

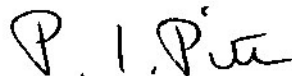
Steve Atkinson MA(Oxon) MBA MloD FRSA
Chief Executive

Date: 22 September 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the **HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL** in the Council Chamber at these offices on **TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 at 6.30 pm.**

Yours faithfully



Pat Pitt (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2008. Attached marked 'C34'.
3. To be advised of any additional items of business which the Mayor decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting.
4. To receive verbally from Members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's code of conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the Agenda.
5. To receive such communications as the Mayor may decide to lay before the Council.
6. To receive petitions presented in accordance with Council Procedure Rule number 10.11.

7. To deal with questions under Council Procedure Rule number 11.1.
8. Position Statement. The Leader of the Council will give a brief presentation.
9. To receive for information only, the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 28 August 2008 attached marked C35.
10. To consider the following reports:-
 - (a) Hinckley Town Centre Partnership-Board Directors. Attached marked C36 (pages 1-2).
 - (b) Locality Partnership Budget. Attached marked C37 (pages 3-4).
 - (c) Community Safety Funding 2008/09. Attached marked C38 (pages 5-8)
 - (d) Core Strategy - Housing Numbers. Attached marked C39 (pages 9-28)
 - (e) Economic Downturn. Attached marked C40 (pages 29-36)
11. To consider the following motions, notice of which in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 have been received from the Members named:-
 - (a) From Mr. S. L. Bray:

“Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council expresses its extreme concerns at the rocketing petrol and diesel prices, which are forcing individuals to pay sky high prices at the pumps and forcing public services and industry to finance escalating costs.

Council notes that without UK taxes petrol would be currently 41.2p a litre and diesel 48.8p a litre. Council further notes that the Energy Trends and Prices statistics, produced by the Department for Business, Industry and Regulatory Reform reveal that the UK’s taxation of petrol is the third highest out of all EU member states.

Council further notes that the UK treasury is netting substantial increasing Fuel Duty and VAT revenues as a direct result of the increasing fuel process.

In the light of all of the above Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council calls on the current Labour Westminster Government to act decisively to protect the interests of families, public services and industry by immediately introducing a Fuel Duty Regulator which will use the increasing revenues from VAT to reduce Fuel Duty and so the price per litre of petrol and diesel.

Council resolves to circulate this motion to the Members’ of Parliament for the District seeking their support for the above action.

The Council also calls on the Government to improve public transport, particularly local rail services within the Borough in order to encourage alternative forms of travel.

The Council also expresses its deep concerns over the increasing home fuel bills being faced by residents across the Borough and calls on the Government to take action ahead of the winter."

(b) From Mr. D. C. Bill:

"This Council recognises the extensive contribution to the defence of this country by the members of the Brigade of Gurkhas, both serving and retired, and believes that the heroism displayed by these brave soldiers should be properly recognised by the country they fought so hard to protect.

The Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Defence Secretary to express concern at the unfair treatment of Nepalese members of the Brigade of Gurkhas, in particular those who served before 1997, and to call for equality in pay and pension rights, and the right of abode in the United Kingdom for these soldiers and their families."

To: All Members of the **HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**
(other recipients for information).

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
9 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. J.G. BANNISTER - MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. S.L. Bray, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mr. M.B. Cartwright, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mrs. S. Francks, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. P.A.S. Hall, Mr. D.W. Inman, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mr. R. Mayne, Ms. W.A. Moore, Mr. K. Morrell, Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. A.J. Smith, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward, Ms. B.M. Witherford and Mr. D.O. Wright.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S.J. Atkinson, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. G. Chilvers, Mr. B. Cullen, Miss L. Horton, Mr. S. Kohli, Ms. L. Orton, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. T.M. Prowse, Mrs. J. Puffett and Mrs. S. Stacey.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Mayor presented the Borough's winning swimmers and athletes with special awards to commemorate their success in the recent Youth Games.

179 **PRAYER**

The Reverend Canon B. Davis offered prayer.

180 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. P.S. Bessant, Mr. J.D. Cort, Mr. D.M. Gould, Dr. J.R. Moore, Mr. K. Nichols and Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea.

181 **MINUTES (C28)**

On the motion of Mr. Lay, seconded by Mr. Bray it was

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

Mr. Ladkin entered the meeting at 6.45 p.m.

182 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this stage.

183 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor indicated the recent success of Ratby Parish Council in gaining two awards in the Best Kept Village Competition.

The Mayor then reminded Members of the forthcoming visit of representatives from Le Grand Quevilly and particularly to the planned pub games

evening on 19 September, which would provide an opportunity for this Council to meet their French counterparts socially.

The Mayor referred to the first Hinckley CAMRA Beer Festival to be held this weekend and to his intention to visit the Islamic Foundation College to coincide with the ending of Ramadan.

Finally, on behalf of Mr. K. Morrell, the Mayor stated that there was to be a meeting of the Bosworth Community Forum at The Royal Arms, Sutton Cheney on 18 September 2008, commencing at 6 p.m.

184 QUESTIONS

The following questions and replies were received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1.

