

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE REPORT: KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Purpose of the Report

1. The report seeks to update Members on various matters relating to the Leader's portfolio and the work of the Executive.

Information

Local Government Association (LGA) Fire Committees

2. Since November I have attended ten meetings as Chairman of the Local Government Association Fire Committee for the SPOC (Strategic Policy Oversight Committee) FRAC (Fire and Rescue Authority Committee) and HMICFRS (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services)

Transport and Digital Connectivity Committee Meeting

3. I chaired the Transport and Digital Connectivity Committee where the Transport Investment Programme was discussed. The programme was being submitted to the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Board for approval. This will enable the commitment of longer-term resource planning, allowing authorities to move beyond short term, reactive approaches and instead develop sustainable strategies for workforce allocation, asset management, and future investment.

Transport and Digital Connectivity Meeting - Held at County Hall, Matlock

4. I chaired and took a questions and answers session at the meeting. Councillor Dr. John Doddy was also in attendance in his role as Deputy Leader. The meeting was to discuss the bus operations function, which has moved to EMCCA from its constituent authorities. The meeting ran smoothly and the public were happy with the answers provided.

EMCCA at Rolls Royce Learning and Development Centre, Derby – Board Meeting

5. The meeting was held at Rolls Royce headquarters to discuss the Mayor's budget 2026/27 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026 – 2031

Via Presentation

6. On 29 January Councillor Bingham and I, along with officers had the day at Via to deliver a presentation to four hundred staff during two presentations, throughout the day. It was a positive meeting where we talked about the highways review that I initiated when I took over the role as Leader in May.
7. Via staff really engaged in the presentation on how we would move forward with the highway repairs. Councillor Bingham and I took many questions from staff and we both felt it was a very worthwhile meeting. They are a great team, and I left with their full support on our joint objective of working to fix the roads.

Christmas Carol Service

8. I attended the Lord Lieutenants annual carol service (Together at Christmas) at St Mary's Church. It was a lovely evening; I really enjoyed meeting up with the Lord Lieutenant Veronica Pickering and her Deputy Lord-Lieutenants. The evening was a great success; the brass band and the Military Wives Choir were amazing. It was a real highlight of my Christmas to be a part of such a lovely evening.

Politics Show

9. I appeared on the BBC's Politics Show, alongside Jo White MP and Councillor Lian Pizzey. Peter Saull discussed with us Council Tax, SEND, on the issues surrounding EHCP's and accessing care. The debate was a good one and I look forward to being invited back soon.

JCB Visit

10. I along with officers and representatives from VIA visited the JCB Visitors Centre in Uttoxeter to view the versatile Pothole Pro machine which will be an extra tool in our toolbox to accelerate our highway improvement programme. World leaders JCB have used their engineering skills to develop this machine which can also be used for other purposes, such as hedge cutting and gulley cleaning.

Cabinet Visits

11. My Cabinet and I have been going into the community to hold our informal Cabinet meetings. The reason for this is to engage with businesses no matter the size to see what issues they currently face and how the council can assist.
12. Our First visit was at the Dog and Parrot Public House in Eastwood where we met the owners. This is a thriving family owned and run business in the heart of the town. We had our meeting and it was a real pleasure to hear how things are for them at the moment, and we wish them well with their business.
13. Our second visit was to Vision West Notts College in Mansfield. This was a great opportunity for the Cabinet and I to visit the CEO Andrew Copley and his team for them to explain what support they currently provide within the county. The courses on offer are both innovative and

varied, some are a real eye opener. We hope to be back with them soon collaborating on apprenticeship schemes.

14. We have many more meetings planned throughout the year, all around the county.

Cricket Presentation

15. It was my honour to present my Leader's Special Commendation to the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club. This was to celebrate their victory in winning the Rothesay County Championships 2025. We offered special congratulation to their coach Peter Moores, who is the first county coach to win the County Championships with three different counties. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, enjoyed by both councillors and staff.

BBC Radio Nottingham

16. I was recently invited on Summaya Mughals morning show on BBC Radio Nottingham. I really enjoyed our chat around the drop in Council Tax in our budget we delivered this year.

Meeting with the Nottinghamshire MP's

17. I arranged and invited a meeting with all the Nottinghamshire MPs at County Hall to discuss the state of the highways.

18. The current state of the roads is due to decades of lack of funding being invested back into the maintenance of the roads, through the Labour and Conservative governments.

19. I felt that there should be a meeting with all MP's regardless of party, to come together for the greater good of the county to ask the government for urgent assistance for further funding for our roads.

20. I have a good working relationship with Claire Ward the East Midlands Mayor, and she has been very accommodating with her investment to us. However as grateful as we are for her contribution, it is still not enough for the amount of work required to put the roads in a decent order.

21. I left the meeting feeling satisfied with the MP's collective promise that they would use their power within parliament to try and get us some more funding for the highways. They also promised to arrange a meeting for Councillor Bingham and I to meet the Finance Minister to explain why we require further funding. I will also try in every way I can to pull more money into the highways budget wherever I can.

Decisions taken under Special Urgency Procedure

22. The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment took the urgent delegated decision to resurface additional sites on the highways.

23. The need for urgent intervention monies were identified, up to a total expenditure of £2 million, from the underspends against existing capital budgets. Along with Via East Midlands' corporate reserve of £650k contribution and the ITM capital budget.

24. As a result of the prolonged wet weather over the winter period, there has been a significant increase in highways network inspections in 2026 arising from a growth in the number of public reports of highways defects. These inspections have highlighted a number of localised areas of deterioration, with initially 35 priority locations across the County highlighted as requiring urgent repairs, and subsequently further expanded. These will be classified as emergency works, under the New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) 1991. A road space booking processes order has been ordered to carry out the process.

25. If we were to delay the repairs any further this would increase the risks arising from highways defects.

26. [Decision Details: Highways Urgent Carriageway Repairs Update](#)

Other Options Considered

27. It is a requirement of the Constitution that the Leader provides a report on the work of the Executive to Full Council.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

28. This is a noting report to update the Full Council on matters relating to the Leader's portfolio and the work of the Executive since the last meeting, as required by the Constitution.

Statutory and Policy Implications

29. 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 discussions have been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

30. There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the contents of the report be noted.

**COUNCILLOR MICK BARTON
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (CM)

29. Full Council is required to receive this report, which is to note, as set out in the Constitution.

Financial Comments (SES)

30. There are no 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.

- [Decision Details: Highways Urgent Carriageway Repairs Update](#) (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All