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To: All Members of the Borough Council

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Charnwood Borough Council to be held in the The Preston Room, Woodgate Chambers, Woodgate, Loughborough on Monday, 5th November 2018 at 6.30 pm for the following business.

Chief Executive

Southfields
Loughborough

26th October 2018

SUPPLEMENTS PACK

4.2. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS 3

To consider significant, recent matters affecting the Council or the Borough (if any).

8. POSITION STATEMENTS 4 - 9

To consider the following position statements included on the agenda under Full Council Procedure 9.10:

A. Response to the Rollout of Universal Credit in the Borough

Requested by the Labour Group.

B. To Update the Council on the Current Situation regarding Local Government in Leicestershire

Added to the agenda by the Leader.

10. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

10 - 18

To deal with the following questions on notice, submitted under Full Council Procedure 9.9(a):

10.1 CHARNWOOD LOTTERY

Question submitted by Councillor Draycott.

10.2 INTRODUCTION OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Question submitted by Councillor Draycott.

10.3 LICENSING OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Question submitted by Councillor Bradshaw.

10.4 WASTE ACCUMULATION COMPLAINTS AT HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Question submitted by Councillor Parton.

10.5 LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES TO ENCOURAGE RETAIL HEALTH

Question submitted by Councillor Parton.

10.6 THE WORK OF COMMUNITY HUBS

Question submitted by Councillor Parton.

10.7 CEMETERY PROVISION FOR LOUGHBOROUGH

Question submitted by Councillor Miah.

COUNCIL – 5TH NOVEMBER 2018

ITEM 4.2 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha

People across Leicestershire and the footballing world were shocked and deeply moved by the death of the chairman of Leicester City Football Club and four other people at the weekend. The club is a committed and integral part of the city and county community and its achievements have brought immeasurable joy and pride to many people. To show its support for the club the Council has been lighting the outside of the Southfields offices in blue and has done so again tonight. A book of condolence in memory of those who died has also been opened. It is in the Council's main reception for anyone who wishes to write a message. I have also written to Leicester City Football Club on behalf of the Council to express our sincere condolences to everyone at the club following the tragic events.

Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre

I would like to welcome the Government's recent Budget announcement to provide an extra £70 million for the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall. While just over the Charnwood border, this world-class facility is very close to Loughborough and we are proud to support it. This Council is a long-time supporter of the Armed Forces, having signed the Armed Forces Covenant and secured funding, with colleagues from Rushcliffe and Melton councils, for a project to improve support for serving and former military personnel. This extra Government funding means that, in time, members of the public will also be able to receive treatment at the DNRC as well as military personnel. This is great news for the area.

Update on Local Government Reform in Leicestershire

As a preliminary announcement prior to the Council's consideration of a wider position statement regarding local government arrangements in Leicestershire, I would like to confirm that Leicestershire's MPs have written to the leaders of all seven district councils and the leader of Leicestershire County Council about their respective reviews of the structure of local government in Leicestershire and specifically the County Council's ambition to create a single unitary council. The MPs have made it very clear that in their view, which is supported by the Secretary of State, commissioning any reviews of the local authority structure is "wholly unnecessary" and any such reviews should immediately stop – which the district councils accept.

COUNCIL – 5TH NOVEMBER 2018

ITEM 8 POSITION STATEMENTS

A. Response to the Rollout of Universal Credit in the Borough

The Labour Group has requested that a Position Statement on the following issue is presented at the meeting:

To provide an update on the Council's response to the rollout of Universal Credit in the Borough including the actions the Council is taking and the impact on the current Revenues and Benefits contract with Capita.

The Leader, or his nominee, has produced the following position statement:

Universal Credit (UC) was introduced as part of a range of changes to welfare benefits through the Welfare Reform Act 2012. It brings together 6 working-age benefits (including housing benefit) into a single payment. UC is a significant change to the way that the benefits system for working age people operates.