(a) Question raised by Mr. P. R. Batty and addressed to Mr. K. W. P. Lynch

“Unfortunately, due to ill health I was unable to attend the Finance and Audit meeting held on Monday 18th August 2008 but I was most concerned with the content of and recommendations within report number FASC9 - Developer Contributions:

I would like to ask the Executive Member for Finance if he could confirm my understanding that monies due under the terms of S106 agreements collected by the Borough Council on behalf of the Parishes are effectively “held in trust” for the Parishes until called on as payment towards relevant projects and that as the monies are paid in by the developer strictly for the benefit of the individual Parishes where the development takes place, that this fund should be ring fenced and not used for any other purpose. That being the case, could the Executive Member please confirm whether it is good practice or indeed even legal for the Borough Council to divert interest from a ring fenced fund to the Borough Council’s general fund, without having obtained an agreement of release from the beneficiaries of that fund.

Finally on this question, which I relate in the context of S106 contributions to the Parishes, could the Executive Member kindly refer me to the relevant section of the Council’s Constitution that allows monies, interest or otherwise, to be diverted from what I believe should be a ring fenced fund, to the Borough Council’s general fund to subsidise Council Tax and secondly it would be most helpful if the Executive Member for Finance could confirm when and if a resolution was passed by the full Council that authorises the transfer of any monies, interest or otherwise from the S106 fund to the Borough Council’s general fund to subsidise Council Tax. “

Response from Mr. K. W. P. Lynch

“I would like to thank Cllr Batty for his question. I am sorry to hear that he has not been too well and I hope he is better. I can inform Cllr Batty that the use of the monies related to Section 106 agreements is governed by the terms of the agreements between the developer and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. Unless the parishes are party to the agreement, they have no contractual right over the monies. The contracts (rights of third parties) Act 1999 is also specifically excluded within all our Section 106 Agreements.

The payment of Section 106 monies by the developer goes into the General Fund of the Borough Council, and any interest accrued on it whilst held is for the benefit of the Borough Council. There is no duty to formally ring fence the monies which may be paid for this benefit of a Parish, and neither is there a duty to repay the interest to the developer should the money not be paid within the agreed period. It is therefore perfectly acceptable for the interest to form part of the Council's General Fund.

Furthermore, the Section 106 monies being held by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council are not held on trust for the Parishes. For this to be the case, the developer would have to pay the monies with the intention of setting up a charitable trust. This is clearly not the case.

In short, therefore, there is no legal obligation on the part of the Borough Council to the Parish Council in respect of the Section 106 monies and there is certainly no obligation for any interest earned to be paid to them. Officers are working closely with the Parishes to ensure more timely draw downs of Section 106 funds that they are entitled to and I stress that the Parishes are suffering no detriment."

(b) Question raised by Mr. P. R. Batty and addressed to Mr. K. W. P. Lynch

"I must apologise if I have missed answers that may have been given to the following question as a result of my absence due to ill health but I would be much obliged to the Executive Member for Finance if he could help resolve my continuing confusion over the current situation of the Brodick Road transaction with Morris Homes. First could the Executive member please confirm the date when the Council received payment in full for the land in question, bearing in mind the reports in the Hinckley Times of contractors carrying out some clearance works on the site on behalf of Morris Homes and could the Executive Member for Finance please confirm whether the Borough Council owned "ransom strip" shown on the Morris Homes planning application was included in the transaction and if so, can the Executive Member please confirm that professional valuations were obtained to establish the true potential value of the ransom strip before any consideration was given by the Council to include this as part of the transaction.

Finally, on this question could the Executive Member please confirm to me whether or not any payments have been made by this Council to Morris Homes in respect of the Atkins site and whether Morris Homes may have any outstanding claims against the Council in respect of the Atkins site or the Brodick Road transaction and if so for what amount."

Response from Mr. K. W. P. Lynch

"I thank Councillor Batty for his question and would remind him, again, that the position with Morris Homes and the disposal of the land at Brodick Road is one that this Administration inherited and one that we are now trying our best to manage.

The present situation is that the land remains within the ownership of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council in its entirety, with Morris Homes having the benefit of an option agreement.

The Council has allowed Morris Homes to carry out some preliminary clearance work on the site in the spirit of co-operation. The present intention is for the entirety of the sight to be transferred to Morris Homes on completion, including the area initially identified as a possible “ransom strip” in the early stages of negotiation. The Council has not as yet received any payment for the land in question but a schedule of staged payments has been agreed with Morris Homes. The Council is also, at present, negotiating with Morris Homes, that any payments made by a third party for easement rights over the Brodick Road site will continue to be negotiated with the Council and paid to us (something that should have been addressed at the time of grant of option to Morris Homes). This will have the double benefit of retaining the same right to payment as would have been protected by the ransom strip, whilst at the same time removing the need for the Council to bear the responsibility for the long term maintenance of the strip.

In respect of payments made to Morris Homes in respect of the Atkins site, I can confirm that an option release fee of £36,000 was paid to Morris Homes, £20,000 of this money was to cover an option fee paid by Morris Homes to the previous owners and was accounted for by a negotiated reduction in the purchase price of the Atkins building. I can also confirm that Morris Homes have no outstanding claims against the Council in respect of the Atkins site and they do, of course, have the benefit of the option agreement over the Brodick Road site.”

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. Batty, Mr. Lynch stated that there was still some time remaining for Morris Homes to exercise their options agreement and that so far as the Council was aware that company was financially secure.

(c) Question raised by Mr. R. Ward and addressed to Mr. S. L. Bray

“Following the recent heavy rain and the chaos it caused in Northern Ireland would the Executive Member agree with me that the Planning and Development Policy of Hinckley and Bosworth Council should incorporate new provisions for combating any similar occurrences in the Borough? What policy changes have already been made and is it considered a serious issue for the Borough?”

