

**CABINET
10TH AUGUST 2023**

PRESENT: The Leader (Councillor Miah)
The Deputy Leader (Councillor Hamilton)
Councillors Ashcroft, A. Gray, Jadeja, Jones and
Tillotson

Councillor Fryer
Councillor Seaton

Director Finance, Governance and Contracts
Head of Governance and Human Resources
Director Housing and Wellbeing
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Blackshaw

The Leader stated that this meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

19. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

20. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

21. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

22. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

A. Councillor Fryer – Electric Vehicle Charging Points, Council Owned Car Parks

"The administration have stated, via their election manifesto, that Electric Vehicle charging points will be installed in all council owned car parks as a matter of urgency. Could they please supply and clarify:

- a. A list of all CBC owned car parks with addresses
- b. Any car parks not owned but maintained by CBC

c. A schedule of installation and numbers of points?

I also reserve my right to ask a supplementary and or make a statement.”

The following response had been published prior to the meeting:

a. *A list of all CBC owned car parks with addresses*

- *Beehive Lane Multi Storey*
- *Granby Street*
- *Browns Lane*
- *Southfields Offices*
- *Southfields Road Extension*
- *The Nook, Anstey*
- *High Street, Barrow upon Soar*
- *King Street, Sileby*
- *Melton Road, Syston*
- *Chapel Street, Syston*

A full list of CBC owned car parks can be found on our website at: Car park locations - Charnwood Borough Council and Car park locations in Charnwood – Google My Maps

b. *Any car parks not owned but maintained by CBC*

- *Station Road, Quorn*
- *Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves*

c. *A schedule of installation and numbers of points?*

Charnwood Borough Council’s Street Management Team have worked in partnership with the national highway’s authority to site a 50kW dual ‘rapid’ charger on Sileby car park.

Projects Street Management are currently working on or supporting:

1. **ORCS (On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme) – Sileby and Anstey**
ORCS is a government funded scheme to provide Electric Vehicle infrastructure for residents that do not have driveways and therefore cannot charge vehicles from their homes.
ORCS funding has been awarded to CBC and a contractor procured for: Anstey 4 x fast dual units, Sileby 3 x fast dual units.
Legal contracts and lease agreements have been completed, with installation expected to commence on-site imminently. Final connection to be arranged with National Grid (approx. mid to end of Aug).
2. **LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) scheme funding – Leicestershire County Council on street EVCPs (Electric Vehicle private Charge Points)**

Leicestershire County Council are leading on a project for on-street residential charge points. LCC have been awarded funding through the government's LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) scheme. CBC will have little involvement other than discussions on the proposed on-street site locations – All sites being on County Council Highways.

3. *Flex-D solar hubs partly using LEVI funding and car share scheme*

CBC is part of a Leicestershire wide project which has been awarded LEVI funding for the installation of Solar canopies, battery storage and EV charge points in public car parks throughout the County. The project is headed up by Harborough District Council and supported by Nottingham City Council Midlands Net Zero Hub. Syston has been agreed by SLT as the preferred site in Charnwood. There will be between 6 to 12 7kW charge points to be agreed with Flex-D project (given the size of the car park, this will probably be on the lower side. Installation expected September 2024.

4. *There are other EV charging sites in the Borough which can be found on the Zap Map App.*

Councillor Fryer asked a supplementary question/made a statement as follows:

“I thank the Lead Member for the response to my question.

I am sure we all agree that more EV charging points are required, but there are obstacles. The programme on BBC2 on the 9th August and repeated at 8 o'clock today highlighted a number of them.

With regard to the ORCS scheme for Sileby and Anstey, could the Lead Member confirm that this is fully funded, i.e. at no expense to the Council, by the Government? And could the Lead Member also confirm that the final connection to the National Grid is still on schedule for mid to end of August (and we are now nearly in the mid)?

I also note that Syston is scheduled to have 6 to 12 charging points by September 2024 as part of the LCC led project as detailed in point 3 of the answers.

And on these points, could the Lead Member advise what criteria was used to select the three sites and were all the sites assessed?

Are there any other funding opportunities being looked into to extend the number of EV charging points in other Council owned car parks?

I have noted that there are no Council owned car parks in Shepshed or Thurmaston, so could I be advised as to whether conversations are being held with the Town Councils to assist in getting funding to enable EV charging points to be delivered to their residents? Thank you very much”.

The Leader thanked Councillor Fryer for her supplementary question/statement, stating that the provision was for one supplementary question, however the above questions had been noted and a response would be provided to her.

B. Councillor Seaton – Pursuing Enforcement

“Why do we have an enforcement policy if we are reluctant to enforce? Over the last decade I have had several longstanding cases that reach the stage of serving notice but no action being taken when that notice did not have the desired effect.

I know I am not the only councillor that has registered a lack of willingness from the Council to pursue cases through the legal process.

