

## **CABINET EXECUTIVE**

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Narborough

**MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2026**

### **Present:**

Councillor Ben Taylor (Leader)  
Councillor Cheryl Cashmore (Finance, People and Transformation Portfolio Holder)  
(Deputy Leader)

Cllr. Susan Findlay	Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services
Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Neighbourhood Services and Assets Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Mike Shirley	Planning and Strategic Growth Portfolio Holder

### **Also in attendance:**

Cllr. Nick Brown – Chairman of Scrutiny Commission  
Cllr. Neil Wright – Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Commission

### **Officers present:-**

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Katie Hollis	- Finance Group Manager
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Nicole Evans	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

### **Apologies:**

Cllr. Nick Chapman

**251. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Leader, Cllr. Ben Taylor announced that there had been a change to Cabinet appointments and paid tribute to Cllr. Les Phillimore for his more than six years of leadership and dedicated service to Blaby District Council, the Cabinet, and the local community.

The Leader also welcomed Cllr. Susan Findlay as a new Member of the Cabinet Executive and confirmed her appointment as Portfolio Holder for Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services.

**252. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS**

No disclosures were received.

**253. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2026, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

**254. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL**

No requests were received.

**255. CABINET EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATIONS 2026-27 DRAFT  
BUDGET PROPOSALS**

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore, the Finance, People and Transformation Portfolio Holder.

Other Options Considered:

No other options have been considered. Not responding to Scrutiny would not comply with requirements of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Leader, Cllr. Ben Taylor thanked the Scrutiny Commission, Officers and non-executive Members who supported Scrutiny for the work carried out this past year. The Leader recognised the positive work that has taken place and in particular, the work to tackle homelessness, and Cabinet's responses to Scrutiny on this matter.

**DECISION**

That the response to Scrutiny Commission recommendations as set out at Appendix A of the report be approved.

Reason:

The Local Government & Public Involvement In Health Act 2007 places a duty which requires Cabinet Executive to respond to Scrutiny Recommendations within two months of receiving them.

**256. BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT**

Considered – Report of the Executive Director – Place.

Other Options Considered:

It is a requirement of Blaby District Council to publish and submit the EBD report to Defra. There are no other options available.

The Leader, Cllr. Ben Taylor thanked the Executive Director - Place and the team for all their hard work.

**DECISIONS**

1. That the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report be approved for publication and submitted to Defra no later than 31 March 2026.
2. That delegated authority is given to the Executive Director Place, for any post submission action required by Defra, in consultation with the Leader.
3. That progress updates on actions identified be provided from the Climate Change Cross-Party Working Group.

Reasons:

1. Defra require the publication and submission of the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty report.
2. To ensure clarity of decision making.
3. To consider the introduction of further actions in the interest of Climate Change.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5.39 P.M.**