Response from Mr. S. L. Bray

“I would like to thank Councillor Ward for his question.

As he will be aware, this authority has undertaken a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, in line with the recommendations set out in PPS25; which was completed in November last year. This document has particular regard to ensuring that future development is located outside of any flood risk zones as determined by the Environment Agency. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment does not deal with existing flood risk directly, only in as far that it ensures that future development will not exacerbate existing flood risk problems such as surface run-off etc.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report was presented to Scrutiny on 28/11/07 and Executive in December 2007 and has since been made available to officers for use and has fed into the formation of relevant policy documents such as the Core Strategy and Site Allocations. It is a material consideration in the assessment of planning applications.

The Authority is aware that there are certain areas of the Borough which are subject to sporadic flooding and any concerns in this matter are dealt with by Environmental Health, who have been proactive in giving appropriate advice and guidance to individuals and Parish Councils. Furthermore, works have been undertaken in some areas to minimise the risk of localised flooding and these have been funded through the Council's capital programme. However, for the most part, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is not at threat from large scale flooding, even after climate change modelling is applied”.

(d) Question raised by Mr. R. Ward and addressed to Mr. K. W. P. Lynch

“The national economy continues to create dreadful headlines, which Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will not be able to avoid. What precautions have been put in place to secure the necessary services are not put in jeopardy? Has revaluation of assets taken place, will increased borrowing be required and will the Executive Member confirm that every avenue has been explored and explain the initiatives taken?”

Response from Mr. K. W. P. Lynch

“I would like to thank Councillor Ward for asking this very relevant question and one that concerns me and the Leader of this Council. I would inform Councillor Ward, however, that we are a step ahead of him on this one in that we have already had discussions with officers and outside organisations to see how we can support the residents and businesses of this Borough through this difficult time of economic downturn.

Officers have commissioned revaluations of some of the assets of the Council and are presently undertaking an independent review of the whole of the Capital Programme and major projects that are to be programmed to be delivered over the period of the next four years. The full implications of funding this Capital Programme will become clearer once this review has been completed and the outcome of this review together with the financial implications of delivering the Capital Programme will be fully presented by officers to the cross-party budget working group which is planned to be convened in early October.

In addition to this, the Leader of the Council and officers have had discussions with voluntary organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and arrangements are in place to provide support to those who are having difficulty in managing their debt, and also in providing financial advice and support. Officers are also considering the impact on local businesses of the removal of the empty property rate relief from 1st April 2008. The Leader of the Council has asked for a report from Officers on the effects of the “downturn” in the economy and how this Council proposes to respond to these for Council on 30th September 2008.

In short, I can assure Councillor Ward and Members of this Council that every precaution will be put in place to ensure that necessary services of this Council are not put in jeopardy. Furthermore, together with our third sector partners, we will ensure that a network of support is provided to those who need it.”

185 POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

This was circulated at the meeting with the Leader highlighting the positive community spirit which he had recently encountered, the increasing economic down-turn being evidenced both locally and nationally and continuing work with partners to improve the quality of life of local communities.

The Leader acknowledged the various concerns relating to the current financial situation and reminded Members of the intention of the Chief Executive to co-ordinate the production of a report to Council on 30 September 2008 on the implications of the economic down-turn for the local community and proposals to address such implications.

At this juncture, in response to a question from Mr. Lynch, the Chief Executive read out to Members clause 12.2 of the Constitution as to the procedure which applied following the presentation of the Leader's position statement.

186 SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING - 23 JULY 2008

In his presentation of these Mr Lay referred to:-

- The Commission's review of out-of-hours health care (Minute No. 103).
- The ongoing review of the Community Safety Partnership (Minute No. 104).
- Discussions on the creation of a Barwell and Earl Shilton Working Group (Minute No. 107).
- Voluntary and Community Sector Consultation (Minute No. 108).

187 PLAY AND OPEN SPACE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - ADOPTION (C30)

Circulated to Members at the meeting were revised recommendations to this report and Members were reminded that the Play and Open Space Supplementary Planning Document itself had previously been considered by Council on 8 July 2008. The Director of Community and Planning Services indicated that at its meeting on 18 August the Finance and Audit Services Select Committee had discussed and endorsed the implementation of the 2% monitoring/administration fee. It was emphasised that this fee related solely to contributions to Play and Open Space provision.

In response to a Member's request the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Regeneration undertook to arrange with the Director of Community and Planning Services to circulate details of the revisions to the Play and Open Space Supplementary Planning document to the local Town and Parish Councils.

It was then moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED - the following revised recommendations be agreed

- (i) that Members endorse the decision of Council on 8 July 2008 and agree the adoption of The Play and Open Space Supplementary Planning Document and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal as part of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Development Framework;

- (ii) that Members endorse the implementation of a 2% monitoring fee in respect of Play and Open Space Section 106 contributions; and
- (iii) that Members note that interest accruing on Section 106 contributions whilst these are held by the Borough Council is not payable to the relevant Parish Council when the contribution is transferred.

188 HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH TOURISM PARTNERSHIP (C31)

As required under Article 11 of the Constitution Council approval was sought for certain Councillors and Officers within the Authority to become full members of the newly-formed Hinckley and Bosworth Tourism Partnership.

