

**To Members of the Council**

Cllr. Nick Chapman (Chairman)  
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam  
Cllr. Royston Bayliss  
Cllr. Dr John Bloxham  
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP  
Cllr. Nick Brown  
Cllr. Adrian Clifford  
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore  
Cllr. Stuart Coar  
Cllr. Luke Cousin  
Cllr. Tony Deakin  
Cllr. Roy Denney  
Cllr. Alex DeWinter

Cllr. Susan Findlay  
Cllr. Helen Gambardella  
Cllr. Hannah Gill  
Cllr. Nigel Grundy  
Cllr. Paul Hartshorn  
Cllr. Richard Holdridge  
Cllr. Mark Jackson  
Cllr. Becca Lunn  
Cllr. Antony Moseley  
Cllr. Les Phillimore  
Cllr. Terry Richardson  
Cllr. Ande Savage

Cllr. Tracey Shepherd  
Cllr. Dillan Shikotra  
Cllr. Mike Shirley  
Cllr. Roger Stead  
Cllr. Ben Taylor  
Cllr. Matt Tomeo  
Cllr. Bob Waterton  
Cllr. Jane Wolfe  
Cllr. Maggie Wright  
Cllr. Neil Wright

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Narborough on **TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2025** at **5.30 p.m.** for the transaction of the following business and your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully



**Gemma Dennis**  
**Corporate Services Group Manager and Monitoring Officer**



## **AGENDA**

### **SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION**

To receive apologies for absence, disclosures of interest from Councillors, and Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Disclosures of Interests from Members

To receive disclosures of interests from Members (i.e. the existence and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this agenda).

3. Minutes (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2025 (enclosed).

### **SECTION 2 - STANDARD COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Any reports for consideration listed under this section will be moved in one block without discussion, unless any Member present requests otherwise.

### **SECTION 3 - PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL**

To consider any presentations from Council Officer's or an external body/partner agency.

### **SECTION 4 - QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

To receive questions to Councillors submitted by members of the public and to receive any petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's petitions scheme.

4. Public Speaking Protocol

Requests received by the Protocol deadline to be reported by the Monitoring Officer with details of the Agenda Item to which they relate. (Such persons entitled to use the Protocol attend for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business of the meeting and the time allocated to each person is a maximum of three minutes unless extended at the discretion of the Chairman).

### **SECTION 5 - MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

To receive any questions submitted by Councillors.

5. Questions from Members

Any Members wishing to submit questions must do so to the Monitoring Officer no later than 5 working days before the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer will report if any questions have been submitted.

## **SECTION 6 - REPORTS FOR DECISIONS**

To consider any reports submitted for consideration by Council.

6. Planning Service Special Measures Risk Notification (Pages 11 - 14)

To consider the report of the Executive Director Place (enclosed).

7. Transfer of Narborough Park (Pages 15 - 20)

To consider the report of the Executive Director Place (enclosed).

8. Appointment of Independent Persons 2025-2029 (Pages 21 - 24)

To consider the report of the Elections and Governance Manager (enclosed).

## **SECTION 7 - MOTIONS/ DEBATES/CONSULTATIONS & MEMBERS' FEEDBACK**

To consider Motions submitted by Councillors, take part in a debate or receive Member feedback from attendance at national briefings, key training initiatives or work on any Outside Bodies.

## **SECTION 8 - EXEMPT REPORTS**

To receive any reports submitted which require consideration under exempt status.

9. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider passing the following resolution:

“That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

### **Agenda Item 10. Appendix A – Appointment of Independent Persons.**

#### **Exemption Category: 1**

**Reason for Exemption:** The Appendix contains information relating to any individual.

**Public Interest Test:** The public interest test has been considered and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.”

**Agenda Item 11. Proposal for the Council to invest in additional Housing to provide Temporary Accommodation and increase our affordable housing provision.**

**Exemption Category: 3**

**Reason for Exemption:** The report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

**Public Interest Test:** The public interest test has been considered and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.”

10. Appendix A - Appointment of Independent Persons (Pages 25 - 26)

To consider the report of the Elections and Governance Manager (enclosed).

11. Proposal for the Council to Invest in additional Housing to Provide Temporary Accommodation and increase our affordable housing provision (Pages 27 - 38)

To consider the report of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) (enclosed).

