**' the motion:-

Reg Adair
Chris Barnfather
Ben Bradley
Andrew Brown

Richard Butler
Neil Clarke MBE
John Cottee
Mrs Kay Cutts MBE

Dr John Doddy
Boyd Elliott
Stephen Garner
Keith Girling
John Handley
Tony Harper
Richard Jackson
Roger Jackson
Eric Kerry
John Knight
Bruce Laughton
John Longdon
John Ogle

Philip Owen
Francis Purdue-Horan
Mike Quigley MBE
Kevin Rostance
Phil Rostance
Mrs Sue Saddington
Andy Sissons
Tracey Taylor
Steve Vickers
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Gordon Wheeler
Jonathan Wheeler

The following 29 Members voted '**Against**' the motion:-

Pauline Allan
Joyce Bosnjak
Nicki Brooks
Steve Carr
John Clarke
Jim Creamer
Samantha Deakin
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Glynn Gilfoyle
Kevin Greaves
Errol Henry JP
Paul Henshaw
Tom Hollis
Rachel Madden

David Martin
Diana Meale
Michael Payne
John Peck JP
Sheila Place
Liz Plant
Mike Pringle
Alan Rhodes
Helen-Ann Smith
Parry Tsimbirdis
Muriel Weisz
Andy Wetton
Yvonne Woodhead
Jason Zadrozny

The following 2 Members '**Abstained**' from the vote:-

Vaughan Hopewell

Martin Wright

The Chairman declared that the motion was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2020/018

- 1) To appoint Councillor Kevin Rostance as the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board until the annual meeting in 2021.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Andy Sissons as the Vice-Chairman of Governance and Ethics Committee until the annual meeting in 2021.

During this item Councillor David Martin issued a formal apology for any offence caused by inappropriate comments made during the Full Council meeting on 11th June. He confirmed he accepted the recommendations of the independent

investigation, that his comment contravened paragraph h of Councils code of conduct and confirmed that he had signed up for the unconscious bias training.

10a. QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY

None

10b. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Twenty two questions had been received as follows: -

Questions 1, 2 and 3 were taking together

- 1) from Councillor Eric Kerry regarding local government reorganisation (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE replied)
- 2) from Councillor Kate Foale regarding local government reorganisation (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE replied)
- 3) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding local government reorganisation (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE replied)
- 4) from Councillor Tom Hollis about poor standard of road repairs (Councillor John Cottee replied)
- 5) from Councillor Mike Pringle about protecting services with the challenging budget situation (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
- 6) from Councillor Kevin Rostance regarding update on public engagement relating to local government reorganisation (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE replied)

Questions 7 and 8 were taken together

- 7) from Councillor Muriel Weisz concerning the lack of government reform into Adult Social Care (Councillor Tony Harper replied)
- 8) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny concerning the lack of government reform into Adult Social Care (Councillor Tony Harper replied)
- 9) from Councillor Liz Plant regarding profits made by independent foster care organisations (Councillor Philip Owen replied)

The full responses to the questions above are set out in set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

The time limit of 60 minutes allowed for questions was reached before the following questions were asked. A written response to the questions would be provided to the Councillors who asked the questions within 15 working days of the meeting and be included in the papers for the next Full Council meeting.

- 10) from Councillor Helen-Ann Smith concerning unconscious bias training (Councillor Bruce Laughton to reply)
- 11) from Councillor John Peck about schools affected by Coronavirus (Councillor Philip Owen to reply)
- 12) from Councillor Samantha Deakin concerning impact of COVID-19 on children's education (Councillor Philip Owen to reply)
- 13) from Councillor Tom Hollis regarding painting of Trent Bridge (Councillor John Cottee to reply)
- 14) from Councillor David Martin concerning Adult Social Care budget (Councillor Tony Harper to reply)
- 15) from Councillor Rachel Madden about HS2 (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE to reply)
- 16) from Councillor Rachel Madden regarding government funding for Coronavirus (Councillor Richard Jackson to reply)
- 17) from Councillor Muriel Weisz concerning Black History Month (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE to reply)
- 18) from Councillor Diana Meale regarding progress and cost of Invest in Notts programme (Councillor Richard Jackson to reply on behalf of Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE)
- 19) from Councillor Rachel Madden about upgrading council buildings (Councillor Richard Jackson to reply)
- 20) from Councillor David Martin regarding questions by independent experts at committee (Councillor Bruce Laughton to reply)
- 21) from Councillor Tom Hollis about the Nottinghamshire County Cricket club winning T-20 Blast (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE to reply)
- 22) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding university fees during Coronavirus (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE to reply)

During this item Councillor Tom Hollis issued a formal apology, which had been agreed with Councillor Garner. The apology related to comments made during an exchange with Councillor Garner within a debate at the Full Council meeting on 23rd July which Councillor Garner took offence to. He apologised if Councillor Garner was offended.

11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Motion One

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Tom Hollis and seconded by Councillor Jason Zadrozny:

“This Council notes that the infrastructure in Hucknall is already struggling from a lack of medical provision, school places and the roads are gridlocked. In recent years, there has been a huge number of housing developments in the area.

We therefore call for the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council to hold an urgent meeting with the Leaders of Ashfield District Council and Gedling Borough Council to work together to ensure the local infrastructure in Hucknall and Gedling is improved in the area affected by any future developments.”

An amendment to the motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Chris Barnfather and seconded by Councillor Kevin Rostance:-

“This Council notes that the infrastructure in Hucknall is already struggling from a lack of medical provision, **concerns regarding** school places and **that** the roads are **currently** gridlocked. In recent years, there ~~has~~**have** been **a** huge number of housing developments in the area.

We therefore call for the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council to ~~hold~~**arrange** an urgent meeting ~~with~~**between** the Leaders of Ashfield District Council and Gedling Borough Council **and appropriate representatives of Nottinghamshire County Council, in order to support them in putting aside their party political and territorial differences and** to work together **constructively with the County Council** to ensure **that** the local infrastructure in Hucknall and Gedling is improved in the area affected by any future developments.”

The meeting adjourned from 3.14pm – 3.25pm to enable members to consider the proposed amendment.

The amendment was accepted by the mover of the motion and therefore the motion was altered.

Following the debate, the amended motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2020/019

This Council notes that the infrastructure in Hucknall is already struggling from a lack of medical provision, concerns regarding school places and that the roads are currently gridlocked. In recent years, there have been a huge number of housing developments in the area.

We therefore call for the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council to arrange an urgent meeting between the Leaders of Ashfield District Council and Gedling Borough

Council and appropriate representatives of Nottinghamshire County Council, in order to support them in putting aside their party political and territorial differences and to work together constructively with the County Council to ensure that the local infrastructure in Hucknall and Gedling is improved in the area affected by any future developments.

Motion Two

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Jim Creamer and seconded by Councillor Alan Rhodes:

“In May 2019, a motion calling for Nottinghamshire County Council to set a carbon neutral target, and implement an associated governance structure to closely monitor carbon emissions, received unanimous support from all Members of this Chamber.