Therefore, I would like assurances that this administration will continue with the proposed Internal Officers Group set up to review cases that are proving difficult to resolve. I would also seek reassurance that the ward councillor will be kept up to date with action being taken, or consulted on why the group has decided to take no action and that this is done without the ward councillor having to 'prompt' a response”.

The following response had been published prior to the meeting:

The Council delivers a range of enforcement activity, including that relating to anti-social behaviour, environmental health issues, street management, Council Tax, and unauthorised development.

Policies are in place to support enforcement action that is in line with best practice, and compliant with statutory guidance and the law. Most issues are dealt with through informal action, and typically interventions are graduated and escalating. This approach is consistent with the expectation of the courts, codes of practice, and statutory guidance.

The Council does take legal action on a regular basis where cases are serious and legal thresholds for enforcement are met. For example, in the last 12 months enforcement action has been taken in a number of areas including:

- *Obtaining Closure Orders at 3 properties where disorder had occurred.*
- *Evicting 3 tenants, with a further eviction booked in for the 8th August 23*
- *Obtaining 2 Injunctions against individuals to prevent serious ASB*
- *Issuing 43 Fixed Penalty Notices to prevent environmental harm for offences around fly tipping, littering, waste, dog control, and bins on streets.*
- *Passing outstanding Council tax debts to our Enforcement Agents to collect. In 2022/23 3161 cases were referred. So far this year we have sent a further 1037 accounts for enforcement action.*

Multi-agency meetings under the Community Safety Partnership take place to support the management of ASB and enforcement activity within that sphere. The Council also operates an internal ASB and Enforcement Hub. These groups are expected to continue; however, they do not have decision making powers. Decisions to progress legal action are taken by Council officers with the appropriate delegated authority set out in the Council’s constitution.

Councillors acting in a ward member capacity can expect to be updated on casework issues they have raised. If there are current cases where you are expecting an

update and have not received one, the matter should be brought to the attention of the relevant Head of Service.

Councillor Seaton asked a supplementary question/made a statement as follows:

“Thank you for the response to the question on my perceived reluctance to enforce.

The wording I used within my question was a quote from the Chief Executive after I contacted him out of sheer frustration that an enforcement case in my ward was still not resolved. I was assured in the response that a team will be set up to deal with the ‘difficult to resolve’ cases such as the one I put forward that was an issue even before I became a councillor in 2007.

I have noted the enforcement actions over the last 12 months. Eight of these appear to be involved cases whilst the vast majority were fixed penalty notices. I am therefore concerned that we appear to be very successful in pursuing the low lying fruit whilst putting off the hard to reach fruit in the enforcement.

I also note that in 2022/23, 3,161 cases were referred, but referred to where? I am not sure, therefore I would like to understand that part of the process, and I am sure it would be interesting to others as well.

And this year, there’s been a further 1,037 that have been put forward to enforcement action, making over 4,000 cases in 18 months. And that doesn’t compute well to me because only 60 of them had been cited.

So therefore, I would ask if we could be updated on how many of those cases have made it through the enforcement procedures and how many of them have been dropped? And I think, most of all, I’d just like to understand, obviously not all of them are being enforced even though they’ve gone to enforcement, so I’d like to know why being served with enforcement isn’t going through. So, I think I need more information on this”.

The Leader thanked Councillor Seaton for her supplementary question/statement, referring to Councillor Hamilton having already spoken briefly with Councillor Seaton regarding the matter. Councillor Hamilton then stated that he agreed that there appeared to be a disconnect between councillors’ experience and what officers say, so there was something that needed to be looked at here. The comments made by Councillor Seaton would be taken away and how we could move forward looked into.

23. PROCUREMENT OF A VOID REPAIRS CONTRACTOR

Considered, a report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing to consider procurement of an additional contractor to work on void properties (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Seaton, Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, presented a report setting out the Commission’s pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes).

The Leader thanked the Scrutiny Commission for its consideration of the matter, its input was valued.

RESOLVED

1. that the Director of Housing and Wellbeing be authorised to commence a procurement exercise, identify a suitable framework, and subsequently award a contract for the delivery of void repairs and associated works for a period of up to four years;
2. that **it be recommended to Council** that the HRA revenue budgets be increased by £858.1k on an ongoing basis to fund the estimated cost of the works delivered through the void repairs contract and the officer resource needed to support the effective management of the contract and void repairs generally;
3. that the report of the Scrutiny Commission be noted.

Reasons

1. To support clearance of a backlog of voids and re-let properties faster.
2. To provide sufficient budget to meet the estimated cost of works delivered through the void repairs contract, and to provide an appropriate level of resource to support effective contract management and clearance of a backlog of voids and re-let properties faster.
3. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Scrutiny Commission.

NOTES:

1. The decisions in these minutes not in the form of recommendations to Council will come into effect at noon on Friday, 18th August 2023 unless called in under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 11.7. Decisions in the form of recommendations to Council are not subject to call in.
2. No reference may be made to these minutes at the next available Ordinary Council meeting unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on Friday, 18th August 2023.
3. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Cabinet.