



MEETING: COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: 27 MARCH 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 6 - PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No.	Petition, deputation, or question	Name of Speaker(s)
1	Deputation	Ron Simpson, Chair of CPRE Rutland

Details

CPRE is the countryside charity that campaigns to promote, enhance and protect the countryside for everyone's benefit, whichever parish they live in. Here in Rutland, while retaining its right to campaign and submit opinion on a range of matters relevant to RCC's role as a planning authority including the new Local Plan, the countryside charity is working with the county council to support its work on a forward strategy for the county.

The charity believes there is significant synergy between CPRE's declared national and local policies and aspirations for rural communities, and those put forward by the county council for Rutland. This is particularly true in the areas of health and wellbeing, renewable energy, innovation, environmental protection, affordable housing and transport.

Like the county council, CPRE Rutland maintains strong constitutional and operational links with its Leicestershire and Lincolnshire neighbours and often collaborates on projects of mutual interest. This deputation is therefore submitted to strongly support the Melton and Rutland initiative in securing levelling up funding for the constituency. The charity applauds all those involved in making the successful bid.

The charity sees the key benefits of receiving the funding as:-

1. The opportunity to deliver key components of the forward vision for Rutland identified in the Rutland Conversation and subsequently evidenced in RCC forward plans
2. The social, cultural and economic development opportunities provided by the proposed new Mobi hub and community transport links to enhance the sustainability of the villages and towns on route
3. Providing greater access for local communities to both new and existing health, employment and cultural services
4. The opportunity to address inequality and disadvantage via innovation, forward thinking and digital technology.
5. Its potential contribution to the county's climate and environmental targets

CPRE Rutland therefore urges the council to receive this not insignificant funding and progress the innovative projects proposed.

Thank you for listening.

Ron Simpson BEM CFCMI CFCIPD M Ed
Chair - CPRE Rutland

2	Deputation	Jason Allen, Chair of Discover Rutland
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Details

By way of introduction my name is Jason Allen and I am chair of Discover Rutland. I have been involved with DR for 13 years and have been chair for the past 3.

For those of you who may not be aware Discover Rutland is the recognised destination management organisation for our county. Set up in 2007 it is made up of a committee of members from the tourism, leisure and hospitality sectors. We are a voluntary organisation and our main objectives are :

- To stimulate and support the Rutland offering
- To recognise and attract Rutland’s key audiences
- To ensure a sustainable future for tourism in Rutland

DR is currently a financially self-sustainable organisation and is funded through the membership of aprox 130 businesses throughout the county ranging from hospitality, retail, attractions and other supportive business who recognise the importance of the visitor economy. Our membership income allows us to showcase our county through many channels.

I hope this evening we can all agree that we are blessed to live in such a wonderful county, whether it be to live, work, play or indeed as a visitor. Full of charm to me it epitomises all that is great about rural England. With over 50 villages to explore and our traditional market towns at its core, there is little wonder the county is attracting more and more visitors each year. With walking, nature, fishing, cycling, golf and other activities at our centre, you could argue we are the recreational playground of the East Midlands with rural innovation at our heart.

The visitor economy has played a significant part in Rutland over the past 12 years. Official steam industry figures supported by Visitor England demonstrate an incremental growth year on year over that period. The most representative figures pre lockdown indicted that the visitor economy in 2019 contributed £143m to the county, attracting 1.9m visitors annually and supported some 1700 jobs. We are confident that the 2022 post covid figures, yet to be released, will demonstrate similar results.

I am here today on behalf of Discover Rutland to express our support for approval of Rutland County Councils round 2 application to the levelling up fund to maximise the cultural assets and tourism offering in our county.

We were very excited at the two recent findings in our county. The Rutland sea dragon, the incredible 30 ft long ichthyosaur fossil found at Rutland water, and the Rutland Roman villa, a wonderful and precious national treasure. On discovery of both of these artifact’s DR saw a significant increase in national press coverage, website hits and interest in the county.

We understand that the proposed heritage element of the levelling up funding will deliver virtual Roman and jurassic galleries, with high-impact digital interpretations of the incredible recent finds, together with real artefacts 3D replicas, and state of the art interatives, an investment that will create an internationally resonating tourism attraction in the heart of the East Midlands.

In our view this is a fantastic opportunity to bring these two assets to life for local communities to enjoy and be proud. It will also boost the visitor economy by creating a visitor attraction that will draw people from across the UK and further afield, in turn increasing the much needed footfall of our market towns and villages to the benefit of local businesses.

For many years now we have also been known as the county of good taste and we have indeed used this as our marketing strap line for the county, it is fair to say that we are very proud of our food offering and heritage. The levelling up fund in Melton to strengthen their position as 'The Rural Capital of Food' by development of the stockyard can only further compliment the offering we have in Rutland.

We are also excited and supportive of the proposed improvement in transport throughout Rutland and Melton area, this will not only improve access to rural locations for residents and visitors, but potentially also encourage and support employees working in the hospitality / leisure sectors. Being a demand focussed travel initiative and not being reliant on timetables we would hope that this will bring many benefits and opportunities to local residents and businesses.

In summary the visitor economy underpins and supports many businesses in Rutland many of which are still facing challenges as a result of COVID as well as currently being impacted by the unprecedented cost increases to run their businesses.

We are very supportive of the levelling up bid and believe that this investment will further reinforce the broader area's desirability, visitor economy and longer term prosperity of our county. We also believe that the visitor economy should be considered core and integral to any future economic strategy for our county.

3	Deputation	<p>Rutland Health & Social Care Policy Consortium</p> <p>Jennifer Fenelon, Christine Stanesby, Judy Worthington, Miles Williamson-Noble, Peter Lawson, Ramsay Ross, Andrew Nebel, Andrew Robinson, Cliff Bacon, Malcolm Touchin</p> <p>Ramsay Ross will address Council</p>
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Details:

The Consortium have studied the Rural Innovation in Place ('Levelling Up') bid submitted in August 2022 together with those documents attached as appendices at Item 20 of the Agenda. This has been made in the context of the JHWS (Health Plan for Rutland) and the ICB's submission of a 5 Year Forward Plan (Strategic Plan) to the Department of Health on 30th June 2023, together with the Government's strategic policy commitment to maximise service delivery at Place.

The Consortium recognise that the Levelling Up bid submitted to Government is in the form of an outline proposition and consequently lacks the detail that could be reasonably expected in a Business Plan. The Consortium [further] recognises that acceptance by Rutland County Council of the monies offered under the terms of the MoU is conditional upon feasibility studies to define the respective business cases for each of the component elements of the

bid, together with costed capital and expenditure plans over the period to completion of the works, and any associated terms and conditions being acceptable.

We consider that, subject to the above being satisfactory, it would be beneficial for the economy and residents of Rutland for Rutland County Council to accept the monies offered by the Department for Levelling Up.

In particular, the Consortium sees the potential for the proposed 'Medi-tech' centre to be mutually complementary to the current plans to increase healthcare services at Rutland Memorial Hospital, thereby increasing high skill employment opportunities.

The 'Mobi-hub' will benefit rural transport which will improve access to health services in Leicester and other out-of-county providers.