

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

13 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MA Hall - Chairman  
Mr K Morrell – Vice-Chairman  
Mr RG Allen, Mr C Ladkin, Mr M Nickerson, Mrs MJ Surtees and Mr P Wallace

Members in attendance: Councillors Mrs J Kirby and Mrs J Richards

Officers in attendance: Bill Cullen, Rebecca Owen, Sharon Stacey and Jo Wykes

337 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Cook.

338 MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Surtees, seconded by Councillor Nickerson and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2017 be confirmed and signed by the chairman.

339 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

340 HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY REVIEW

The Executive was informed of proposed changes to the council's Housing Allocations Policy, designed to ensure that people with the most housing need and with a local preference were given preference to join the housing register.

A member expressed concern about those tenants on low incomes and in response it was stated that they would usually be in receipt of housing or other benefits but that this policy would help to identify issues at an earlier stage to enable officers to support tenants with budget management or to refer them to the Citizens Advice Bureau for debt management support.

Some discussion ensued on the difference in the way benefits were paid and overpayments were recouped under the universal credit system. It was noted that a report on universal credit would be taken to the Scrutiny Commission in March for members' information.

In relation to the proposed inclusion in the policy of those in "priority" and "high" banding groups having eight weeks to express a choice in their bidding, a member asked what would happen if we didn't have a suitable property available within that period. In response it was noted that the timescale could be extended if the reason for not bidding or accepting a property was due to no suitable properties being available.

It was moved by Councillor Allen, seconded by Councillor Ladkin and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The proposed changes be noted and the proposed Allocations Policy be approved for consultation;
- (ii) Authority be delegated to the Director (Community Services) and Executive member for Housing and Community Safety to make any amendments to the policy arising from the consultation and to agree an implementation date.

341 COUNCIL HOUSE VOIDS EXPENDITURE

Members received a report which sought approval for a supplementary voids budget due to the pressure on the existing budget. It was noted that the pressure was mostly due to the number of high value voids. It was

RESOLVED –

- (i) The increase in demand on the voids budget be noted;
- (ii) A supplementary budget of £45,000 be approved to ensure sufficient funds are available to continue bringing empty properties up to a lettable standard for the remainder of the financial year.

342 WHEELED BIN AND CONTAINER POLICY

Members were informed of minor amendments to the council's Wheeled Bin and Container policy. It was explained that matters including the removal of dry recycling credit payments by the disposal authority and the current recycling market conditions had been taken into account.

It was noted that the move to co-mingled dry recycling would take place on 1 April, which would remove the need for the inner caddy. The new recycling rounds and how these would be implemented were also highlighted. The communication strategy and arrangements for informing residents of the changes to the rounds were explained to help minimise any potential problems arising from the new service being introduced.

RESOLVED – the revised Wheeled Bin and Container policy be approved.

343 VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Further to the request of the Executive to hold meetings throughout the borough, proposed venues were discussed. It was

RESOLVED –

- (i) For the remainder of 2018, Executive meetings be held as follows:
  - 11 April 2018 – Bagworth Community Centre
  - 6 June 2018 – Desford Church Centre
  - 1 August 2018 – Barlestone tbc
  - 26 September 2018 – Sheepy Magna Memorial Hall
  - 21 November 2018 – Hinckley Hub.
- (ii) A session for public questions be held at the close of the formal meeting on each of the above dates.

(The Meeting closed at 6.48 pm)

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CHAIRMAN