

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

8 OCTOBER 2020 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr MR Lay - Chairman
Cllr C Ladkin and Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chairmen

Cllr JMT Collett, Cllr DS Cope, Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr SM Gibbens, Cllr A Pendlebury,
Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools, Cllr R Webber-Jones and Cllr HG Williams

Also in attendance: Councillor KWP Lynch

Officers in attendance: Matthew Bowers, Bill Cullen, Paul Grundy, Simon D Jones, Julie Kenny, Rosemary Leach, Karen Mason, Rebecca Owen, Madeline Shellard, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

510 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

It was noted that Councillors Cope, Gibbens and Pendlebury would be arriving late due to attending another meeting.

511 MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Sheppard-Bools, seconded by Councillor P Williams and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 20 August be confirmed as a correct record.

512 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Williams declared a personal interest in the Heritage Strategy Action Plan as Heritage Champion for the Council.

Councillors Cope, Gibbens and Pendlebury entered the meeting at 6.33pm.

513 HERITAGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Members received an update on work undertaken in the last twelve months in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Heritage Strategy Action Plan. During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The importance of continuing conservation area re-appraisals
- Funding for the 1485 trail had been granted by the LLEP and progress on the project would not be greatly impacted by covid-19
- A resident had compiled an early history of Newbold Verdon which would be shared with the conservation officer
- Concern about the ability for businesses to focus on the Heritage Action Zone given other pressures. It was noted that a heritage officer had been appointed to work with building owners
- The need for the Heritage Forum to continue meeting, albeit virtually
- The importance of taking enforcement in conservation areas as required.

Cllr Ladkin entered the meeting at 6.45pm.

The inclusion of conservation in the Planning White Paper was highlighted.

It was moved by Councillor Crooks, seconded by Councillor Webber-Jones and

RESOLVED –

- (i) the report be noted and work undertaken be endorsed
- (ii) the importance of continuing conservation and heritage work across the borough.

514 COUNTYWIDE HOARDING PROJECT

Councillor Pendlebury declared a personal interest in this item as a mental health worker.

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of a pilot countywide project funded through the Disabled Facilities Grant element of the Better Care Fund aimed at a holistic approach to dealing with cases of hoarding.

Members generally felt this was a valuable piece of work and were happy that the Council was leading on the project.

A member expressed concern that, in the current climate where businesses and individuals were struggling financially, the cost to taxpayers of the project was high yet outcomes commensurate with the expenditure may not be achieved. In response, it was noted that the cost would be met from the Disabled Facilities Grant which was a ringfenced budget and could not be used to support businesses or other general fund functions. Members were reassured that positive outcomes had been seen in other areas and it was anticipated that the return on investment would be achieved by reducing delayed hospital discharges and the associated cost of bed blocking and through reducing the need for multiple clear outs of peoples' properties.

In response to a question about the extent of the problem, it was noted that in the borough in May 2019 there were 31 cases of which officers were aware. In addition, there were around ten people per week in Leicestershire hospitals unable to be discharged as their property being uninhabitable due to hoarding.

It was suggested that an update be brought to the Scrutiny Commission at an appropriate point.

It was moved by Councillor Webber-Jones, seconded by Councillor Crooks and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to Council;
- (ii) An update be brought to a future meeting.

515 UPGRADE OF HOUSING MOBILE SOLUTION SOFTWARE

Consideration was given to a report which looked at the current mobile solution software utilised by the housing repairs team and recommended an upgrade to the system. In addition to providing a more flexible service to meet tenants' needs, it was noted that the solution would reduce travel and paper usage thereby reducing the council's carbon footprint. In relation to savings, it was agreed that members would be updated during the course of the project.

Members welcomed the improvements proposed and it was moved by Councillor Crooks, seconded by Councillor Webber-Jones and

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to Council.

516 MINUTES OF FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

The minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny on 9 September were received for information.

517 MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Councillor H Williams, seconded by Councillor Sheppard-Bools, it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

518 HINCKLEY LEISURE CENTRE

Members received a report about the operation of the leisure centre and the impact of covid-19. It was moved by Councillor Webber-Jones, seconded by Councillor Gibbens and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to Council;
- (ii) An update be brought to the Scrutiny Commission in three months.

(The Meeting closed at 7.40 pm)

CHAIRMAN