

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD AT CIVIC SUITE, BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY, LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2026 COMMENCING AT 6.15 PM

PRESENT

J K Chohan Mayor



Meeting ID: 3050

COUNCILLORS

S S Athwal
L A Bentley Deputy Leader of the Council
G A Boulter
M H Charlesworth
M L Darr
D A Gamble
F S Ghattoraya
S Z Haq Leader of the Council
P Joshi
R V Joshi
J Kaufman
C D Kozlowski
K J Loydall
C J R Martin
I K Ridley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Gill Legal Consultant / Interim Monitoring Officer
T Neal Strategic Director / Deputy Monitoring Officer
S Wheeliker Senior Democratic & Electoral Services Officer

84. CALLING TO ORDER OF THE MEETING

The meeting of the Council was called to order to receive Her Worship The Mayor.

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors R H Adams, H E Darling, J K Ford and G G Hunt.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

87. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER, AND RUTLAND

Council gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 3 – 29 of the agenda reports pack) which sought approval of the Council's consultation response.

The Leader of the Council urged Members to also submit their own responses to the consultation and along with a number of other Councillors expressed their satisfaction with

the response noting it for being comprehensive and robust.

Councillor G A Boulter queried why the consultation response was only online as this disenfranchised those residents who do not use computers. The Strategic Director stated she was unable to comment on why the government had not also provided an ability to submit responses offline, but noted that during the district's own consultation they had held face to face sessions specifically for the reason stated by Councillor G A Boulter.

Councillor M H Charlesworth expressed his disappointment with the lack of nuance in the response as he believed a response with greater room for debate may result in a more conducive meeting with MHCLG. Councillor M H Charlesworth also noted the need for the other districts' responses to be closely aligned.

The Strategic Director confirmed that the other authorities' responses were closely aligned and advised that during the face-to-face session with MHCLG they would be able to highlight the differences in the 3 proposals and confirmed that a letter had been sent to MHCLG providing greater details on the areas that MHCLG had previously requested be strengthened.

Councillor P Joshi queried how online respondents would be vetted to ensure people from out of the area were not submitting responses as residents. The Strategic Director advised that this consultation was managed by MHCLG so there was no way for the Council to police this, but did advise that at the start of the survey the respondent is asked whether they are a resident of the city or the county.

It was moved by the Leader of the Council, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council and

RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The content of the report and appendix be noted; and**
- ii) The consultation response detailed in Appendix 1 be agreed and formally submitted to MHCLG as the Full Council's response to the Consultation.**

For **11**
Against **0**
Abstentions **4**

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.30 pm