

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

**HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

**8 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman  
Mr KWP Lynch – Vice-Chairman

Mr DC Bill MBE, Mr DS Cope (for Mr SL Bray), Mr WJ Crooks, Mr BE Sutton and Mr R Ward

Also in attendance: Councillor M Hall and Councillor MJ Surtees

Officers in attendance: Valerie Bunting, Bill Cullen, Malcolm Evans, Rob Foers, Simon D Jones, Julie Kenny, Jacqui Kissai, Rebecca Owen, Rob Parkinson, Kirstie Rea, Caroline Roffey, Nicola Smith, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

239 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this stage.

242 **REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES FUND**

In reviewing the operation of the developing communities fund, it was noted that during the first programme some issues had come to light such as the capacity of parishes to run projects, the level of grant, time taken for the process and VAT issues. Minor changes to the criteria were proposed for the second phase of funding.

It was acknowledged that more assistance was required for assessing the applications and it had also come to light that many parishes did not have the skills or resources to manage such large projects so support to parishes in managing the projects would be beneficial.

In relation to the suggestion that the minimum level of funding should be lowered, a member suggested that increasing the upper limit for the Parish & Community Initiative Fund may be more appropriate.

A member expressed concern about linking eligibility for the fund to neighbourhood development plans, and it was also suggested that a community's neighbourhood plan may be preventing access to higher levels of funding.

**RESOLVED** – Council be RECOMMENDED to consider the following:

- (i) Officer support for project management is required, but the fine line between enabling and project managing be addressed;
- (ii) Expansion of the Parish & Community Initiative Fund rather than reducing the lower limit of the Developing Communities Fund;
- (iii) Changes to the challenging timescales;
- (iv) Creation of a toolkit to support parishes through the application and project management processes.