## **COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

**TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025**

### **Present:-**

Cllr. Nick Chapman (Chairman)  
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

|                       |                         |                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cllr. Shabbir Aslam   | Cllr. Susan Findlay     | Cllr. Ande Savage     |
| Cllr. Royston Bayliss | Cllr. Helen Gambardella | Cllr. Tracey Shepherd |
| Cllr. Lee Breckon JP  | Cllr. Nigel Grundy      | Cllr. Dillan Shikotra |
| Cllr. Nick Brown      | Cllr. Paul Hartshorn    | Cllr. Mike Shirley    |
| Cllr. Adrian Clifford | Cllr. Richard Holdridge | Cllr. Roger Stead     |
| Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore | Cllr. Mark Jackson      | Cllr. Ben Taylor      |
| Cllr. Luke Cousin     | Cllr. Becca Lunn        | Cllr. Bob Waterton    |
| Cllr. Tony Deakin     | Cllr. Antony Moseley    | Cllr. Jane Wolfe      |
| Cllr. Roy Denney      | Cllr. Les Phillimore    | Cllr. Maggie Wright   |
| Cllr. Alex DeWinter   | Cllr. Terry Richardson  | Cllr. Neil Wright     |

### **Officers present:-**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Julia Smith       | - Chief Executive  |
| Marc Greenwood    | - Executive Director - Place                                       |
| Louisa Horton     | - Executive Director - Communities                                 |
| Gemma Dennis      | - Corporate Services Group Manager                                 |
| Caroline Harbour  | - Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager |
| Katie Hollis      | - Finance Group Manager  |
| Katie Brooman     | - Elections and Governance Manager                                 |
| Sandeep Tienasa   | - Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer                    |
| Avisa Birchenough | - Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer                           |
| Nicole Cramp      | - Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer                           |

### **Honorary Aldermen in attendance as observers:-**

Guy Jackson

### **Apologies:-**

Cllr. Stuart Coar, Cllr. Hannah Gill and Cllr. Matt Tomeo

**1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS**

No disclosures were received.

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2025 as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair, Cllr. Nick Chapman made announcements in respect of the following:

- Attended the Leicestershire Melton Proms at St Mary's Church in Melton on 10 March 2025.
- Attended the Mayor of Charnwood's Borough Council's Charity Dinner on 21 March 2025.
- Hosted his own Chairman's Charity Coffee Morning on 26 March 2025 raising nearly £200 for the East Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.
- Attended the East Midlands Ambulance Charity Event to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of passenger transport.
- Joined Officers and Cabinet Members for a few hours to support them with the Great Tommy Sleep Out which took place on 27 March 2025.

The Chairman, Cllr. Nick Chapman invited Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore to provide more information on the Great Tommy Sleep Out to Members.

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore announced that £2,245 was raised for homeless veterans. Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore thanked Cabinet Members and Senior Leadership Officers at Blaby District Council for getting involved and supporting the cause.

#### 4. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader, Cllr. Terry Richardson presented his statement in respect of the following:

- Rail Freight Hub Rejected
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Flooding Funding
- County Council Elections
- Fresh Tourism Strategy
- A big thankyou and goodbye to Bev Welsh, who had stood down from her position as Ward Councillor in Glen Parva after almost 14 years of service.

Cllr's Antony Moseley, Luke Cousin, Paul, Hartshorn and Nick Brown all paid tribute to Bev Welsh adding their own thanks and best wishes.

#### 5. **AMENDMENTS TO APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SEAT ALLOCATIONS**

Considered - Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer.

##### **DECISIONS**

1. That effect be given to the wishes of the political groups as to the allocation of seats as detailed in the report.
2. To approve the appointment of Members to serve on Committees for those positions as detailed in the report, subject to the seat distribution being agreed without any member voting against.

Reasons:

1. Due to Cllr. Rebecca Lunn becoming an Independent Member, it was necessary to re-calculate the seat allocations of Committees.
2. It is appropriate to give effect to the wishes of the political groups and ensure compliance with the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Section 15 – 17 inclusive.

**6. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL**

No requests were received.