This Council notes the time that has since passed, and believes it is now imperative to commit to carbon neutrality in all its activities by 2030.”

An amendment to the Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor John Cottee and seconded by Councillor Phil Rostance:

“In May 2019, a motion calling for Nottinghamshire County Council to set a carbon neutral target, and implement an associated governance structure to closely monitor carbon emissions, received unanimous support from all Members of this Chamber.

This Council notes the time that has since passed, and believes it is now imperative to commit to carbon neutrality in all its activities by 2030 **or as soon as possible thereafter.**”

The meeting adjourned from 4.48pm – 4.54pm to enable members to consider the proposed amendment.

The amendment was accepted by the mover of the motion and therefore the motion was altered.

Following the debate, the amended motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2020/020

In May 2019, a motion calling for Nottinghamshire County Council to set a carbon neutral target, and implement an associated governance structure to closely monitor carbon emissions, received unanimous support from all Members of this Chamber.

This Council notes the time that has since passed, and believes it is now imperative to commit to carbon neutrality in all its activities by 2030 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Motion Three

A motion was moved by Councillor Richard Jackson and seconded by Councillor Phil Rostance in terms of resolution 2020/021 below.

The motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2020/021

This Council abhors modern slavery and human trafficking, and has taken an active role in raising awareness of these crimes - which are often hiding in plain sight - with members, officers, and partners. This Council welcomes measures undertaken by our Trading Standards, Contracts Management and Procurement departments to prevent Modern Slavery, but acknowledges the importance of remaining vigilant against such appalling crimes.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to undertake work confirming that all of the council's service providers, partners, and suppliers comply with our values, and further requests that the Chief Executive brings a report to update members on this work to a future meeting of the Policy Committee.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.29 pm.

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2020 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

The following three questions were taken together

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Eric Kerry

In light of public allegations that Nottinghamshire County Council did not engage with the Leaders and Chief Executives of the borough and district councils in Nottinghamshire until “the last minute” regarding the issue of Local Government Reorganisation;

Would the Leader explain whether she has met or sought to meet these representatives, and if so, how many times since the Summer of 2018, when Nottinghamshire County Council began the first phase of its work on the future of local government in Nottinghamshire?

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Kate Foale

At the AGM of the East Midlands Council, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Robert Jenrick was asked for more clarity from government about plans for local government reorganisation and devolution. His response was very clear that this is not the right time and I quote: ‘it is not helpful to get into arguments in and between councilswhen there is a job to be done’, referring to the challenges currently facing Councils: COVID, economic recovery and service delivery.

In hindsight does she agree with me that the decision at Policy Committee on 16 September to write to the Secretary of State to ask for an invitation for the County Council to come forward with proposals for unitary local government in Nottinghamshire was a mistake?

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Jason Zadrozny

Can the Leader please outline what discussions she has had with the 7 Leaders of Borough and District Councils and the Leader of Nottingham City Council with regards to Local Government Reorganisation? Does she now accept that her attempts to create a Unitary Authority across our County has failed? Will this authority now stop any further spending on this doomed project and will she apologise to the 11,000 workers at our Borough and District Councils for threatening their jobs. Further to this, will she guarantee that this will not be revisited in the future after a number of botched, expensive attempts to scrap Borough and District Councils?

Response from Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE, Leader of the Council

This administration has made no secret of its ambitions to see Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire and wider reforms across the East Midlands. In

both 2018 and 2020, we have undertaken rigorous consultation with local residents, partners, and organisations including district and parish councils.

When we first considered Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire in June 2018, I wrote to the Leaders of Nottinghamshire's seven district & borough councils outlining my council's proposals to work with Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and the three corresponding cities – and I quote – 'in a Strategic Alliance to drive economic and strategic housing growth' and to 'seek the government's views on whether local government reorganisation would help in delivering the right conditions to maximise the region's potential.'

I corresponded with these leaders on two further occasions in July 2018, providing further details on our proposals and inviting them to meet. In tandem with this correspondence, I met with the Leaders and Chief Executives of these councils on the following occasions:

- On 19 June 2018, I met with Councillor Simon Robinson, Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council
- On 25 June 2018, I met with Councillor Simon Greaves, Leader of Bassetlaw District Council, together with our councils' Chief Executives
- On 18 July 2018, I met with Councillor Zadrozny in his capacity as Leader of the Ashfield Independent Group. Councillors Rhodes & Garner were present as Leaders of their respective Groups.
- On 23 July 2018, I met with Councillor David Lloyd, Leader of Newark & Sherwood District Council, together with our councils' Chief Executives
- On 6 September 2018, I again met with Councillor Simon Robinson, Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council, together with our councils' Chief Executives
- On 13 September 2018, I met with Councillor Richard Jackson, then Leader of Broxtowe Borough Council, together with our councils' Chief Executives
- On 17 September, I met with Kate Allsop, then Mayor of Mansfield, together with our councils' Chief Executives

I had also arranged to meet with Councillors Jason Zadrozny and John Clarke in their capacity as District Council Leaders, though both cancelled the meeting at short notice and did not seek to reschedule.

Further to these meetings, two meetings were also held with the Leaders and Chief Executives of all eight Nottinghamshire councils. These took place on 5 November 2018 and 5 December 2018.

It was at this point that we paused our work, further to discussion with the district and borough councils, so that they could consider further ways in which we could deliver efficiencies and work more closely. This included a report to the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee, on which all District and Borough Leaders sit together with myself and the Leader of the City Council. This report, which was approved in February 2019, agreed that the Chief Executives of these councils should hold workshops on joint working. Our Council was able to arrange for this work to take place with a leading consultancy free of charge, and whilst these workshops took place throughout 2019 a follow-up report has not been forthcoming.

I have, of course, continued to speak with my district colleagues since this time on a more informal basis and arranged official meetings with Councillor Milan Radulovic and Mayor Andy Abrahams in November 2019, though the latter was cancelled at short notice. However, more general progress has been interrupted on several occasions – namely from the purdah periods from the recent local district council elections and general elections, the Government’s focus on Brexit throughout 2019, and of course the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lockdown which was imposed on 23rd March 2020.

To address Councillor Zadrozny’s points more directly, the following passage from a letter which I received from Luke Hall MP, the Minister responsible for overseeing Local Government Reorganisation on Friday 9 October, should make the official position quite clear:

“I would value an opportunity now to see how your vision for the future of local government in Nottinghamshire is developing and the ideas you have for future unitary structures. If you wish, I would be happy for you to send me the business plan and proposals you are developing including the evidence you have about the level of local support. I will be interested to consider this material, which will help me develop my thinking for the future.”