In promoting this initiative as good value for money and commending the work of the Council's Arts Development and Tourism Officer, it was moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mrs. Francks and

RESOLVED - approval be given to representation by Members and Officers on the Board of the Hinckley and Bosworth Tourism Partnership and as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

189 STREET SCENE SERVICES - VALUE FOR MONEY AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT (C32)

Council approval was sought to the Annual Report on the value for money of street scene services and proposed improvement to service delivery. In welcoming this report and the retention of services within the Council's ownership concerns were raised regarding the frequency of street sweeping and roadside gully emptying. The Executive Member for Refuse, Recycling and Environmental Health reported on the intention to purchase 5 more mechanical sweepers, which if Council now agreed, would be operational from November this year. In response to a Member's question, the Head of Business Development and Street Scene Services indicated that he would arrange for advance lists to be made available indicating the dates for street cleaning operations and added that, if his service area was given notice of planned events, assistance could be given to follow-up cleaning.

Also welcomed by Members was the intention with effect from 30 September 2008 to synchronise waste collection with the blue box recycling service being provided on the same day as that of residents' black/brown bin.

On the motion of Mrs. Francks, seconded by Mr. Wright it was

RESOLVED - the following be agreed

- (i) that Street Scene Services have demonstrated again value for money and should be retained "in house" until 2017;
- (ii) that a further value for money report be presented to the Council in September 2009;
- (iii) a further report on the progress with the implementation of the Grounds Maintenance Action Plan be presented to the Executive in March 2010; and

- (iv) the direction of the service as identified in section 8 of the Report of the Head of Business Development and Street Scene Services and noted that the additional £30,000 cost of a crew for the remainder of the year will be met from existing resources, with a growth bid being put forward for 2009/2010 for the full year cost of £60,000.

190 ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGETS FOLLOWING JUNE BUDGET MONITORING BY THE FINANCE AND AUDIT SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE AND THE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP BOARD (C33)

In presenting this report the Executive Member for Finance briefly summarised the adjustments necessary to the budget and referred to the supplementary budgets required arising from the June monitoring exercise.

It was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED - the approach taken by the Strategic Leadership Board to the identified underspend on the general fund for 2008/09 be endorsed and approval be given to the Supplementary Budgets and budget adjustments required and as set out in the Report of the Director of Finance.

The Mayor concluded the meeting by announcing that all Members were invited to meet for coffee with the French delegation on 21 September at Bosworth Hall Hotel, that a local resident, Fred Stevens, was participating in the Paralympic Games in Beijing and his intention to recognise the achievement of Mr. Robert McNair-Hall following his walk from Lands End to John O' Groats in 18 days.

(the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.)

COUNCIL 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RE: HINCKLEY TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request approval for Board membership of the Hinckley Town Centre Partnership as required by Article 11 of the constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That, Council approves representation by members and officers on the Board of the Hinckley Town Centre Partnership as detailed in section 3.

3. HINCKLEY TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

3.1 The Hinckley Town Centre Partnership was formed in 2005. Current membership represents a comprehensive cross-section of local traders, businesses and statutory and voluntary partners. The key aims of the partnership are: -

- Seek to provide an excellent location where businesses can flourish
- To carry out any activity which will contribute to Hinckley Town Centre in a positive way
- To pursue the regeneration of Hinckley Town Centre
- To promote policies which build a positive image of Hinckley Town Centre
- To ensure everyone visiting or living in Hinckley Town Centre has a fulfilling and enjoyable experience

3.2 To develop the Hinckley Town Centre Partnership it is in the process of establishing a new company. It will be a non-profit organisation where there is a bar on the distribution of surpluses to members in terms of any dividend or profit. Hence all profits are invested back into the organisation in furtherance of its objectives.

3.3 The company would have its own board of directors selected and appointed for their relevant experience, expertise and commitment. The company can then have its own bank account.

3.4 Hinckley Town Centre Partnership requires two members from HBBC to become Directors on the Town Centre Partnership Board.

3.5 Therefore, approval is sought for the following council representatives to become Directors on the Board and therefore have voting rights and decision-making responsibilities: the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Regeneration and the Chief Executive. The Town Centre Manager can act in support of the Partnership to achieve its objectives.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [AJB]

4.1 None relating directly to the report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AB]

5.1 The proposal for members and officers of the council is in line with Article 11 of the Constitution of the Council and there are no further legal implications.

6. CORPORATE PLAN

6.1 This Partnership links directly to and complements the Borough Council's Corporate Plan aims to have a "Thriving economy".

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None

8. RURAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

Background Papers:

Contact Officer: Simon D. Jones, Cultural Services Manager, ext 5699

Executive Member: Cllr. Stuart Bray – Culture, Leisure and Regeneration

COUNCIL 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RE: LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP BUDGET

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the establishment of a new revenue income/expenditure budget for Locality Partnership Co-ordinator, as required by Council's Financial Regulations.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council approves the establishment of a new revenue expenditure and income budget, funded by Leicestershire County Council, of £394,425 for 2008/09 for the Locality Partnership Co-ordinator's project.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council hosts the new Locality Partnership Co-ordinator post (Moira O'Hagan). This Leicestershire County Council funded post has been embedded in the Cultural Services team since October 2007.
- 3.2 The role of the post compliments the 5 new Children Centres that have been developed by LCC, over the past 6 months. To date, over 15 schemes have been commissioned to deliver a wide variety of improved and additional services to families and children aged 0 – 5years. In summary, this post and its associated funding is aimed at improving services for Children & Young People within Hinckley & Bosworth.
- 3.3 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council hosts the post as part of a partnership agreement. This is replicated in other districts/boroughs across Leicestershire.
- 3.4 £510,000 is to be distributed annually via a commissioning process to improve services. This new funding requires a dedicated income/expenditure budget to ensure robust financial management is adhered to. The Council will also receive £3,975 per quarter for overhead costs associated with the project, which include the funding of an Assistant Coordinator's post.
- 3.5 The decisions about spend of this budget is made by the LSP of which HBBC are a partner.
- 3.6 As the amount is over £50k the Council's Financial Regulations states it require Council approval to establish a new budget.
- 3.7 This post is cost neutral, therefore HBBC will incur no costs.
- 3.8 A Service Level Agreement has been signed between HBBC and LCC.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