**7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

**8. QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Cllr. Antony Moseley raised the following question- to Cllr. Les Phillimore– Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder:

“The forecasted income for car parks in Blaby has once again declined. Businesses in Blaby village have consistently seen tangible benefits when car parks are made free at certain times during the year. Given this, will the Executive Member for Car Parks now accept that the current strategy of making car parks break-even is not the right approach? Will they commit to reintroducing a period of free parking to support local businesses and encourage footfall?”

Cllr. Les Phillimore – Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded: “Can I thank Cllr. Antony Moseley for the question as it gives me the chance to remind members that the Car Parking Strategy 2022-2027 includes the provision of free parking for disabled users for up to 3 hours, free parking on Sundays in Enderby Road and Johns Court car parks, and up to four free parking days a year agreed in conjunction with the Parish Council. All of these initiatives support our local businesses and encourage footfall.

The recent car parking order went further and made provisions for the purchase of business permits which are a cost effective way for people to park in Enderby Road and Johns Court car parks.

The aim of the Car Parking Strategy and the cost neutral goal was to ensure that customers using the car parks pay for their upkeep rather than all residents across the district which remains an appropriate strategy.

We constantly monitor usage and what we are seeing at the end of 24/25 financial year is that peoples shopping habits have changed, and income has increased based on what was received during 2023/24. Budgets are set prior to the start of a financial year and in my view it is likely that when we come to revise budgets in September the income will be adjusted upwards to reflect the income received up to that point. When setting budgets, officers are prudent to try to ensure that anticipated income levels are met and these are then reviewed throughout the year, with the formal review taking place in September.

In answer to the question regarding free parking I would refer to the initiatives



already in place for free parking and reiterate that our support for local businesses continues”

Cllr. Antony Moseley asked the following supplementary question: "In October of last year the proposal to introduce car park charges at Bouskell Park was called into Scrutiny, we were told confidently that the income would be between £33,000 - £36,000 per year and yet now the budget for this year the forecast is a mere £9,000 nearly 75% less? What has happened to cause a significant reduction in such a short amount of time? Were we misled at Scrutiny?"

Cllr. Les Phillimore – Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded that a written response would be provided.

**9. CORPORATE ACTION PLAN 2025-26**

Considered - Report of the Business Systems & Information Manager, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

**DECISION**

That the Corporate Action Plan 2025-26 be approved.

Reason:

It Is important that elected Members, support the priorities for the next year which contribute to the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

**10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION - MARCH 2025 SUBMISSION**

Considered - Report of the Chief Executive, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

**DECISION**

That the submission made to Government on behalf of all of the districts and boroughs across Leicestershire and Rutland County Council be noted.

Reason:

To ensure all Members are engaged and informed and are aware of the process undertaken to date.

**11. APPOINTMENTS TO SAPCOTE PARISH COUNCIL**

Considered - Report of the Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

**DECISION**

That the Order attached at Appendix A of the report to appoint individuals to Sapcote Parish Council until sufficient Councillors are appointed or elected to the Parish Council be agreed.

Reason:

Additional persons are required to be appointed to the Sapcote Parish Council in order that it is quorate and so business can be conducted. This is needed until sufficient persons are co-opted or elected.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.40 P.M.**

## Blaby District Council Council

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>  | 20 May 2025   |
| <b>Title of Report</b>  | <b>Planning Service Special Measures Risk Notification</b><br>This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan |
| <b>Lead Member</b>      | <b>Cllr. Ben Taylor - Planning, Transformation and ICT</b>  |
| <b>Report Author</b>    | Executive Director - Place  |
| <b>Strategic Themes</b> | Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people  |

### 1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report outlines the recent notification Blaby District Council received from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Council's Planning Service nearly entering Special Measures following recent Planning Committee decisions which were overturned on appeal. The report outlines the implications for the notification and the next steps the authority will take.
- 1.2 This report is for information only.

### 2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 Council are asked to note the content of the report.

### 3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 No decisions are required.

### 4. Matters to consider

- 4.1 Background  
On the 23 January 2025, the Planning Advisory Service notified the Council that it had been reported as a "near miss authority" for nearly breaching Government set planning indicators. The result of which meant the council narrowly avoided being designated and put into Special Measures.