Charnwood Borough Council moved to Full Service UC in July 2018. Given the relatively long lead in time since the Welfare Reform Act in 2012, the Council was able to complete a range of actions to prepare our residents and tenants for the change to UC. These include:

- The employment of an additional full-time Financial Inclusion Officer in the Council's Landlord Service to support tenants going on to the UC live service.
- The employment of a full-time Digital Support Officer in the Customer Service Centre to train and support customers to get online to complete and maintain their UC claims.
- Introduction of Personal Budgeting Support to help customers struggling to manage their finances once moved to UC, delivered on our behalf by Charnwood CAB.
- Articles in the tenants' newsletter Your Home Matters providing advice and information on UC.
- Establishing a service level agreement with Clockwise Credit Union to enable tenants to sign up for credit union rent payment accounts.
- Staff training sessions and member briefing sessions to raise awareness.
- Monthly liaison meetings with the now co-located Department of Work and Pensions Team, and fortnightly operational / case management meetings.
- Providing tenants with externally-produced information and advice on UC in the form of leaflets and magazines produced by, for example, Housing Matters and Quids In.

- Develop performance management arrangements to enable identification and tracking of, and targeted support at tenants receiving UC.
- Engaging with other organisations that have been through the change to UC Full Service and learning from their experiences.
- Greater use of different communication methods such as text messaging and social media to promote the change and raise awareness of support available.
- Provision within the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan to accommodate financial implications.
- Full communications plan to support the rollout of the new service. The key audiences include:
 - Council tenants of working age on housing benefit
 - all tenants of working age
 - non-tenants receiving housing benefit
 - people receiving council tax support (to make clear it is not part of Universal Credit)
 - members
 - staff.

In relation to the impact of Universal Credit on the current Revenues and Benefits contract with Capita, officers from both Capita and Charnwood BC have been working closely for several months to prepare for the changes. This enabled the smooth transition from one service to another. Positive working relationships have been developed between Capita, Charnwood and the DWP/Job Centre which means any issues that may arise can be resolved quickly to reduce and impact on the customer.

In terms of the effect of Universal Credit on the workload it is still quite early to understand the full impact, particularly in relation to Council Tax collection rates. However, since July there has been a 14% drop in the number of Housing Benefit claims received by the Council. This percentage could increase further; however limitations of the current UC system mean several groups of working age people cannot claim UC and so have to continue to claim Housing Benefit. In contrast, the number of change notifications received from the DWP which require completion by Capita has increased by over 500%, placing significant additional demand upon the service. This situation is being monitored to see if the increase will continue or if we will see this plateau to a steady state.

The next phase for UC is the migration of existing Housing Benefit customers to Universal Credit. The migration was expected to start in January 2019 however it was recently announced that this has been delayed until December 2019 at the earliest.

B. To Update the Council on the Current Situation regarding Local Government in Leicestershire

The Leader, or his nominee, has produced the following position statement:

Introduction

Over the summer a public debate has been initiated about the future of local government in Leicestershire and how services could be delivered to residents.

As Leader of this Council I have been keen to ensure that any proposed changes are based on a thorough, rigorous and credible appraisal of all options; that there is widespread agreement about any proposals in advance of any approach to Government about possible reform, and that all partners, particularly the residents we serve across our Borough, are consulted widely.

Collaborative working across Leicestershire

District Councils have taken the lead in Leicestershire in promoting this collaborative approach and believe it is absolutely essential to the prospects of any reform proposals.

District Council Leaders have been discussing this matter regularly since July and issued a joint statement on 27th July 2018 as follows:

“The District and Borough Council Leaders of Leicestershire have agreed to work together to review the current model of local government for Leicestershire. We as Council Leaders wish to adopt a collaborative approach to examine what may be the best way of delivering local services for residents in the County, and in the wider context of the East Midlands region.

This new collaborative approach will examine what is both cost effective in how services may be delivered and how best to retain their link with local residents. Such models may mean stronger District Councils working within a combined authority or having multiple unitary authorities or whether the current structure is still the best way of delivering local services.

