

### **LEADER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL 30.07.2018**

#### **Unitary Authority**

The County Council is commencing a process to look at a new model of local government for Leicestershire which may lead to the abolition of both the County and District Councils to be replaced by a new model unitary authority which will have responsibilities for the delivery of all local services across Leicestershire. Although some headline features of this Unitary Authority are known the details are not. I have met with the Leaders of Leicestershire's District and Borough Councils. The Leaders welcome this opportunity to look at all models of what may be the best way to deliver for the local residents in Leicestershire is and, although not ruling out the County Council model, we need to work together in a collaborative approach to achieve the best for the residents of Leicestershire.

#### **The Strategic Growth Plan (SGP)**

I thank the members for attending the all member briefing last Tuesday. We heard from Pat Willoughby who gave us a presentation on the consultation and the changes to the SGP as a result. I am pleased that progress has been made as to reducing the number of houses that HDC originally was asked to take. A challenge still needs to be made to the City as to what numbers they can take and what, if any, issues there may be as to a policy of building up as well as building out. The final revised SGP will be made available following the meeting of the MAG at the end of September and afterwards this Council will debate and consider whether we should agree the SGP.

#### **Section 106 uptake**

I wish to remind members about the need for communities and voluntary groups in the District to come forward to take advantage of outstanding Section 106 monies available for communities. This Council approved grants under the Section 106 scheme last year totalling over £500,000 but there are still significant amounts to apply for. A pressing concern is in Broughton Astley where approximately £139,000 needs to be taken up by next April. HDC has written to Broughton Astley Parish Council about this delay in getting a project ready to apply for these sums to be released. HDC does not want to be in the position of handing back these funds to the developers. If members can do their bit to encourage their parishes or town council to make applications to help fund projects that would be much appreciated.

#### **Meeting with Lutterworth Town Council and other Parish Councils**

I met with Lutterworth Town Council, together with our joint chief executives, to talk through issues in the town. I have also attended a Parish Council meeting at Willoughby Waterleys to discuss the Whetstone Pastures proposal. I would like to get across the District and engage with other Parish Councils. I have recently written to the clerks of the Parish

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 REFERS**

Councils at Fleckney, Great Glen, Lubenham and Scraptoft to ask if they are willing to meet to discuss any issues relating to HDC. I would be happy to come to their community.

### **Magna Park**

The appeal by Gazeley has now been issued. The appeal hearing is likely to take some two weeks. No notification is yet known as to when this may take place but it is unlikely to be this year. DB Symmetry's planning approval will not be called-in the by the Secretary of State and we wait and see how this is to progress.

### **Centrebus service 58**

I welcome the County Council stepping in to save the no.58 service for the next year. This is a vital link, not just for the towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth, but all the communities along the route. Parish Councils, the District Council and the local MPs all spoke out against the closure of the service so I am grateful to the County Council for their help. I look forward to engaging with the County Council and other partners in establishing a public transport partnership to establish a proper strategy for all the public transport needs for the District.

### **Events in the District**

It has been a joy to see all the events across the District that have been held recently. These are well supported and no doubt the very good weather we have been enjoying has helped a lot. For example, the Classic Car Show was a huge success with nearly 200 classic cars being showcased in Market Harborough bringing in many visitors to the town. I thank not just the residents for supporting all these great events but particularly want to thank the scores of volunteers that have made these events such a success.

Neil Bannister

25.07.2018