



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 14 March 2024

Wards affected: All wards

Scrutiny review: adoption of new developments

Report of the Director (Corporate & Street Scene Services)

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To agree the scope for the review into adoption of new developments and propose the review is undertaken by a task & finish group.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It be agreed that the review covers:

- (i) Adoption of sustainable drainage systems and balancing ponds
- (ii) Management companies
- (iii) Adoption of roads
- (iv) Maintenance of public open space.

2.2 A task & finish group be set up with the balance proposed in paragraph 3.7.

3. Background to the report

3.1 At its meeting on 26 October 2023, the Scrutiny Commission received a report on adoption of new developments which agreed the focus for a future review of the subject.

3.2 The areas agreed for the review were:

- Adoption of sustainable drainage systems and balancing ponds
- Management companies
- Adoption of roads
- Maintenance of public open space.

3.3 Sustainable drainage systems and balancing ponds

Members identified the problems of these and the reticence of parish councils to adopt balancing ponds. The review will look into the options in relation to drainage systems and balancing ponds and the adoption of them.

3.4 Management companies

Members highlighted that management companies charged residents a significant management fee yet maintenance was sometimes not up to an acceptable standard. The role of management companies will be explored and a representative of a management company will be invited to speak on the subject.

3.5 Adoption of roads

Members raised concerns about unadopted roads and the increasing number of roads within new developments that are not adopted by the highways authority. Whilst many roads are required to be built to adoptable standards, this does not always result in adoption. The review will seek to understand the issues around adoption of roads and maintenance of those not adopted, ideally with the input of Leicestershire County Council as highways authority as the borough council does not have any involvement in the adoption process.

3.6 Maintenance of public open space

At the meeting on 26 October, members received a summary of on-site open spaces and their status. There was concern that those sites not transferred to the borough or relevant parish council were not always suitably maintained.

3.7 It was suggested at the meeting in October that the review be undertaken by a task & finish group. This report therefore proposes that a task & finish group be set up with a membership of three members from the Liberal Democrat Group, two members from the Conservative group and one member from the Labour group. In the first instance, expressions of interest should be sought from members of the Scrutiny Commission and only if there is insufficient interest should they be sought from the wider membership.

3.8 It is anticipated that the review will commence in autumn 2024 following the conclusion of the housing review.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 Report to be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications (IB)

- 5.1 Although there are no implications arising from directly from the report, the impact on the Council budget and insurance risks will have to be considered as part of any future adoption decisions.

6. Legal implications (ST)

- 6.1 None.

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 This report supports the vision of creating clean, sustainable and attractive places to live, visit and work in.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 None.

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 9.3 No risks have been identified as a direct result of this report.

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 This report does not have an impact on any particular community or group, however the review that is proposed intends to improve understanding of the issues and to create improvements for those living in or near to new developments.
- 10.2 This report does not propose any changes to services or policies, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 This report does not directly impact climate change, however those matters discussed in the review, such as drainage and open space, impact climate and biodiversity.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission, 26 October 2023.

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