We have a number of reservations as to the model proposed by the County Council not least the rushed timetable and it being too remote for local residents. However, we recognise that it may be premature to rule it out at this early stage.

Accordingly the Council Leaders have pledged to work together to find the right solution for the residents of Leicestershire and look forward to engaging with our elected partners, stakeholders and residents to deliver the best in local government for Leicestershire and the East Midlands region.

We would invite the County Council and others to join us in this approach, as collectively, we have the expertise to determine the best solution for our residents.”

District Council Leaders reiterated their commitment to work together at their meeting on 5th October and stated:

The leaders of all seven district councils have today unanimously agreed to continue working together to review the current model of local government in Leicestershire.

The leaders of Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, and Oadby and Wigston councils, said in a joint statement:

“The district councils are continuing to work together to look at future service delivery in Leicestershire to ensure it is lean, effective and in touch with residents.

“Any potential changes need to be based on a thorough assessment of all options and backed by evidence and communities.

“The district councils will ensure residents; partners and stakeholders are involved in the conversation and fully consulted. The needs of our residents will be put first.”

Alongside the Leaders of all seven district councils in Leicestershire I want a local government model which is fit for the 21st century - lean, effective and in touch with residents. We have agreed to look at all options that may deliver the best services to our residents, and without being pre-determined about just one option or structure.

The districts are also clear that partners, stakeholders and residents must be fully involved in the conversation, and consulted.

I know that any structural changes to local government in Leicestershire, such as creating a single unitary council, will require an Act of Parliament, which the Secretary of State has made clear, will only happen if there is a high level of agreement between all councils, local MPs, and with widespread support of residents. The district leaders will not seek to act alone, given that we know that any proposals that don't meet these criteria, such as that proposed by the County Council, will undoubtedly fail.

What I can confirm is that the district councils are continuing to work together and our invitation to the county council to join our process remains open. Now is the time for all parties to work together.

Leicestershire County Council proposals

Despite the invitation from all District Councils to Leicestershire County Council to join us in a collaborative exercise to consider all option, Councillors may be aware that Leicestershire County Council (LCC) has prepared unilateral proposals to establish a unitary council to cover the area within its boundaries.

These proposals were considered by the LCC Cabinet on 6th July and a timetable approved which culminated in a resolution that the County Council “debate the proposed way forward recommended by its Cabinet” on 5th December.

The LCC Cabinet revised this proposal at its meeting on 16th October and instead agreed:

- a) That the outline proposals for the development of a unitary structure for local government in Leicestershire be approved for stakeholder engagement;
- b) That the Terms of Reference for the Working Party established by the County Council on 26th September be approved;
- c) That the present position in respect of a Strategic Alliance for the East Midlands be noted.

The reason for the decision was to enable consideration to be given to the next steps in the development of a unitary structure for local government in Leicestershire.

No timetable was approved and, as a result the timescale for the County Council to make a resolution on this matter is unknown.

I issued a statement regarding the Leicestershire County Council proposals on 29th June, as follows

“To be very clear, this proposal is unlikely to happen - it would require an Act of Parliament, and the Government has publicly said that it won't give parliamentary time for proposals, without substantive support from local MPs, district and county councils, and the public.

There may be a strong case for reviewing the local government structure in the county, but any proposals need to have the backing of all those involved, following proper debate.

Over the coming months, other, better supported options are likely to come forward and provide the same levels of savings, but with better local representation.”

On 24th October Alberto Costa MP wrote on behalf of all Leicestershire MP's to District Council Leaders and separately to the Leader of Leicestershire County Council. The clear message was that any work on local government re-organisation in Leicestershire at this time was unnecessary, unwelcome, unsupported and a waste of taxpayers' money at a time when there are other, more pressing, issues facing the county.

District Council Leaders have responded publicly and positively to this letter and have agreed to halt any work on structural reform. No external costs have been incurred by District Councils up to this point but senior officer time

and the time and resources of the Council's communications team have been used.

The public position of Leicestershire County Council is that it will continue with its proposals.