- 4.1 The County Council will advance a sum of £127,500 at the beginning of each quarter for the commissioning budget and £3,975 for any overhead costs. At the end of the quarter the Council will complete a return, showing the expenditure incurred during the period. Any under/over spend during this period will be deducted or added from the next payment advance. All grant funding has to be spent in the financial year for which it is received.
- 4.2 For this financial year the funding will start from quarter 2. Therefore the budget requiring approval will only be for only 3 quarterly payments of £131,475. The Revenue budget requiring approval is for £394,425. As this amount is over £50,000 the Council's Financial Regulations state that it requires full Council approval. There is no cost to the Council for this project. Payments will normally be in the form of grants to Voluntary bodies subject to Service Level Agreements.
- 4.3 The budget of £510,00 for the Commissioning budget and £15,900 overhead costs will be built into the 2009/10 base budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (M.T.F.S) as part of the budget process.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

- 5.1 None raised by this report.

6. CORPORATE PLAN

- 6.1 This demonstrates the Council's ability to 'Be reliable when working with partners'.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None

8. RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Andrew Bishop, Accountant will be the key liaison Officer, who will ensure the budgets are monitored and spent within the boundaries of HBBC's Financial Regulations.

Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer:	Simon D. Jones, Cultural Services Manager, ext 5699
Executive Member:	Cllr Stuart Bray – Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Regeneration

COUNCIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RE: COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING 2008/09

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report the:

- a) Confirmed external funding allocated to the Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership for financial year 2008/2009 through the Local Area Agreement 2 (LAA2) Community Safety Revenue Fund, the Leicestershire Constabulary South Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) funding and Leicestershire County Council Domestic Violence Stretch Target Funding.
- b) The key priority outcomes to which the above funding has been allocated within the Partnership's Spending Plan.
- c) How the funding has been allocated to priorities within the Community Safety Partnership's Spending Plan 2008/2009.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Approval is sought for Supplementary estimates totalling £93,209, to be funded by external contributions, as detailed in the table in paragraph 5.3 of the report.

3. **FUNDING ALLOCATION 2008/2009:**

- 3.1 The table below shows external funding allocated to the Community Safety Partnership for financial year 2008/2009 and shows a comparison to that allocated in the previous year.

Source	07/08	08/09
Local Area Agreement Safer Communities Revenue	£74,030	65,209
South Area Police Basic Command Unit	£35,000	28,000
Leicestershire County Council - Domestic Violence	£13,880	14,500

- 3.2 Although external funding to the Partnership is lower than in previous years, there will be opportunities for the Partnership to seek funding through LAA (2) and BCU commissioning arrangements for "joined up" CDRP projects and initiatives.
- 3.3 An additional grant of £20k has been allocated to the Partnership through the LAA2 Capital fund towards the Borough's Earl Shilton and Barwell ANPR CCTV Project (Automatic Number Plate Recognition).

4. PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

4.1 It is required that funding allocated through LAA 2 Revenue Fund will contribute to those priority national indicator sets to be included in the Leicestershire LAA Community Safety Agreement 2008/2011. The national indicators adopted by the LAA 2 are set out in the table below.

4.2 The Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership has agreed its Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan 2008/2011 and its priority themes are also set out in the table below. The Partnership Plan including priorities, outcomes and targets has been published and is available on the Council's website. Within the priorities there is an underlying outcome to tackle prolific and persistent offenders as well as to provide opportunities to those most at risk of offending

Local Area Agreement 2 Priority National Indicator	Priority Theme Description
NI 18	Reduction in adult re-offending rates
NI 19	Reduction in young offenders re-offending rates and providing opportunities to those at risk of offending
NI 20	Reduction in assaults with injury crime rate including domestic violence and hate crime
NI 24	Satisfaction with the way the Police and Council deal with anti-social behaviour
NI 40	Number of Drug users in effective treatment
Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2008/2011	Priority Theme Description
Priority Theme 1. Tackling Anti-social Behaviour	Reducing anti-social behaviour in the Borough especially within key hot spots and reducing the negative perception of anti-social behaviour by the public. Includes the reduction of criminal damage and criminal damage by fire.
Priority Theme 2. Tackling Violent Crime	Reducing violent crime in the Borough and especially wounding, domestic violence and hate crime.
Priority Theme 3 Substance Misuse Harm Reduction	Reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse and alcohol related violent crime also promoting responsible drinking.
Priority Theme 4 Earl Shilton and Barwell	Reducing crime and disorder in this target area especially domestic burglary, vehicle crime, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and the tackling of domestic violence and managing prolific and priority offenders living in the locality.
Priority Theme 5 Hinckley Town Centre	Reducing crime and disorder in Hinckley Town Centre and improving the feeling of safety especially within the night-time economy. Specific outcome to continue to reduce alcohol related violent crime and disorder.
Priority Theme 6 Road Safety	Support the County Road Safety Partnership to reduce vehicle related anti-social behaviour such as speeding, "boy racing" and inconsiderate parking.