Question to the Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee from Councillor Tom Hollis

Can the Chairman please give a statement on the poor standard of jobs being carried out on our Highways by Via East Midlands – now 100% owned by Nottinghamshire County Council. Residents from across both the Ashfield and Mansfield Districts have complained about the poor, rushed standard of workmanship. This includes carrying out micro-asphalting jobs without filling in pot-holes and re-surfacing around parked cars. Will the Chairman, take this opportunity to apologise, accept responsibility and carry out an investigation into the standard of highway’s works carried out by this authority?

Response from Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee

I agree an apology is due. An apology is due from Councillor Hollis and at least one of his colleagues to the operatives of Via East Midlands and to our contractors, and to our own Highways Manager, who have been are being publicly, unjustly criticised by the most cynical politicians I have ever known. The same people who, a couple of weeks ago, were presenting themselves as champions of council employees and operatives.

Under the Ashfield Independent Code of Dishonour, it seems nobody is exempt from being used or attacked in pursuit of a headline or something to write in a political leaflet, even though the accusations being made are at best ill-informed, and at worst downright malicious.

I will answer the question regarding micro-asphalting as though it is a legitimate expression of concern, rather than the latest attention-seeking political stunt.

Micro asphalt is a treatment to repair roads, and is used nationally and recognised as a cost-efficient repair method. It has been used in Nottinghamshire for a number of years. It is particularly appropriate for use on residential streets where often in the past surface dressing has been the chosen treatment.

Micro asphalt by nature regulates out potholes and surface defects and as such removes the need to repair all but the most serious ones before it is applied.

The ironwork will be adjusted in the coming weeks and the surface will be swept to remove any loose aggregate, which is in accordance with national guidance. The road markings will also be replaced shortly, and over time the surface will continue to lighten as the material cures, eventually changing to a grey colour similar to the surrounding roads.

I understand that a meeting took place involving Ashfield members and our resilient, professional representatives of both Via East Midlands and Nottinghamshire County Council, and a number of micro-asphalting works were discussed. Residents will be advised on the forthcoming additional or remedial work in due course.

Regarding resurfacing around parked cars, specifically the instance cited in an Ashfield Independents' media release, five vehicles were removed from the carriageway, but a remaining vehicle had been involved in an incident where police attended, so a decision was made to leave it in case it was part of an ongoing investigation.

Chairman, our operatives and contractors carry out highways works all over the County, more often than ever before because of the extra £24 million invested in highways and the maintenance of them by this Conservative & Mansfield Independent administration.

Question to the Chairman of Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee from Councillor Mike Pringle

At the most recent Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee, you stated that it would be challenging to produce a balanced budget for this authority next February. Can you please share with Members how you intend to protect services and not leave the incumbent administration with an increased deficit, despite all the cuts you have made to vital services throughout your term?

Response from Councillor Richard Jackson, Chairman of the Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee

Over the past weekend there was a considerable amount of triumphalism from your Group Leader and certain other politicians on social media, celebrating the news that Nottinghamshire will not be in the first wave of areas considered for unitary status.

Clearly, you want to take credit for delaying the release of at least £27 million a year tied up in the bureaucracy of the current two-tier structure, not to mention the additional

devolved funds that we would attract by forming a Combined Authority of unitary councils.

If we had been in the first wave, then we could have made different assumptions in planning next year's budget and our Medium Term Financial Strategy, but this delay means we cannot.

The letter to the Leader of this Council from Minister of State, Luke Hall, which has been referred to already this afternoon, is clear that we should proceed with putting together our updated business case for unitary local government, but self-evidently, those who have argued to kick this can further down the road have succeeded, for now.

As a consequence, and as I have warned all along in newspaper columns, in radio interviews, in television interviews, and at committee, this means that difficult decisions will now need to be taken around council tax and our discretionary services.

You have known this all along, but you and your colleagues led people to believe that local government reorganisation could be delayed or killed off with no consequence. Your Leader, and others, have insisted that now was not the time to discuss a unitary council while we deal with Coronavirus.

But I beg to differ. I think now was precisely the time to discuss a new approach that would release – as I have already said – at least £27 million a year of extra money to fund services, both during and after this public health crisis has abated.

You campaigned against this. You fought against releasing that money as quickly as possible, and I'm sure that's why you have wasted no time tabling a question seeking to distance yourself from the consequences!

Well, rest assured, Councillor Pringle, I will be reminding the Nottinghamshire public of the truth every single time your group or any other group tables a hypocritical questions or motions seeking to shift the blame.

I suspect I already know some of your excuses. One will be to accuse this administration of financial mismanagement. Well, the truth is that in February this year, before COVID became a factor, this County Council was in the best financial shape it had been for over a decade. A Local Government Association Peer Review specifically praised the financial management of this authority, and it called us a 'good' council going towards great.

Since then, the Coronavirus outbreak has caused unprecedented demand on our services. Our Section 151 officer and his team have been analysing spend, completing the necessary government returns and reporting to my Committee throughout the year. We have been transparent about the situation.

Over the months we have seen Government announcements of support to business; to care homes and home-based care providers; to fund additional PPE; and significant direct support for local government. But the current picture is that Nottinghamshire County Council has a budget gap of £52 million over the next three years, even after

receiving over £40 million of emergency funding from the Government. Of that £52 million, £24 million of savings need to be found in 2021/22.

This leads me to pre-empt another of your likely excuses for the consequences of you stalling LGR. You will likely remind me that the Government told councils to “spend whatever is needed” to tackle Coronavirus, implying that we would be financially covered to do so, and I agree. We have spent whatever was needed, and we are reminding the Government of all their promises at every opportunity.

But let’s be clear, the scale of the COVID crisis has stunned the world. The costs go beyond what any Government was anticipating back in February and March. And the bottom line is that every pound we spend on the response to COVID comes out of the public’s pocket – that’s the taxpayer’s pocket – whether it is raised through council tax, or arrives as an additional grant from the Government. It is not ‘free’ money, there is no such thing.

The only way to meet the costs of a crisis like this without increasing the burden on the taxpayer one way or another, is by delivering our services in a more efficient way. And that is exactly what we want to do - as fast as possible – by creating a unitary authority.

I repeat, a single unitary council would release at least £27 million a year currently that is tied up in duplicating council administration to be spent instead on frontline services. But your group campaigned to block that.

And this leaves us where we are, Chairman. In order to close the budget gap, the choice is now between higher council tax or fewer services, or a combination of both.

Labour, the Ashfield Independents and the Liberal Democrat all told the Nottinghamshire public that we should look the gift-horse of a unitary council in the mouth. So, next February, you will have the opportunity to table alternative budgets showing the public how we can keep the current two-tier structure, meet the costs of COVID and protect all of our services.

If those alternative budgets don’t materialise, Chairman, or if they don’t add up, then rest assured I will be advising the Nottinghamshire public to ask opposition members why.

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Kevin Rostance

At Policy Committee on 16th September, it was agreed to commission an independent social research company to undertake engagement work on the Council’s behalf. This is to gather the views of the Nottinghamshire public and business community on the development of proposals for unitary local government across the County Council’s administrative area.