COUNCIL – 5TH NOVEMBER 2018

ITEM 10 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

10.1 Councillor Draycott – Charnwood Lottery

Could the Cabinet Lead Member inform full Council of how the first draw of the Charnwood Lottery went please, including how many tickets were brought, by how many people, how many prizes were paid and the amount of the main prizes?

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

The first draw of the Charnwood Community Lottery took place on Saturday 29th September. There has been a positive response to the lottery from both good causes and residents, with 571 tickets (299 individuals) entered into the first draw. 14 prizes were won, with the main prizes for this draw being an iPad and a Great Central Railway dining experience.

Over 30 local groups had signed up by the time of the first draw and are therefore benefitting from monies raised through the lottery, with local residents supporting them as specific good causes.

The number of ticket sales continues to grow weekly as does the number of local good causes joining the scheme. The Charnwood Community Lottery will continue to help raise money for local good causes, charities and voluntary organisations.

10.2 Councillor Draycott – Introduction of Universal Credit

Could the Cabinet Lead Member inform full Council of how the current phase of Universal Credit being introduced in the Borough is going please? Also:

- (i) How many Council tenants received warning letters about arrears during their transitional waiting time?
- (ii) How many have been threatened with eviction during their transitional waiting time?
- (iii) How many have been evicted as a result?
- (iv) And what has been the financial effect on the housing department during tenants transitional waiting times?
- (v) Finally, how many tenants in total are in arrears due to Universal Credit?

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

The Performance Scrutiny Panel received a detailed report on Housing Rent Arrears and Universal Credit (UC) at its meeting on 9th October 2018 and this is available via the Council's website.

- (i) *The Council issues approximately 450 to 500 rent arrears letters per week and has identified 304 tenants as claimants of UC of which 242 are in rent arrears. Due to the high volumes involved, it is therefore not possible to answer the specific request to identify all arrears letters issued during the waiting time for UC.*

Tenants falling into arrears will receive an arrears letter in accordance with the Council's procedures. The Civil Procedure Rules Pre-Action Protocol for Possession Claims by Social Landlords states that the landlord should contact the tenant as soon as reasonably possible if the tenant falls into arrears. The Council offers assistance to tenants around claiming UC, and all of the Council's rent arrears letters provide information to tenants around where they can obtain advice and support.

- (ii) *Whilst eviction is viewed as the last resort in the majority of cases, officers routinely advise tenants of the consequences of non-payment of rent. It is not possible to identify every contact with a tenant where eviction was discussed in their waiting time for UC.*

We can advise that of the 304 tenants identified as being on UC, 40 tenants in the five week period from their claim date have the last action taken by the Council noted on their rent account as relating to the issue of a notice of seeking possession or a subsequent legal action.*

Claimants of UC may have pre-existing rent arrears or have to pay other sums not covered by UC. Although balances will have changed since the action on each rent account was taken, the current average rent arrears balance of the 40 tenant cohort identified is £763.74, well in excess of 5 weeks' rent arrears.

**The service of a notice of seeking possession is the first legal step in obtaining possession of a property.*

- (iii) *No tenants have been evicted as a result of the waiting time for UC.*
- (iv) *At the week ending 28th October 2018 the level of rent arrears for all current tenants was around £16k higher than at the corresponding time last year. Not all of this increase may be attributed to UC as there have also been delays in housing benefit processing.*

Any arrears built up over the waiting time should be cleared by the tenant on receipt of their UC payment, however on some occasions this is not the case.