5. **PARTNERSHIP SPENDING PLAN 2008/2009:**

5.1 The Partnership's Spending Plan 2008/2011 has been drawn up and agreed by the Partnership's Delivery Group and circulated to all Executive Members of the Partnership. The Spending Plan is aligned to the priorities of both the LAA 2 adopted Community Safety National Indicators and the Partnership's Crime and Disorder Plan 2008/2011 priority themes.

5.2 The LAA 2 elements of the plan were approved by the LAA Funding Group at its meeting held on 30th May 2008.

5.3 The below table indicates how LAA2, BCU and Leicestershire County Council external funding has been allocated within the Partnership's Spending Plan.

5.4 Due to changes in funding allocations this year from County Council and Earl Shilton Town Council there are the following shortfalls within the Community Safety Budgets as follows:

- i) Domestic Violence £3,890
- ii) Earl Shilton Community House Project £5,000

Funding has been re-allocated within the below budget allocations as indicated in bold below

Spending Plan Priority Projects/Action Plans	LAA2 National Indicator	Partnership Priority Theme	LAA 2 Funding	BCU	County Council	Total
Anti-Social Behaviour	NI 24	Theme 1	£25,000			£25,000
Tackling Violent Crime	NI 20	Theme 2	£2,000	£10,000 (Part allocated £3,890 towards DV Co-ordinator Post)		£12,000
Hinckley Night Time Economy	NI 20	Theme 2 Theme 5	£2,000	£5,000		£7,000
Responsible Drinking Campaign and reducing alcohol related violent crime	NI 20 NI 40	Theme 1 Theme 2 Theme 3	£2,000	£3,000		£5,000
Domestic Violence Co-ordinator Post (50% funded by HBBC)	NI 20	Theme 2			£14,500	£14,500
Substance Abuse Community Alcohol Worker – Next Generation	NI 40	Theme 3	£28,000			£28,000
Substance Misuse awareness initiatives	NI 40	Theme 3	£1,209	£5,000		£6,209
Earl Shilton and Barwell Crime and Disorder Reduction Project initiatives	NI 18 NI 19	Theme 4	£5,000	£5,000 (Allocated to Earl Shilton Community House Project)		£10,000
		Totals	£65,209	£28,000	£14,500	£107,709

5.5 The above allocations provides funding towards the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and Domestic Violence Co-ordinator posts that have been half mainstream funded by the Authority within financial year 2008/2009.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. (AB)

6.1 The expenditure and income for the LAA funding of £65,209 and the £28,000 BCU funding is not included within the 2008/09 base budget.

6.2 A Supplementary Revenue Budget for the total expenditure of £93,209, to be funded by the external contributions; will need to be approved by Council in accordance with Financial Regulations.

6.3 The County Council have confirmed that they will contribute a total of £14,500 towards the cost of the Domestic Violence post This is included within the 2008/09 Revenue Base Budget.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

7.1 None raised directly by this report

8. CORPORATE PLAN 2008/2013

8.1 This report meets the Safer and Healthier Borough element of the Corporate Plan

Background Papers None

Contact Officer: Ron Grantham Community Safety Manager, ext 5832

Executive Member Cllr. Mr David Cope

COUNCIL- 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES

RE: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGY RURAL HOUSING NUMBERS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek Members approval for the rural housing distribution set out in Appendix 1 to be included in the Core Strategy submission document.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree the rural housing distribution set out in Appendix 1 to be included in the Core Strategy submission document.

3. BACKGROUND

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is in the process of replacing the Local Plan (adopted 2001) with a new Local Development Framework (LDF), a folder of documents that, once adopted, will provide the planning framework for the Borough.

For Hinckley & Bosworth, the LDF will consist of four Development Plan Documents:

- Core Strategy
- Site Allocations & Generic Development Control Policies
- Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan
- Barwell & Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extensions Area Action Plan

The Core Strategy is a key document in the LDF. It sets out the long term vision for Hinckley & Bosworth and provides the overarching strategy and core policies to guide the future development of the borough to 2026. It must be in general conformity with the East Midlands Regional Plan and National Guidance. The Core Strategy does not allocate sites for development. This will be done in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document. It does however set out the general areas where development will be appropriate.

From 24 September through to 5 November 2007, the Council consulted on the Core Strategy Preferred Options. This set out the Council's preferred approach for meeting the development requirements set out in the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan. In summary, this was:

1. To focus the majority of growth around the Hinckley Sub Regional Centre (including Burbage, Barwell & Earl Shilton):
 - a. By developing on previously developed land within the settlement boundary and making small amendments to the existing settlement

boundary. The majority of this growth focuses around the town centre and will assist in the regeneration of the Hinckley Town Centre, along with amendments to the existing settlement boundary.