Whilst this work is ongoing and the final outcomes will be reported at a later stage, would the Leader bring the Council up to date on the work taking place, and the response so far?

Response from Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE, Leader of the Council

We have indeed commissioned an independent social research company to help us garner views on the future arrangements for local government in Nottinghamshire. ORS – a company with a strong track record in this field – have designed our engagement work to ensure that it is both objective and transparent. Our work with ORS can be summarised as follows: -

A public questionnaire has been widely publicised and made available via the “Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future” microsite, which is found on the County Council’s main website. It is designed to garner initial views on the current arrangements, and potential future changes.

The questionnaire is supported by an information leaflet that provides lots of background detail on local government in the County, and explains why it’s both necessary and appropriate for us to explore whether there is a better way to do things.

In addition to being available online, both the questionnaire and leaflet are available in hard copy at each one of our 60 libraries. So far, we have had over 3,000 responses, which indicates that we have been successful in publicising this work, and that the public are keen to express their views. The questionnaire remains open until 19 October.

In addition, we have organised a series of engagement events for town and parish councils, the voluntary and community sector, and local businesses, and have communicated these widely across those networks. COVID means that these events will be virtual of course, but to date the Council:-

- The two town and parish events took place earlier this week, on 13 and 14 October;
- The voluntary sector forum took place yesterday, on 14 October; and
- The business forum took place earlier today.

In all cases, I understand that these events, independently facilitated by ORS, were well attended by representatives from across the County.

Lastly, we have arranged for one-to-one interviews to take place with senior representatives of number of the Council’s key partner agencies, including the Police, the Fire Service, health and education partners. These are currently underway.

The valuable feedback we gather from this activity will be incorporated into the work we have begun to develop firmer proposals for the future shape of local government in Nottinghamshire for consideration by Councillors in due course.

The following two questions were taken together and answered by the Chairman of Adult Social Care and Health Committee.

Question to the Chairman of Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee from Councillor Muriel Weisz

Does the chair share my sense of disappointment regarding this government's complete failure to produce the desperately needed proposals for social care reform, in particular how social care will be funded in the future, which would give our residents some much need clarity and reassurance about our ability as an authority to continue providing high quality care for our elderly and vulnerable across this county?

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Jason Zadrozny

Nottinghamshire County Council currently spends millions of pounds more a year on social care than it raises in Council Tax. Who does she blame for the black hole in Council finances – the 7 Borough and District Councils or the failure of the Government to publish the Green Paper on Social Care reform SIX times?

Response from Councillor Tony Harper, Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee

Thank you, Councillors Weisz and Zadrozny for your important questions as this is a subject I feel very passionate about.

Mr Chairman, if Councillor Weisz hadn't used such extreme language, I would have wholeheartedly agreed with her, and this is the problem when party political point-scoring is apparently more important than working together.

Yes, I am very disappointed that in October 2020 we are still awaiting desperately needed proposals on the future of social care funding. You are fully aware of my comments and campaigning on this subject. Councillor Richard Jackson has emphasised the importance of this on numerous occasions, including during his budget presentation this year.

The reality is that successive Labour and Conservative Governments have kicked this can down the road for at least 30 years, despite commissioning numerous reviews and consulting the public several times. Although the suggested solutions to social care funding have varied in detail from one review to another, the fundamental truth has remained the same. The assumptions made around life expectancy and health & social care funding requirements, which were made when the NHS and social care system first came into being, have long since become outdated and unsustainable.

Life expectancy has dramatically increased since those days thanks to advances in medical science, and the technology now available to help people live longer and more comfortably despite severe health conditions.

The problem is that the system expected to fund these fantastic advances in science and life expectancy has not evolved to match. There is no question that in order to sustain health and social care services in the future, people will either have to pay more in direct taxation or take more responsibility for meeting some of their own medical costs. Probably both, or probably other schemes that have been looked at like insurance.

That is a difficult message to communicate to the public, especially the older generations who were sold the myth of a "free" health and social care system.

Any Government has to tell people the truth, but nobody wants to grasp that nettle. This isn't surprising, because on the few occasions any recent Government has tentatively tried to open a mature discussion with the public, their political opponents have undermined it, telling the public what they want to hear rather than what they need to know.

Now, I'm not singling out any one party for blame – I am making that quite clear. At different times I think they have all been as bad as each other in their short-term political opportunism, but the result is that whoever is in power has made no real decisions on this issue.

The consequence of this dangerous game of pass the parcel – at least with regard to social care - is that councils across the country have to perform ever more impressive financial gymnastics to bridge an ever more unsustainable gap between funding and need.

And also, in relation to Councillor Zadrozny's question, the Ashfield Independents are probably thinking "This is nothing to do with us, we've never been in Government!". But actually, in his eagerness to take a sideswipe relating to local government reorganisation, they've shown themselves to be just as culpable.

The fact is that for social care to be sustainable in the future, we need greater financial contributions one way or the other from the people receiving that care.

If we had a single unitary local authority structure, that makes much more efficient use of public money by bringing together all elements of social care and associated support services under one roof, achieving economies of scale, and having more money to pump into social care. However, for reasons of self-interest or political expediency, they works to delay or oppose this.

Chairman, while-ever politicians at national and local level "kick the can down the road" in terms of social care reform and local government reform, then the financial situation for councils will become more and more unsustainable.

While-ever politicians mislead the public to think that if we carry on as we are, everything will be fine, then those politicians – whichever party or group they represent - are all, collectively, responsible for this situation.

Question to the Chairman of Children and Young People's Committee from Councillor Liz Plant

We continue to see a consistent overspend in the Children and Young People's budget, arising from the increasing costs for our Looked after Children (LAC). Does the chair of CYP agree with me that the profits made by Independent foster care organisations and private children's homes are completely unacceptable when every upper tier local authority is struggling to support increased numbers of LAC, numbers that will more than likely be exacerbated by the Covid crisis?

Response from Councillor Philip Owen, Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee

First, we should recognise that there are several private agencies who recruit foster carers, and that those foster carers do a very good and valuable job, providing vulnerable children with a stable background which greatly enhances their life chances.

I'm not going down the 'Old Labour' line that any company or agency which makes a degree of profit from providing this type of service is "bad" or "run by nasty people".

In an area of high demand such as foster care, a mixed economy of public and private sector provision, regulated in the right way, can help to ensure we have the optimum capacity of good quality foster care available.

However – and this is where I agree with the thrust of Councillor Plant's question – if either of those two sectors begin to work against each other rather than with each other, this becomes detrimental to the interests of children and taxpayers alike.

Nottinghamshire County Council is making a determined effort to recruit more foster carers, as Members and the general public will no doubt be aware from our 'Giving Local Children Roots' advertisements throughout the county.

One aspect of this campaign is to make people aware of their potential to be foster carers, where they may not previously have considered the idea or recognised the mutual benefit it can offer to their own lives and that of the fostered child.