- (v) *Of the 304 tenants identified as current claimants of UC 242 are in rent arrears amounting to £129k. As stated, not all of the arrears are directly attributable to UC, as tenants may have pre-existing rent arrears or have to pay other sums due not covered by UC.*

10.3 Councillor Bradshaw – Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation

In January the Government announced changes to mandatory HMO licensing, which came in to force on 1st October 2018, for all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) with 5 or more unrelated people living in them. The Council has given plenty of warning to landlords. Bearing in mind all the information the Council now holds following the work done by the University on HMO numbers, will the Cabinet Lead Member inform full Council of the following information please:

- (i) How many landlords have registered and for how many properties?
- (ii) What percentage have been checked by Environmental Health, now a legal requirement, and found to meet all the required safety standards?
- (iii) A new minimum size stipulation for bed rooms in HMOs that fall within the scope of the licensing regime will require rooms for certain uses ie sleep to be of a certain size. What are the findings so far on this aspect?
- (iv) Are licences being issued from 1st October including a condition requiring compliance regarding storage and waste disposal in line with the Council's requirements?

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

Please find details below in response to the above question:

- (i) *To date, approximately 70 licence holders have applied for licences in respect of 250 properties.*
- (ii) *To date 4.4% (11) of those properties have been inspected prior to a licence being issued (due to concerns about amenities, layout, fire safety or room sizes) based on the details provided in the application. Of those 64% (7) were found to be satisfactory.*

Local Authorities have a duty to inspect all licensable properties within the licence period. All remaining properties will be inspected during the licence period.

- (iii) *7 HMOs have been identified to date with rooms below the required minimum size, of these 4 have already completed the work required to increase the room size through internal alterations.*

The remaining 3 properties are required, through a condition on the licence and in line with the Regulations, to increase the room size within a maximum of 18 months.

- (iv) *There is a requirement for licences to include conditions requiring the licence holder to comply with any scheme which is provided by the local housing authority to the licence holder*

which relates to the storage and disposal of household waste at the HMO pending collection.

Charnwood Borough Council's waste collection service does not differentiate between a HMO and any other domestic property, as such there is no scheme with which to comply.

A general condition is currently being considered for inclusion, which will refer to compliance with the Councils general domestic waste collection policy, referring licence holders to the Council's website for information and in particular how to secure additional receptacles if required.

10.4 Councillor Parton – Waste Accumulation Complaints at Houses in Multiple Occupation

Please would the Cabinet Lead Member outline how many complaints have been received by this Council in the year to date regarding waste accumulation at the frontages and rears of Loughborough's houses in multiple occupation (HMO) stock and list them by ward, please? Would the Lead Member please quantify how many of the affected HMOs are (now) subject to licensing?

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

The table below details the number of waste accumulations at the front or rear of Loughborough HMOs reported from 25th October 2017 to 25th October 2018.

Fifteen complaints have been received of which five are licensed HMOs, two have licence applications being assessed and the remaining eight will be investigated to see if a licence is required.

Ward	Type of issue	Licensed HMO? Y/N	New Licence Application being assessed	Created Date
Loughborough Hastings	Accumulation of waste	N	N	22/08/2018
Loughborough Nanpantan	Accumulation of waste	N	N	01/10/2018
Loughborough Nanpantan	Accumulation of waste	N	N	25/09/2018
Loughborough Southfields	Accumulation of waste	Y	N	17/10/2018
Loughborough Southfields	Accumulation of waste	Y	N	16/10/2018
Loughborough Southfields	Accumulation of waste	N	N	02/10/2018
Loughborough Southfields	Accumulation of waste	Y	N	18/07/2018
Loughborough Southfields	Accumulation of waste	N	N	04/07/2018
Loughborough Southfields	Accumulation of waste	N	Y	25/06/2018

Loughborough Southfields	Accumulation of waste	N	Y	29/06/2018
Loughborough Southfields	Accumulation of waste	Y	N	05/03/2018
Loughborough Southfields	Accumulation of waste	Y	N	08/02/2018
Loughborough Storer	Accumulation of waste	N	N	17/10/2018
Loughborough Storer	Accumulation of waste	N	N	19/06/2018
Loughborough Storer	Accumulation of waste	N	N	12/06/2018

10.5 Councillor Parton – Loughborough Town Centre Initiatives to Encourage Retail Health

Please would the Cabinet Lead Member provide Council with a list of actions already undertaken by the authority, including partnership with other agencies, to encourage the take up of empty retail space and to assist businesses to remain trading in Loughborough town centre. Would the Lead Member please then explain how these said pieces of work will feed into the new Town Centre Masterplan?