The performance of local planning authorities is assessed against the following nationally prescribed indicators:

- The speed of determining applications for major developments.
- The quality of decisions made by the authority on applications for major developments.
- The speed of determining applications for non-major developments.

- The quality of decisions made by the authority on applications for non-major developments.

The Council has been deemed to narrowly avoid failing to meet the 'quality of decisions for major developments' indicator. The most recent measures are reported for the time period April 2022 through to March 2024. The indicator relates to decisions made by the Council in relation to major scheme applications. This relates to developments of 10 or more dwellings, or the floorspace to be built is 1000 square metres or more, or where the site area is 1 hectare or more. For a council to fail to meet this indicator 10% or more of their major scheme applications, will have been overturned on appeal to the Planning Inspector.

During this period Blaby District Council made decisions relating to Cork Lane, New Street and Enderby Hub. The first 2 applications were recommended for refusal by officers and the latter recommended for approval. All three were refused by the Planning Committee and subsequently overturned by the Planning Inspector upon appeal. Only Enderby Hub was awarded costs against the Council as the Council was deemed to be acting unreasonably in its defence of its original decision.

These three applications alone accounted for 9.38% of our major applications, during the time period April 2022 through to March 2024.

The consequences of being designated into Special Measures by the Planning Inspectorate can result in applicants being given authority to apply directly to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, for decisions. This would remove the ability of Blaby District Council to decide on applications. The ability of the Council to also secure conditions on applications will be greatly reduced.

Following the Special Measures risk notification, the Planning Advisory Service have advised Blaby District Council that we are eligible for support. This support is designed to aid the Planning Committee with an improved understanding of their responsibilities in relation to future decision making. Options available to the Council include:

1. A Planning Advisory Service led training course for the Planning Committee and officers. The training includes role play and real-life planning decision examples to help Planning Committee Members and officers understand their role and obligations throughout the Committee process.
2. A full peer review of the Planning Committee and supporting processes. This includes working with Officers and Planning Committee Members to deep dive into processes, knowledge, skills and competencies in application decision making. The outcome of this support would be a publicly accessible report prepared by the Planning Advisory Service. This is similar to the Local Government Association's Peer Review process.

The final decision on which option to choose will be taken in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and the Chair of Planning Committee.

#### 4.2 Proposal(s)

This report is for information, and Council are asked to note the content of the report.

#### 4.3 Relevant Consultations

N/A

#### 4.4 Significant Issues

Legal

The Council must adhere to the statutory requirements of administering planning applications. The notification of being a 'near miss authority' suggests the Planning Inspectorate believes Blaby District Council is at risk of non-compliance with these statutory requirements.

#### 4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

### 5. Environmental impact

#### 5.1 N/A

### 6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

#### 6.1 The Council chose to defend each of the three decisions referred to by the Planning Inspectorate. Each required external legal and planning consultant advice, at the expense of Blaby District Council. Of the three only one led to an award for costs against Blaby District Council. This one case alone cost the Council £94,111.

### 7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

#### 7.1

| Current Risk   | Actions to reduce the risks   |
|--|---|
| Reputational risk to the council if placed into Special Measures.                                | Enable robust dialogue regarding planning applications, whilst ensuring decision making conforms to statutory requirements. This will ensure a firm legal basis for decision making and avoid decisions that can be overturned in the future. |
| Decision making powers would be removed from the Council if it were to go into Special Measures. | Support Planning Committee to have the knowledge and skills to make decisions within the statutory framework set by Government.   |

**8. Other options considered**

8.1 No other options are advised at this time.

**9. Appendix**

9.1 N/A

**10. Background paper(s)**

10.1 N/A

**11. Report author's contact details**

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Marc Greenwood              | Executive Director Place |
| Marc.greenwood@blaby.gov.uk | 0116 275 0555            |

## Blaby District Council Council

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>    | 20 May 2025  |
| <b>Title of Report</b>    | <b>Transfer of Narborough Park</b><br>This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan                            |
| <b>Lead Member</b>        | <b>Cllr. Nigel Grundy - Neighbourhood Services &amp; Assets</b>  |
| <b>Report Author</b>      | Executive Director   |
| <b>Corporate Priority</b> | All Priorities: A Place to Live; A Place to Work; A Place to Visit; People Strategy; Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) |

### 1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek authority to transfer Narborough Park to Narborough Parish Council for ongoing community use.