The other aspect is that we must provide sufficient financial incentives and support for taking on this duty, because no matter how much a person or family wants to give back to society, we all have bills to pay. Our lives must be financially sustainable.

It is entirely normal that those people wishing to commit their time to being foster carers will be attracted to sign up with councils or private agencies who offer the best financial rewards for their work, but sadly this has led to what could be described as a 'price war' or a 'fee war' between the public and private sector.

As part of our recruitment drive we have increased the fees we pay in order to attract new foster carers, but the reality is that some private providers respond by effectively 'gazumping' us, not only making it harder to attract new recruits, but in some cases poaching from us foster carers who we have trained at the public's expense.

This leaves us with a shortage of foster carers, meaning we have to rely too heavily on those private providers, who duly recover their initial outlay by charging the council, and therefore the taxpayer, more for each private placement we are forced to use.

Last year I wrote to ministers and local MPs stating my view that the answer may be to introduce some type of legally binding cap on what the independent sector can charge, otherwise councils will be forced to spend excessive and escalating amounts of money to meet their statutory duties to looked-after children.

My desire is not to eliminate private foster care provision, but to regulate the situation so that a mixed economy of private and public sector foster care provision can continue in a sustainable, complementary way that delivers the greatest possible number of good quality foster care placements for our vulnerable children, whilst also protecting the taxpayer and this council from increasing costs.

Councillor Plant is correct that the current 'fee war' I have described are one of many pressures on the children's budget even before we were confronted by COVID, but by no means are we alone. Some 96% of local authority children's services overspent last year, and this Council is currently forecasting a 1.3% non-COVID overspend which compares very favourably with other authorities across the East Midlands and the country.

It is true nevertheless that Looked After Children costs are going up. It is costing more per child, and more children have become looked after by Nottinghamshire County Council - an increase from around 800 to 950 over the past two years, which amounts to 18% compared with the East Midlands increase of 23%. Therefore, any financial or regulatory action central government can take to alleviate those pressures has to be welcomed.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITIES AND PLACE COMMITTEE**RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the decisions made by the Communities and Place Committee concerning issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council on 15th October 2020.

Information**A. Safety improvements on Main Street, Eastwood (Ref 2019/0393)**

1. A 57 signature petition was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Tony Harper on behalf of residents of Main Street, Eastwood. The petition requests that road safety improvements are carried out on Main Street.
2. The invasive environmental impact and noise created by physical traffic calming measures, which often have only limited support, has led to traffic calming measures being introduced only where there has been an identified serious injury accident problem involving vulnerable road users.
3. During the period between 01/01/2017 and 31/07/2020 on Main Street there has been one reported personal injury accident on record, in 2018, so it is considered that the introduction of traffic calming measures at this time cannot be justified.
4. Having recorded 7 accidents, 3 of which were serious, in the previous reporting period on Church Street Eastwood and, with a high number of vulnerable users, traffic calming features were installed after consultation with residents.
5. Currently there are bend warning signs and two 'SLOW' markings either side of the Main Street/Chewton Street junction. The carriageway markings have recently been refreshed and the chevron sign will be replaced due to its condition.
6. Via EM Ltd's Safer Highways Team work closely with Nottinghamshire Police to proactively identify and treat sites that have an existing injury accident problem. There are currently no such schemes at the moment proposed for Main Street and the surrounding area in Eastwood. However, the Authority are always happy to assess locations that are brought to its attention on a case to case basis.
7. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

B. Safety improvements on Killisick Road, Arnold (Ref 2019/0400)

8. A 41-signature petition was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Michael Payne on behalf of residents in the Killisick Junior School area. The petition requests that road safety improvements are carried out on Killisick Road.
9. Nottinghamshire County Council and Via East Midlands take road safety very seriously and has consistently invested in highway improvements to reduce accidents on its roads. Every year there is a dedicated budget available to fund casualty reduction schemes at sites where high numbers of accidents are occurring and where there is a recognised pattern of injury accidents. Currently the Authority implements around 50 such schemes in a year, specifically aimed at accident problem sites.
10. In the period between 01/01/2017 and 30/06/2020 there have been no reported personal injury accidents so, at the present time, it would be difficult to justify any improvements on these grounds.
11. However, taking the petition into account the Via Road Safety Team has offered road safety training to the school and there will be a survey commissioned to determine if the site would be appropriate for a school crossing patrol.
12. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

C. Safe road crossing on Beckside, Gamston (Ref:2019/0394)

13. A petition with 72 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Jonathan Wheeler on behalf of residents requesting the installation of one or more zebra crossings on Beckside in Gamston and Edwalton.
14. There are currently five uncontrolled pedestrian crossing points on Beckside. Being a spine road through the housing estate, there is no single point where pedestrian desire lines converge. Instead, pedestrians cross at random points to suit their needs. As a result, there are few locations where a formal crossing point would be considered safe or could be prioritised against other competing requests.
15. There is, however, more significant pedestrian demand at the existing pedestrian refuge west of the Morrison's supermarket access. An assessment of the location in early 2019, using the County Council's standard assessment and prioritisation method – the PV² survey, generated a score of 0.27. This is not a high score, suggesting that there is little conflict between pedestrians and motor vehicles. However, it is noted that the design and layout of Beckside can be intimidating to pedestrians and that there is potentially sufficient demand to suggest that a crossing may provide a significant benefit at a low cost. As a result, a study will be commissioned to determine the feasibility and cost of constructing a formal crossing at this location. Depending on the outcome of this work, a crossing will be considered for inclusion in a future year's programme of works.
16. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

D. Parking Scheme on Eatons Road, Stapleford (Ref:2019/0395)

17. A petition with 16 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Doddy on behalf of residents requesting the introduction of a residents' parking scheme on Eatons Road in Stapleford.
18. Eatons Road is a residential cul-de-sac located to the southeast of the town centre. Few of the properties have off-street parking available. The northern half of the road is already subject to a permit scheme.
19. The County Council will carry out a parking survey to determine whether intrusive non-resident parking takes place and the extent to which it affects the availability of on-street parking for residents. Depending on the outcome of this assessment, a permit scheme may be considered for inclusion in a future year's programme of works.
20. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

E. Parking Scheme on Horace Avenue, Stapleford (Ref:2019/0396)

21. A petition with 68 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Doddy on behalf of residents requesting the modification of the hours of operation of the existing residents' parking scheme on Horace Avenue in Stapleford from 9am-5pm to 24 hours.
22. Horace Avenue is a residential cul-de-sac located off Derby Road in the town centre. None of the properties have off-street parking available. The parking restrictions on this road form part of a package of parking measures on several residential streets near the town-centre. They were designed to provide a balance between improving access to on-street parking for residents and also providing parking for the town centre's evening economy.
23. If the additional parking that takes place in the evening is a result of residents returning home from work or receiving visitors, extending the hours of operation will not address the problem. If the problems are caused by visitors to nearby pubs, restaurants etc, extending the hours of operation may have an adverse impact on those businesses or move the problem elsewhere. The only solution to this would be to extend the hours of operation of permit schemes on the other nearby roads as well.
24. However, the County Council has not received any representations from residents of other streets seeking the extension of the hours of operation of their schemes, so it is not clear that an area-wide modification would command the required level of support.
25. On balance, therefore, it is not considered appropriate to undertake further assessment of this request. However, it will be kept on file and if evidence is presented that the majority of residents on William Road, Warren Avenue, Cyril Avenue and Wellington Street are generally in support of permit schemes, the council will undertake the necessary assessment work.
26. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