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

Vacancy levels in Loughborough town centre stand at 7.8% which bears favourable comparison with the national average of 8.9%. But that is no grounds for complacency, particularly given evidence of the challenges confronting traditional High Streets across the country.

Loughborough's relative success is attributable in no small part to the efforts and resilience of individual traders. However the Council, working with its partners, can and does play a part in supporting businesses through direct intervention and initiatives designed to drive up footfall.

These have included:

- *Support for the establishment and continued engagement in the "Love Loughborough" Business Improvement District.*
- *Improvements to the public realm including the connection of Wards End to the Granby Street Car Park via Bleach Yard and co-operation with the County Council in the delivery of the Inner Relief Road enabling related improvements to High Street, Baxter Gate, Market Place and Swan Street.*
- *The deployment of the Growth Support Grant to match fund various initiatives including:*
 - *£20,000 to enable the installation of footfall monitors.*
 - *£47,500 to support the reoccupation of vacant premises (delivered in partnership with BID through the preparation of a business support package).*
 - *£42,500 to support the "Get into Loughborough" promotional campaign and other town centre marketing initiatives.*

- £28,900 to assist in the delivery of the “Switch On, Stand Out” project, a social media training programme to help businesses boost on-line marketing and sales delivered in partnership with Loughborough Students’ Union.
- *Events and promotions / markets review*
 - Securing the “Best Large Outdoor Market” award illustrates the quality of the retail market when compared with others on a national stage.
 - Based on the award, funding of £40,000 was allocated to deliver key recommendations in the ‘Loughborough Market Review’ a project that is currently in progress and includes the introduction of a street food and entertainment area along with an improved presentation and layout of the market.
 - £120,000 to support the procurement of new Festive lights and all year round street dressing linked to the town’s heritage and events programme to make the town more attractive to shoppers and residents alike. The Festive lights have been successfully commissioned.
 - The delivery, marketing and promotion of a year-long ‘events programme’ in partnership with the BID that has helped to increase and build footfall to the town.
 - Supporting an ‘events programme’ for a wide range of community organisations and charities delivering on good causes and advancing social cohesion and pride in Loughborough e.g. fun and charity runs.
 - £17,000 to deliver a major events programme in partnership with the BID and other partners, CHARNWOOD 14 -18. This programme of events starts on 11th November 2018 to mark 100 years since the end of World War One. For full details see: www.charnwood.gov.uk/WW1.

The Town Centre Masterplan (2018) identifies four overlapping work streams to support the vitality and viability of the town centre:

- *Improvements to the public realm,*
- *Improvements to the footpath, cycle and road network together with parking facilities,*
- *Identification of opportunity sites for redevelopment and character areas to guide planning and design decisions, and,*
- *“Small interventions:” branding, marketing, events (including markets and fairs), animation (pop ups, temporary uses and public art) and business support.*

The Masterplan endorses much that has already been done to support and encourage trading in Loughborough town centre and sets out a vision to guide future initiatives and interventions. It sets out an ambitious programme which will bring new challenges over a period of financial constraint and uncertainty on the High Street with individual projects being fed into service plans as and when budgets and resources allow. The overall programme will be delivered through partnership working with progress being guided by the Loughborough Town Team which draws upon the skills and experience of a wide range of commercial interests and service providers.

10.6 Councillor Parton – The Work of Community Hubs

In Loughborough there are currently three community centres that have been specifically placed in areas where people are more likely to be higher up the deprivation and social-isolation scale than a majority of the residents of our town.

Please will the Cabinet Lead Member outline for Council what work these three centres, known as 'Hubs' perform?

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

Loughborough currently has three Community Hubs, Altogether Place on the Warwick Way Estate, Marios Tinenti Centre (MTC) on the Bell Foundry Estate and The Hut on Ashby Road. The Hubs are located within their respective Priority Neighbourhood areas and therefore embedded within the communities they aim to support. All three operate in different ways with Altogether Place and The Hut being run by local voluntary groups and MTC being staffed by a Community Hub Development Worker, funded by the Borough Council and employed by John Storer Charnwood.