- b. By providing two sustainable urban extensions, one to the west of Barwell of 2500 dwellings and one to the South of Earl Shilton of 2000 dwellings. These will be mixed use communities, incorporating local shops, primary schools, employment and open space and will assist in the regeneration of Barwell & Earl Shilton, the areas of the Borough that experience the highest levels of deprivation. These sustainable urban extensions will be sustainably designed and linked by improved public transport, walking and cycling routes to the existing centres of Barwell & Earl Shilton and to Hinckley town centre to encourage alternatives to car travel.
2. To sustain the Borough's rural communities, allow limited development in the Key Rural Centres of Desford, Groby, Ratby, Markfield, Bagworth, Thornton, Barlestone, Market Bosworth, Newbold Verdon and Stoke Golding (600 homes across the 10 Centres, plus infill development within existing settlement boundaries), followed by limited development in Rural Villages of Higham-on-the-Hill, Stanton Under Bardon, Sheepy Magna, Nailstone, Twycross, Witherley, Congerstone (200 homes across the 7 villages plus infill development within existing settlement boundaries). The exact locations of development will be determined by the Site Allocations DPD (which will be presented to Council in December 2008, prior to consultation).

The consultation responses showed that there was overall support for the Preferred Options for the urban areas with the caveat that the necessary infrastructure must be delivered to support this growth. There were mixed results for the Preferred Options for the rural areas. Whilst the overall strategy was generally supported, it was felt that the individual needs and characters of the villages needed to be better addressed in the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy is now being finalised for October 2008 taking on board the responses from the 2007 consultation. As part of the finalisation, it is necessary to set out more fully how the housing in the rural areas will be distributed. The proposed distribution, along with the reasoned justification is provided in Appendix 1. A summary of the figures is outlined below:

Proposed Rural Housing Distribution		
Settlement	Urban Housing Potential	Greenfield development
Bagworth		0
Thornton	55	0
Barlestone	10	30
Desford	10	100
Groby		100
Stoke Golding		60
Market Bosworth		100
Markfield	20	60
Newbold Verdon		100
Ratby	15	60
Higham on the Hill		40
Congerstone		10
Sheepy Magna		20
Stanton Under Bardon		30
Twycross		20
Witherley		20
Nailstone		20
Subtotal Key Rural Centres	110	610
Subtotal Rural Villages	0	160

Once the housing distribution is agreed, the final Core Strategy will go to Scrutiny on 16 October 2008 and then to Full Council on the 28 October 2008. There will then be 6 weeks consultation prior to the document being submitted to the Secretary of State in January 2009 for independent examination.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (DB)

There are none arising directly from the recommendations in this report

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

None raised by this report

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The Core Strategy supports the following aims of the Corporate Plan 2008-2013

- Cleaner & greener neighbourhoods
- Thriving economy
- Safer and healthier borough
- Strong and distinctive communities
- Decent, well managed & affordable housing.

7. CONSULTATION

The production of the Core Strategy has been based on ongoing consultation with the local community and key stakeholders on the issues facing the Borough. A wide range of comments were received during the public consultation exercises in November 2003 to December 2003 on the LDF Issues Papers – 'A vision for our future' and 'The Shape of Things to Come' during summer 2005. In addition consultation on the Core Strategy and the Borough's community strategy was carried out in July/August 2006 to ensure synergy. This joint consultation on the Core Strategy and the Community Plan was

important to ensure the themes in both documents were consistent and that the Core Strategy was able to deliver the aspirations of the Community Plan with land use implications. In November 2006 a Rural Forum was also held, investigating in further detail the issues faced by our rural communities, and solutions to these issues. The findings from this forum fed into the Core Strategy Preferred Options. Consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Options was held in September/October 2007 which showed that there was overall support for the preferred options set out in the Core Strategy. This overarching strategy has therefore been taken forward and developed in this document, the submission Core Strategy.

The Local Development Framework Members Working Group endorsed the proposed distribution at their meeting on the 27 August 2008.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

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.

Management of Significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Housing numbers not agreed, leading to a delay in the adoption of the Core Strategy	Use LDF Member Working Party to help develop Core Strategy proposals.	Richard Palmer
Housing numbers challenged at Core Strategy Examination leading to Core Strategy being found unsound.	Evidence based justification used to distribute housing numbers.	Richard Palmer

9. RURAL IMPLICATIONS

The Core Strategy addresses both urban and rural areas equally. In particular, the strategy for rural areas proposes to maintain and where possible improve service provision to rural communities through the designation of Key Rural Centres and Rural Villages where limited growth will be directed.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

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

- Community Safety Implications- None identified
- Environmental Implications – None Identified
- ICT Implications – None identified

- Asset Management Implications- None identified
- Human Resources Implications – None identified

Contact Officer: Katanya Barlow – Principal Planning Policy Officer (x5792)

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Stuart Bray

Appendices: Appendix 1- Methodology for determining Rural Housing Numbers

RURAL HOUSING NUMBERS METHODOLOGY STATEMENT AUGUST 2008

The Hinckley & Bosworth Core Strategy Preferred Options set out the preferred strategy for the rural areas and a proposed housing distribution. The rural areas strategy was based on ensuring housing was provided to ensure local people could afford to stay in the rural areas and secondly to ensure that the population loss that is expected given changing demographics was offset, thus helping to sustain schools and rural services.

The proposed housing distribution in the Core Strategy Preferred Options was based on population estimates and mortality/migration rates, carried forward to 2026 to estimate how much additional housing might be required to retain 2004 population levels. This proposed distribution is contained in Appendix 1.