F. Parking Scheme on Park Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield (Ref:2019/0397)

27. A petition with 33 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Samantha Deakin on behalf of residents requesting the re-introduction of a residents' parking scheme on Park Street in Sutton in Ashfield.
28. Park Street is a residential cul-de-sac located off Outram Street in the town centre. It has an entrance to a school at its northern end. None of the properties have off-street parking available.
29. A residents' permit scheme was introduced on Park Street as part of a wider scheme including other nearby residential roads in 1987. However, the restrictions were not welcomed by all residents and a campaign to remove them (which included the signs regularly being painted over in order to make the restrictions unenforceable) culminated in the permit scheme being revoked in 2012. However, the County Council then received a petition in July 2016 requesting that the permit scheme be reintroduced, which was rejected on the grounds that the scheme had only recently been removed with residents' support. It would therefore appear that there was little consensus among residents regarding their desire for a permit scheme.
30. The present petition, however, features signatures from all but seven properties (out of 41) suggesting that a permit scheme may now receive sufficient support for implementation (although support at petition stage does not always convert into support at formal consultation). It should also be borne in mind that any non-resident parking on Park Street would simply relocate to other nearby streets in the event of the introduction of permits. This is in contravention of the council's policy regarding parking permit schemes, so in order to address the issue it would be necessary to reintroduce permits across a wider area, similar to the previous scheme.
31. The County Council has not received any representations from residents of other streets near Park Street seeking the reintroduction of residents' permits so it is not clear that an area-wide scheme would command the necessary support to secure implementation. Officers will therefore undertake a survey of the residents on the nearby streets to determine if they are generally in support of an area-wide permit scheme which will inform whether a review of the parking restrictions in the area should be taken forward.
32. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

G. Speed Limit Change on Warsop Lane, between Blidworth and Rainworth (Ref:2019/0401)

33. A petition with 26 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Yvonne Woodhead on behalf of residents requesting a reduction of the speed limit on the B6020 Warsop Lane between Blidworth and Rainworth.
34. Warsop Lane is a rural road with no development on either side. It has a system of street lighting and is straight, both of which contribute to providing good visibility. The road has a footway on the eastern side which is used by children attending a secondary school in Rainworth.
35. This section of highway has been the subject of a previous petition (submitted in November 2017) at which time the County Council agreed to assess the request. An investigation was

carried out using government guidance as set out in the Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 "Setting Local Speed Limits".

36. The following key factors were considered:

- history of collisions;
- road geometry and engineering;
- road function;
- composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users);
- existing traffic speeds; and
- road environment.

37. Following the advice set out in the national guidance, the investigation concluded that a reduction in the speed limit was not appropriate. This agrees with an earlier recommendation made when the speed limit was reviewed as part of the countywide 'A and B Road Speed Limit Review'.

38. It should be noted that there has not been a reported injury accident on this section of road in the last three full years. However, in recognition of local concern, the County Council will undertake a study to determine the feasibility and cost of improving the footway alongside the road.

39. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

H. Objection to access road to Park and Ride site, Redhill (Ref:2019/0399)

40. A 238-signature petition was submitted to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Michael Payne requesting that outline proposals for an access road to the Redhill park and ride site along Bestwood Lodge Drive be scrapped immediately.

41. The A60 Leapool Park & Ride (P&R) proposal is a long-standing County Council safeguarded transport project and there is also a safeguarded policy for this scheme in the adopted 2018 Gedling Borough Council Local Plan. Nottingham City Council's successful Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) bid has provided the County Council with an opportunity to secure funding to enable this project to move to the next stage in its delivery.

42. Part of the successful TCF bid is a package of proposed bus priority measures to be designed, planned and delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council. This package includes a proposed bus Park and Ride site at the A60/A614 Leapool roundabout; and associated bus priority measures along sections of the A60 Mansfield Road, Oxclose Lane and Edwards Lane such that buses from the A60 P&R gain an advantage over cars, bypass the congestion through Arnold and Daybrook and can also serve the City hospital. The access point to the park and ride site as part of this proposal is solely off the A60/A614 roundabout.

43. The TCF bid documents also show, for indicative purposes only, a possible future bus link running parallel to and to the west of the A60 linking the proposed Leapool P&R site to Bestwood Lodge Drive. This bus link does not form part of the successful award of funding and is not being actively promoted for delivery by Nottinghamshire County Council. Conceptual plans of the bus only link were produced for the purpose of demonstrating possible future public transport options that could be considered if they were judged to form essential transport infrastructure to support future housing/employment allocations by Gedling Borough Council as part of a future Local Plan. The plan preparation process will include opportunity

for consultation and any land allocated for development would need to be supported by evidence.

44. Following the award of funding to Nottingham City Council this scheme will now need to be reported to and approved by the County Council's Policy Committee as well as being subject to detailed design considerations, public consultation and all necessary statutory processes including planning permission, land acquisition etc.

45. In summary the award of TCF funding now allows the County Council (subject to Policy Committee approval) and its partners the opportunity to work up the detail and consult on scheme proposals and options i.e. to provide a bus based P&R site at the A60 Leapool roundabout and bus priority measures along the A60 Mansfield Road, Oxclose Lane and Edwards Lane. Any suggested allocation of residential and employment land on land to the west of the A60 at Redhill, including consideration of a possible dedicated bus link connecting to Bestwood Lodge Drive or elsewhere, is subject to future consideration by the Local Planning Authority, Gedling Borough Council, through the preparation of the next Gedling Local Plan.

46. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Statutory and Policy Implications

3. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

Councillor John Cottee – Chairman of Communities and Place Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Adrian Smith, Corporate Director, Place
adrian.smith@nottsc.gov.uk

Background Papers and Published Documents

- Responses to Petitions Presented to the Chairman of the County Council – Communities and Place Committee, 3 December 2020

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Arnold North – Councillor Michael Payne and Councillor Pauline Allan
- Bingham East – Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan
- Blidworth – Councillor Yvonne Woodhead

- Eastwood – Councillor Tony Harper
- Stapleford and Broxtowe Central – Councillor John Doddy and Councillor John Longdon
- Sutton Central and East – Samantha Deakin
- West Bridgford South – Councillor Jonathan Wheeler

**REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE AND MAJOR CONTRACTS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2020/21

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a mid-year review of the Council's treasury management activities in 2020/21 for the 6 months to 30 September 2020.