### 2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That Council approve the disposal of Narborough Park to Narborough Parish Council.
- 2.2 That delegated authority is given to the Executive Director (S151) in consultation with the Neighbourhood Services and Assets Portfolio holder and Finance, People and Performance Portfolio holder to agree terms and finalise the disposals of the land assets detailed in 2.1.

### 3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 Transfer of land listed in 2.1 is a recommendation within the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy 2024-2034.
- 3.2 The recommendation seeks to transfer open space to the Parish Council where there is no potential for development of the land and in so doing reduce maintenance costs and liability to the Council.

## **4. Matters to consider**

### **4.1 Background**

The District Council have recently developed a Parks and Open Strategy 2024-2034 with a strategic vision to ensure that Blaby District Council owned parks and open spaces are sustainable, high quality, accessible and continue to provide value to people, place, and nature.

A key objective of the strategy is to review all strategic parks and open spaces owned by Blaby District Council and recommend the best ownership and management for their respective communities.

The proposed disposal of Narborough Park follows the recent Council approval to dispose of other community assets to Parish Councils. These included the disposal of land at Southey Close recreation ground and Jubilee Park to Enderby Parish Council and disposal of Holt Crescent allotments to Thurlaston Parish Council.

Parish Councils have an in depth understanding of local needs, and the availability to access funding opportunities which has the potential to provide a vast range of benefits to its residents, visitors, and park users. In addition, it allows for the Parish Council to take control of the site offering opportunities for consistency in maintenance regimes, community events, activities, and much more.

Further to an offer in principle to transfer the land, Narborough Parish Council have expressed an interest to take ownership of Narborough Park which is located off Desford Road. The site is not deemed to have development potential. The land to be transferred will be conditional upon it remaining as open space in perpetuity.

Therefore, it is proposed that the land as shown in Appendix A be transferred to the parish and to be retained as open space in perpetuity, for a nominal value of £1.00.

### **4.2 Proposal(s)**

- To proceed with the transfer outlined in 4.1; and for the terms of the transfer for the site to be agreed and finalised by the Executive Director (S151 officer) in consultation with the respective Portfolio Holders for Assets and Finance.



#### 4.3 Relevant Consultations

Consultation was undertaken during the development of the Parks & Open Strategy that subsequently identified the transfer of Narborough Park.

Internal consultants: The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy working group, Tourism, Planning, Environmental Services, SLT, Informal Cabinet, Scrutiny, Full Council.

External consultants: Leicestershire County Council, The Environmental Partnership (TEP) Parish/Town Councils.

#### 4.4 Significant Issues

There are no significant issues to report.

### 5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 Blaby District Council currently have no running costs for the management and maintenance of the site, therefore there will be no direct savings from the transfer of the park. The long term liability of the running the site will rest with Narborough Parish Council in the future.

### 6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

#### 6.1

| Current Risk  | Actions to reduce the risks  |
|---|--|
| Councils' liability for the sites   | Transferring the asset to the Parish Council will transfer the liability.  |
| Risk that the Parish is unable to maintain the assets after transfer.                           | The Council will carry out due diligence to ensure the Parish Council has the ability and funding to maintain the park into the future.  |
| Limited funding for improvements to the open spaces.  | Transferring the asset will provide further funding avenues for future improvements to the sites.  |
| Retention of part of the park raises concerns with the public that the park will be built upon. | Develop a clear communication approach, in partnership with the Parish, that explains the rationale for retaining a small part of the land for future changes and how this will not affect the ongoing use of the park itself. |

### 7. Other options considered

- 7.1 The option of continuing ownership of the park and leasing it to Narborough Parish Council, beyond the current lease hold arrangements, was considered. However, the Council intend to maintain the site as a park and as such believe Narborough Parish Council are best placed to maximise the parks potential in the future.

**8. Environmental impact**

- 8.1 No adverse environmental impacts are anticipated given there is to be no change to the current utilisation of the land.

**9. Other significant issues**

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

**10. Appendix**

- 10.1 Appendix A – Proposed red line boundary of the park to be transferred to Narborough Parish Council

**11. Background paper(s)**

- 11.1 None.