Whilst the Hubs are supported by the Council they are promoted as community run venues, their aim is to increase community engagement, provide a venue for activities to take place/develop from and for advice and signposting to take place. The Hubs are reliant on volunteers to operate and local residents are encouraged to join groups as volunteers and helpers. Through John Storer Charnwood we provide volunteer training and development support where appropriate.

The Hubs develop their programme of activities / services in response to community need but examples of work the Hubs deliver include :

- *Support to local residents, including advice and signposting*
- *Access to computers for local residents*
- *Enabling reporting of community concerns and championing community issues*
- *Provision of volunteer opportunities, along with appropriate training and support*
- *Holding community events e.g. annual BBQ, local planting days*
- *Involving community in local developments e.g. Loughborough In Bloom, Bell Foundry Pocket Park, local gardening projects*
- *Community engagement through organising community trips e.g. seaside, pantomime*
- *Weekly activity sessions e.g. craft events, coffee mornings*
- *Venue for groups to deliver activities directly for the local community e.g. youth club*
- *Venue for partner agencies to run sessions and meetings*

10.7 Councillor Miah – Cemetery Provision for Loughborough

A year after the Cabinet made a decision on Allendale Road, Loughborough being the site of the new cemetery it is now proposed that a site in Nanpantan, Loughborough will be the site of the cemetery instead.

Can the Leader explain why he and the Cabinet first unequivocally endorsed Allendale Road? And what led them to change their minds?

Can he explain why the Nanpantan site wasn't put forward as a proposal in the first instance when they made their decision about Allendale Road?

How much extra cost has been incurred to the taxpayers of Charnwood both actual and in cost of officers' time/salary over the past year to reach this final decision?

Can he confirm to Council what lessons have been learnt by this debacle?

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

The initial decision identified Allendale Road as the preferred location for a new cemetery. This decision was called-in and referred back to Cabinet for further consideration with comments from the Council's Scrutiny Management Board. Cabinet listened to the concerns raised by Scrutiny Management Board and decided that further work was required by officers on this matter.

Over the last 12 months officers have conducted further assessments on the viability of the identified sites and an extensive public consultation exercise has taken place prior to this matter coming back to Cabinet.

Having been appraised on the further work completed by officers, and having looked at the responses to the consultation conducted in August and September 2018, Cabinet decided that Nanpantan Road is the preferred site for the cemetery. The reasons for this are set out in the Cabinet report of 18th October. It is important to note that all proposed sites were deemed suitable for cemetery provision, with some mitigation also needed for each site. Additional site appraisals were therefore completed on all options including the Nanpantan site at a cost of £11,984. The Nanpantan site was put forward as a potential site in the initial Cabinet report which was considered in October 2017. In the end the project board placed weight on the issue of greater longevity offered by the preferred option.

This is an excellent illustration of the effectiveness of the decision making systems in the Council and the value added by Scrutiny. The checks and balances operated as they should within the Council in a way that led to further examination of the proposals. Following this the proposals were endorsed through public consultation where we listened to our residents' views.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO COUNCIL – PROCEDURE

- Councillors are required to submit a question on notice in writing by 12noon on the sixth working day prior to Council, the title of the question is published on the Council Agenda.
- Questions and responses will be published at the end of the previous working day (usually the Friday prior to a Council meeting on a Monday) and will be available at the Council meeting for Councillors, the press and the public.
- After the questions and responses are published Councillors may indicate that they wish to ask a supplementary question and/or make a statement by noon on the day of the Council meeting.
- The Mayor will invite those Councillors who have indicated that they wish to do so to ask a supplementary question and/or make a statement.
- The Leader (or relevant Lead Member on behalf of the Leader) or Chair of the Committee is able to respond.
- The total time each person can speak on a single question is time limited.