Information

2. Treasury management is defined as "the management of the council's investments and cashflows; its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks".
3. County Council approves the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy and also receives mid-year and full year outturn reports. The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation, scrutiny and monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Treasury Management Group, comprising the Service Director (Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement), the Group Manager (Financial Management), the Senior Accountant (Pensions & Treasury Management), the Senior Accountant (Financial Strategy & Compliance) and the Investments Officer.
4. In the first half of 2020/21, borrowing and investment have been in accordance with the approved limits as set out in the Council's Treasury Management Policy and Strategy. Appendix A provides a detailed report on this treasury management activity. The main points to note are:
 - All treasury management activities were undertaken by authorised officers within the limits agreed by the Council.
 - All investments were made to counterparties on the Council's approved lending list.
 - £30m of new borrowing has been raised since the start of the financial year, and £6.8m of existing debt has been redeemed on maturity. The net increase is therefore £23.2m.
 - Over the 6 month period the Council earned 0.17% on its short-term lending, compared with the average 7-day London Inter-Bank Bid (LIBID) rate of which was effectively zero.

Reasons for Recommendation/s

5. It is considered good practice for Members to consider treasury management planned and actual performance at least three times per financial year, firstly in the Strategy Report before the start of the year, then in this Mid-Year Report, and also in the Outturn Report, after the close of the financial year.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

8. That County Council members approve the actions taken by the Section 151 Officer to date as set out in the report.

Councillor Richard Jackson
Chairman of Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Tamsin Rabbitts – Senior Accountant (Pensions & Treasury Management)

Constitutional Comments (KK 16/11/2020)

9. County Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report..

Financial Comments (TMR 16/11/2020)

10. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2020/21

1. Treasury Management Activity

- 1.1 The Council's treasury management strategy and associated policies and practices for 2020/21 were approved in February 2020 by Full Council. The Council manages its investments in-house and invests with institutions on its approved lending list, aiming to achieve the optimum return on investments commensurate with appropriate levels of security and liquidity.
- 1.2 Table 1 below provides a monthly analysis of the Council's treasury management activity to the end of September:

| Table 1 | MMF | MMF | Monthly |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Invested | Redeemed | Total |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Balance brought forward | 44,200,000 | | 44,200,000 |
| April | 79,150,000 | (67,700,000) | 11,450,000 |
| May | 64,350,000 | (46,150,000) | 18,200,000 |
| June | 27,550,000 | (63,450,000) | (35,900,000) |
| July | 82,400,000 | (50,900,000) | 31,500,000 |
| August | 50,850,000 | (52,500,000) | (1,650,000) |
| September | 65,450,000 | (51,500,000) | 13,950,000 |
| Total carried forward | 413,950,000 | (332,200,000) | 81,750,000 |

- 1.3 This shows that daily use has been made of the instant-access money market funds (MMFs) on the Council's counterparty list, but no use has been made of fixed-term deposits. This approach stems from the Council aiming to maintain relatively low cash balances and the consequent need to keep the Council's cash liquid. The Council continues to delay its borrowing in order to reduce the risk and cost of carrying high cash balances.
- 1.4 During the first few months of the Covid-19 pandemic there were concerns that some receipts might be delayed and additional costs incurred. As a precaution the Council decided to take some of its required long-term PWLB borrowing earlier than normal, to cover any risk of a cash shortfall. As the concerns did not materialise, higher than normal cash balances are being held by the Council at the mid-year point.
- 1.5 The Council's policy is to benchmark its cash returns against the average 7-day LIBID rate. UK interest rates remain at an historic low, and this has impacted both the Council's rate of return and the benchmark. The rate of return (total interest receivable divided by the average outstanding principal) for the first half of the financial year was 0.17%. Over the same period the average 7-day LIBID was effectively zero.
- 1.6 A snapshot of the Council's money market fund investments outstanding as at 30 September is shown in the table below, together with the (very low) rates of return.

| Table 2: Snapshot return on Investments | Balance | Return |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| | £000 | % |
| Insight MMF | 14,600 | 0.01 |
| Black Rock MMF | 1,300 | 0.01 |
| LGIM MMF | 5,950 | 0.04 |
| JP Morgan MMF | 20,000 | 0.01 |
| Aberdeen Standard MMF | 19,900 | 0.08 |
| Federated MMF | 20,000 | 0.05 |
| Total | 81,750 | 0.04 |

1.7 There were no changes made to the Council's lending criteria during the first half of the year. The lending list itself is regularly monitored, and updates are provided by LGPS Central.

2. Long Term Borrowing

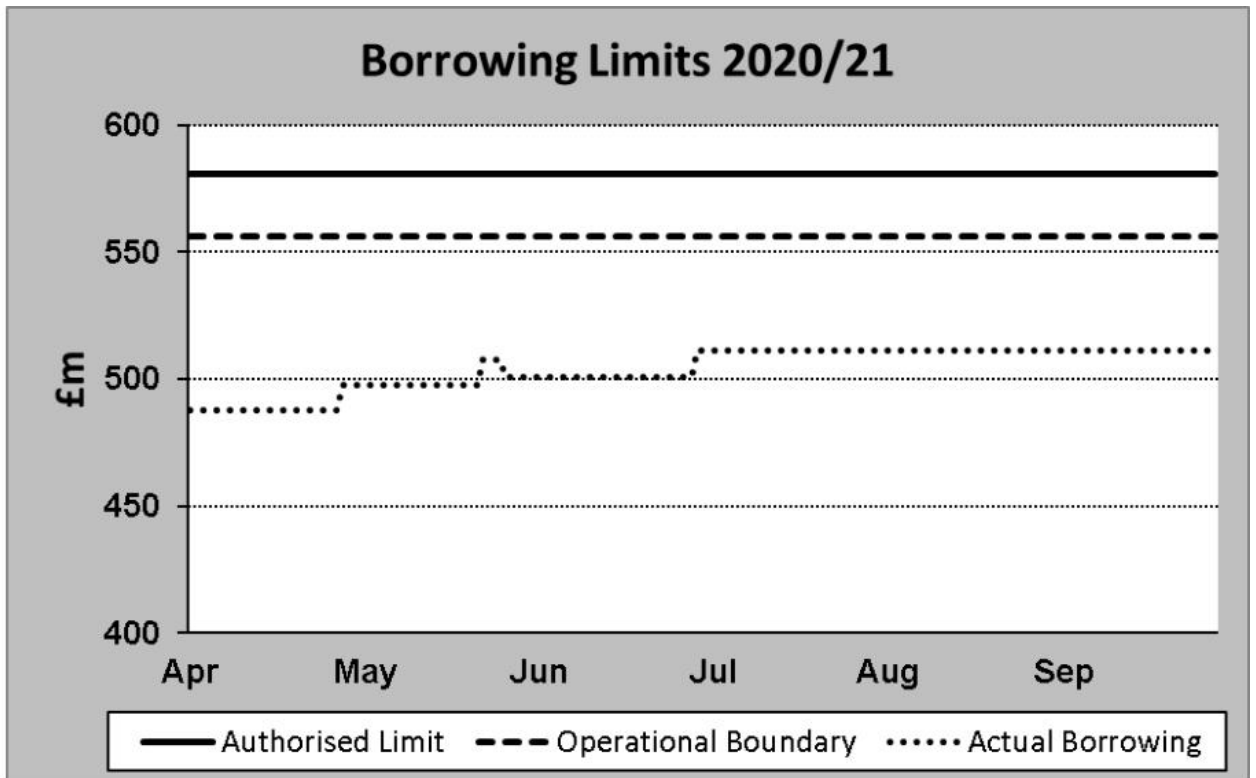
2.1 Over the past several years the Council has partly financed the capital programme by using its cash balances (referred to as 'internal borrowing'). This utilises earmarked reserves, general fund reserves and net movement on current assets until the cash is required for their specific purposes.

