

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

23 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman  
Mrs R Camamile and Mr KWP Lynch – Vice-Chairman  
Mr SL Bray, Mr DS Cope (for Mr DC Bill MBE), Mr WJ Crooks, Mr DW MacDonald,  
Mr RB Roberts, Mr BE Sutton, Mr R Ward and Mr HG Williams

Also in attendance: Councillor MA Cook, Councillor M Hall, Councillor K Morrell and  
Councillor MJ Surtees

Officers in attendance: Bill Cullen, Nadeem Din, Paul Grundy, Simon D Jones, Julie  
Kenny, Rob Parkinson, Aftab Razzaq, Kirstie Rea and Ashley Wilson

213 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Bill, with the substitution of  
Councillor D Cope authorised in accordance with council procedure rule 10.

214 MINUTES

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October be confirmed  
and signed by the chairman.

215 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

216 PLANNING APPEALS SIX MONTHLY UPDATE

Members were updated on progress of current planning appeals. During discussion, the  
following points were raised:

- The learning from appeals allowed on decisions made against officer recommendations
- The request for a comparison of performance indicators with other authorities and national targets. It was acknowledged that there were difficulties in comparing such data
- The need for viability of planning proposals to be considered during the planning application/permission process.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

217 HERITAGE STRATEGY

Members received the heritage strategy and action plan which set out the proactive  
approach going forward. During discussion, the following points were raised by  
members:

- The need to protect conservation areas and keep related documentation up to date. In response officers outlined good practice of reappraising these every five years and the need to revisit some existing documents
- The reference within the report to a 'spa town'. Officers responded that this was a reference to the historic association with the Big Pit

- The VAT costs for works to listed buildings. In response it was reported that heritage societies had been lobbying for work to listed buildings to be zero rated
- The need to retain focussed funding for heritage work.

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed.

## 218 STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN

The Scrutiny Commission received a report which outlined the countywide partnership work undertaken in preparation of the strategic growth plan for Leicester and Leicestershire. It was noted that all of the Leicestershire authorities were taking the report through the same governance process with the same recommendations.

A member expressed concern that there were confused messages about whether the document was public or private and clarity over the capacity for dwellings in the A46 growth corridor. Questions were raised as to whether it would be feasible due to the infrastructure.

In relation to development of the A46 corridor, it was acknowledged that this had been needed for some time and was also being requested via the Midland Connect strategy along with an A4 expressway. A member raised the concern that the A5 had been highlighted as an issue twenty years earlier but had still not been resolved, and the A46 corridor could follow a similar pattern. It was highlighted that the report stated the strategy was predicated on being infrastructure-led and was a requirement in order to deliver the growth. Furthermore, the local MP had agreed to host a meeting of all A5 corridor MPs with transport ministers to secure support for investment in the A5.

Concern was expressed about the documents that would be presented to the public as part of the consultation. In response it was explained that there would be a suite of documents, including a quick and easy explanation of the plan, and that public exhibitions were still being considered as part of the consultation on the local plan review. Members felt that an exhibition or public events were necessary.

Further concern was expressed in relation to the A47, particularly due to developments coming forward and the increased traffic causing bottlenecks, which would become more problematic over the ensuing five to ten years.

Whilst not feeling comfortable endorsing the report, the Scrutiny Commission agreed to note the report and that it would be presented to Council. It was also proposed that the consultation process and timetable be enhanced.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report and intention to present it to Council be noted;
- (ii) It be RECOMMENDED that the consultation process and timetable be enhanced.

## 219 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Members received the local plan review, local development scheme and statement of community involvement. It was noted that the process was for discussion, not the detail of the documents. It was acknowledged that if the council did not progress this matter, the government would be able to enforce it. Officers were thanked for their work on the documents and members noted that they would have the opportunity to discuss the options at the appropriate stage.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

220 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Scrutiny Commission gave consideration to the report of the Independent Panel on members' allowances.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

221 SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2016-18

Consideration was given to the work programme. It was requested that reports on Martinshaw Lane and the Klondyke be brought at an appropriate time.

222 MINUTES OF FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

The minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny were received for information. A member stated she had been very impressed with the frontline service review which had been discussed at the last meeting of that body.

223 MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Councillor Camamile seconded by Councillor Crooks, 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.

224 PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

The Scrutiny Commission gave consideration to a report which recommended negotiations on a contract. Members requested the inclusion in the report to Council of reference to external legal advice taken. Members wished their concern to be noted and wanted to understand what mitigations could be included in future to prevent a reoccurrence.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

225 INVESTMENT ITEM

Members were advised of an investment opportunity which would work well with our current services, bring employment into the borough and bring an unused site into use. The risks and implications were highlighted for members and it was noted that it could be operational within two years. It was noted that public consultation would take place as part of the planning process.

RESOLVED – the report be welcomed and option 1 outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report be supported and RECOMMENDED to Council.

(The Meeting closed at 9.16 pm)

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CHAIRMAN