**12. Report author's contact details**

Marc Greenwood Executive Director Place  
Marc.greenwood@blaby.gov.uk 0116 275 0555



Page 19

Narborough Park - Ownership Boundary

Ordnance Survey Crown Copyright and  
Database Rights 2024 Licence No.  
AC0000808718

**Key:**  
Ownership Boundary

Scale 1:1500  
at A4

Date:  
10.04.25

This page is intentionally left blank

## Blaby District Council Council

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>  | 20 May 2025  |
| <b>Title of Report</b>  | <b>Appointment of Independent Persons 2025-2029</b><br>This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan |
| <b>Lead Member</b>      | <b>Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council</b>  |
| <b>Report Author</b>    | Elections and Governance Manager   |
| <b>Strategic Themes</b> | Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people   |

### 1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 The report asks Council to consider and approve the appointment of 7 Independent Persons in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

### 2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That council appoint the Independent Persons detailed in the report for a term of office of four years until Annual Council in May 2029 to perform the roles set out in section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011.

### 3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 Section 7 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person to assist in maintaining and promoting the high standards of conduct amongst elected and co-opted members.

### 4. Matters to consider

#### 4.1 Background

The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to put in place arrangements for investigating and taking decisions on complaints relating to District Councillors and parish and town councillors in the District, including the appointment of one or more Independent Persons who must be consulted before decisions in respect of complaints are taken, and who may be consulted by councillors who are the subject of complaints.

In addition, as a result of the changes introduced by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2015 where an authority is considering the dismissal of a Statutory Officer it is required to

appoint a committee (referred to in the regulations as ‘the Panel’) to consider the proposed dismissal which must include at least 2 ‘Independent Persons’.

Since 2012 the District and Borough Councils for Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Melton, Northwest Leicestershire, Hinckley and Oadby and Wigston have been part of an Independent Persons pool arrangement. Rutland County Council have now also elected to join the District and Boroughs to share the pool arrangements. Appointment to the pool has been via a joint recruitment exercise led by a working group comprising 3 Monitoring Officers. Appointments were made to the pool in 2012, 2016 and 2021. The term of office of the current pool of independent persons has now expired.

In March 2025 a joint recruitment exercise commenced, led by the Monitoring Officers from Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Charnwood and Blaby. As set out above, this approach has been used to appoint the Independent Persons in the past and it is felt that this secures a selection of strong candidates and provides resilience by continuing the pool arrangement.

Following a recruitment exercise, the following 7 candidates are recommended for appointment as Independent Persons:

- Mr Michael Chad Smith
- Mr Gordon Grimes
- Mr Laurence [Laurie] Faulkner
- Mr Michael Gibson
- Mr Matthew Johnson
- Mr Mark Shaw
- Mr Richard Gough

A brief resume for each of the above is contained at Appendix A; due to the nature of the data contained within the appendix, officers have deemed that it should be made exempt. Any details will be discussed in closed session.

4.2 Proposal

That council appoint the Independent Persons listed in paragraph 4.1 of the report for a term of office of four years until annual council in May 2029.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

Monitoring Officer interview panel.

4.4 Significant Issues

None.

4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

## **5. Environmental impact**

- 5.1 No Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) is required for this report.

## **6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

- 6.1 The Independent Persons receive no remuneration for the role but are entitled to reasonable expenses in accordance with the Travel and Substance Allowance for Members. It is expected that any such cost would be met from existing budgets. Training will also be arranged for the Independent Persons to equip them to perform their role, the cost of which will be shared between Districts, Boroughs and Rutland County Council.

## **7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

7.1

| Current Risk   | Actions to reduce the risks                  |
|--|--|
| Failure to appoint at least one Independent Person will mean that the Council is in breach of its statutory responsibilities | Appointment of at least 1 Independent Person |

## **8. Other options considered**

- 8.1 None.

## **9. Appendix**

- 9.1 Appendix A – Brief Resume of Independent Persons recommended for appointment (EXEMPT)

## **10. Background paper(s)**

- 10.1 None

## **11. Report author's contact details**

|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Katie Brooman              | Elections & Governance Manager |
| Katie.brooman@blaby.gov.uk | 0116 272 7693                  |

This page is intentionally left blank



By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Exempt

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Exempt

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Exempt

This page is intentionally left blank