2.2 This strategy has the effect of postponing external borrowing, thereby making short-term savings for the Council. It also reduces credit risk since we hold lower cash balances. However, this cashable benefit has to be weighed against the risk of not borrowing and taking advantage of lower interest rates now which may increase in future. Delaying borrowing could therefore potentially lead to increased long-term costs. Therefore, it sometimes might be necessary for the Council to borrow before the cash is demanded from a liquidity perspective.

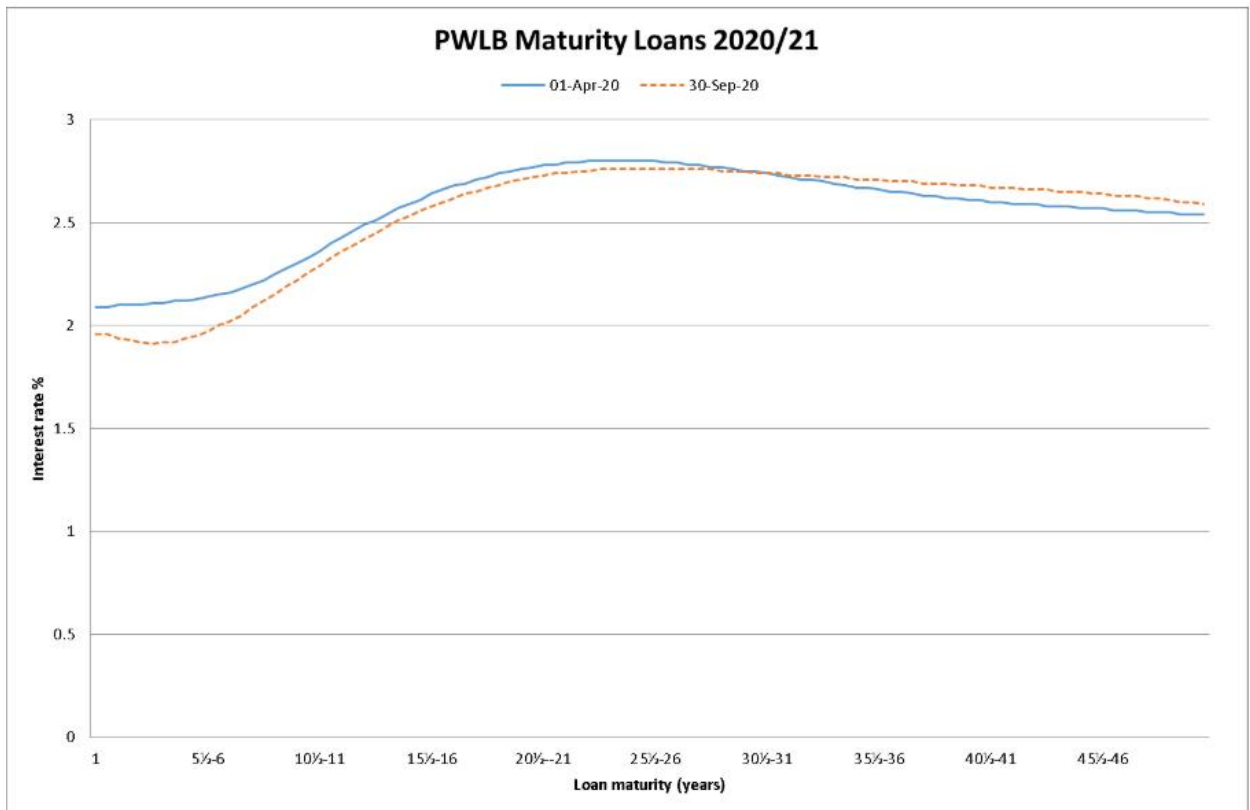
2.3 Since the Council's Treasury Management Strategy was approved in February 2020, the borrowing requirement has been revised in line with slippage in the capital programme, and any changes in the forecast use of reserves. Three loans of £10m each have been raised from PWLB, and £6.8m of PWLB debt has matured. An update is provided in the table overleaf:

| Table 3 | 2020/21 Estimate | 2020/21 Revised |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | £m | £m |
| Closing Capital Financing Requirement | 843.9 | 845.0 |
| Less: | | |
| - Long-term liabilities | -112.1 | -110.1 |
| - Existing borrowing | -475.2 | -505.2 |
| - Cap Ex to be financed by borrowing (a) | -53.4 | -55.0 |
| - Replenishment/Replacement borrowing (b) | 4.6 | 46.3 |
| Internal borrowing (A) | 207.8 | 221.0 |
| | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 20.0 | 20.0 |
| Fixed investments | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Y/E investment balances (B) | 20.0 | 20.0 |
| | | |
| Cash deployed (A+B) | 227.8 | 241.0 |
| | | |
| Cumulative minimum borrowing requirement (a+b) | 48.8 | 8.7 |

- 2.4** This table shows that by the year-end the Council expects to be under-borrowed by approximately £221m relative to its Capital Finance Requirement. It also indicated that further borrowing of around £9m will be required during 2020/21, although it is likely that even this will dwindle to zero with further slippage. Usually, if interest rates for borrowers appear favourable, then any amount up to £221m may be taken. However, as shown in paragraph 1.5, interest rates on cash reserves are now so low that borrowing further sums while reserves appear adequate might be imprudent.
- 2.5** The chart below shows how current borrowing compares with the prudential indicators and shows that borrowing has been managed within these limits. The operational boundary for 2020/21 was set at £556m and the authorised limit at £581m.



2.6 The following chart shows that PWLB interest rates have changed very little over the first half of the financial year. Longer-term loans continue to provide the best value for financing the Council’s capital programme, but the advantage is slight.



2.7 Treasury officers, guided by the Treasury Management Group, continue to monitor rates from both the PWLB and the market with a view to borrowing when this becomes necessary and the rates favourable.