



## **MEETING: COUNCIL**

**MEETING DATE: 6 NOVEMBER 2023**

## **ITEM: 3 – ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

### **Leader's Announcements to Council**

I have attended the following on behalf of the Council:

#### East Midlands Councils Executive Board

The following matters were discussed:

- The next round of Levelling Up funding; it is not yet clear if areas which have had it before will be eligible to bid again though previously bidding was on a constituency basis and we will be a new Parliamentary constituency (Rutland and Stamford) when it is released.
- Update on pay increases for local authority staff. A multi-year pay settlement is unlikely. Following on from the financial problems in Birmingham triggered by equal pay claims, many local authorities are receiving FOI requests regarding equal pay. Local authorities were encouraged to regularly review their market supplements (when used) as leaving them in place for a period of time without review can result in them being considered permanent and an intrinsic part of a wage/salary and thus subject to potential equal pay claims. Local authorities are still not using all their apprenticeship levy.

#### Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM)

The following matters were discussed:

- The East Midlands has low unemployment but low weekly earnings (mirroring Rutland). The population of the East Midlands is similar to that of Wales and Northern Ireland combined and our population growth similar to that in London and the Southeast. Housing delivery is significant but despite all this Government and private investment in our region is low; hence the low GDP; and
- There was an update on East Midlands Freeport (the only inland one in the UK). The Freeport is linking with the region's universities to create high level jobs. It doesn't, however, cover Rutland

#### District Council's Joint Meeting

This is a meeting of Leicestershire's district councils Leaders where Rutland County Council, Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council Leaders are invited. Discussion points covered:

- The dissolution of the Leicestershire LEP as it currently is constituted (LEP funding will be devolved to upper tier authorities from 2024);
- The duty to co-operate to deliver the area's housing needs (Leicester City, having little free land for development, needs some of its housing to be delivered by the districts);

- LUF 3<sup>rd</sup> round;
- The proposed combined authority of Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire known variously as D2N2 and The East Midlands Combined Authority;
- The potential for a combined authority covering the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area.

#### Safer Communities Strategy Board and Domestic Abuse Strategy Board

I attended these on behalf of Cllr Christine Wise who was on leave when they met. Discussions included:

- Funding received from Government for domestic abuse support –it can't be used for accommodation;
- Abuse where the couples are elderly;
- Child to parent abuse;
- Violence reduction network funded by the Home Office. This is meant to focus on prevention and is to enable local authorities to be able to fulfil their duties (from Jan.'23) to find long and short term solutions to reducing violence in their areas;
- The impacts of on-line gambling; and
- Teen health service (part of public health along with health visiting and school nurses). This is the link provided <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/teen-health-11-19> and the service is the same in Rutland but delivered by RCC staff;

#### Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership Directors' Board.

Discussion included:

- Devolution. When the Greater Lincolnshire authorities are inaugurated as a mayoral combined authority they will take over the LEP functions and Rutland will no longer be a part. This is likely to be 2025;
- The growth hub which covers the existing LEP upper tier and district councils except for 3 in Lincolnshire;
- A proposal for an innovation commission.

#### Ministerial meeting with Mike Freer, Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Justice

Meeting with the minister and representatives of Leicestershire and Leicester City. Government wanted us to discuss having a joint coroners' service.