This distribution did not however address transport sustainability, differing levels of access to services, the different roles each settlement plays, constraints that exist in and around settlements and affordability of housing. Therefore in determining the final distribution of housing in the Core Strategy the following was taken into account:

- The population projections outlined in the Core Strategy Preferred Options (to provide a baseline figure).
- The housing need (by sub market and parish) from the Leicestershire & Leicester Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to determine the level of affordability issues in each of the parishes and submarkets. Please note however, that as per the SHMA, this information should be used to inform policy, not be directly translated into policy.
- Transport sustainability of each of the settlements to determine which of the settlements were most sustainable in transport terms.
- Range of services available in each settlement.
- School enrolments and capacity for expansion.
- Capability of existing infrastructure (Severn Trent, Primary Care Trust, transport).
- Environmental/landscape constraints and opportunities.
- Mix of housing already currently provided to ensure a range of house types is available.

Each of the above issues are discussed in more detail below, followed by the proposed rural housing distribution.

Population Projections

The population projections in Appendix 1 (based on population estimates and mortality/migration rates) indicate that Groby requires the highest number of dwellings to retain existing population levels (245), followed by Markfield (150), Newbold Verdon (120), Desford (100), Witherley (65), Stoke Golding (45), Twycross (35), Barlestone, Ratby, Sheepy Magna, Stanton Under

Bardon (30) and Congerstone (15). Bagworth & Thornton, Higham on the Hill & Market Bosworth all indicate that no additional housing is required to maintain 2004 population levels.

Housing Need: Leicestershire and Leicester Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

The SHMA housing needs model indicates that there is a high need for affordable housing across the borough. It is however important to recognise that the level of affordable housing is not directly related to or dependent on the level of new development, although there may be indirect links through market supply/demand and pricing effects and that the SHMA should be used to inform policy, not be translated directly into policy.

With this in mind, trends have been used rather than exact numbers. This indicates that most affordable housing need is coming from the Groby, Ratby, Kirby sub market (includes Groby, Ratby & Kirby Muxloe) (22%) and the A47, M69 rural corridor sub market (includes Peckleton, Kirkby Mallory and substantial area of Blaby) (18%). However, because of the policy of urban concentration, much of this need will be able to be met through the sustainable urban extensions planned at Earl Shilton and at Leicester Forest East in Blaby. The need in the Bagworth, Barlestone submarket (includes Bagworth, Thornton, Barlestone & Ellistown), Stoke Golding sub market (includes Stoke Golding & Higham on the Hill) and Desford submarket (Includes Desford & Newbold Verdon) is similar at 12%, 12% and 10% respectively. Market Bosworth (includes Market Bosworth, Carlton), Southern rural NWL (includes Norton Juxta Twycross and a substantial area in North West Leicestershire), Markfield (includes Markfield & Stanton Under Bardon) and Twycross (includes Twycross & Witherley) were all around the 6-7% range at 7%, 7%, 6%, 6% respectively.

Table 1: Affordable Housing Need by Housing Submarket

Sub market (rural only)	Net need per year	Net need for aff hsg to 2026	% of total need in LA
Bagworth, Barlestone (includes Bagworth, Thornton, Barlestone & Ellistown) *	31	594	12
Desford (Includes Desford & Newbold Verdon)	25	481	10
Groby, Ratby, Kirby (includes Groby, Ratby & Kirby Muxloe)	58	1095	22
Market Bosworth (includes Market Bosworth, Carlton)	19	362	7
Markfield (includes Markfield & Stanton Under Bardon)	15	280	6
Stoke Golding (includes Stoke Golding & Higham on the Hill)	31	593	12
Twycross (includes Twycross & Witherley)	16	313	6
A47, M69 rural corridor (includes Peckleton, Kirkby Mallory and substantial area of Blaby)	45	862	18
Southern rural NWL	17	323	7
Total (rural & urban)	258	3718	100

In addition to a sub market needs assessment, a rural parishes needs assessment was also undertaken, recognising the particular affordability issues that are experienced in the rural areas. This assessment suggests that for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, there is a need for 40- 50 affordable homes to be provided each year in the rural areas.

Transport sustainability

An assessment was undertaken by White Young Green to inform the Core Strategy Preferred Options, looking at the transport sustainability of each of the Key Rural Centres. On transport sustainability, Groby was most sustainable, followed by Markfield, Ratby & Stoke Golding, Desford, Market Bosworth, Newbold Verdon, Barlestone, Thornton & Bagworth (see table below, 1= highest transport sustainability, 8 = lowest transport sustainability). An additional assessment was undertaken by Leicestershire County Council to look at the accessibility by public transport to the four main settlements (Hinckley, Leicester, Coalville & Nuneaton). This is available in Appendix 2.

Table 2: Transport Sustainability

Key Rural Centre	Sustainability ranking (100 homes)	Sustainability ranking (500 homes)	Comments
Bagworth	8	8	Scope to walk to local facilities limited. Range of employment within cycling distance, although one of the highest car usage rates for trips to work at 70.3%. Only one bus service with hourly frequency during the day Monday- Saturday. No evening or Sunday services. No materially congested areas. Scope to improve existing highway and public transport to materially improve accessibility considered high.
Barlestone	6	6	Scope to walk to local facilities good. Poor scope to cycle to employment or other community larger facilities. Number of people employed within village lowest of the ten villages studied. Contains highest car usage rates for trips to work at 71.3%. Three bus services per hour passing through the village throughout the day Monday - Saturday and an hourly frequency in the evenings Monday to Friday. On a Sunday there is a service into Barlestone operating every 2 hours. No materially congested areas in and around village. Only average scope for public transport or highway improvement for the village.
Desford	4	4	Scope to walk to local facilities good. Excellent employment opportunities with the largest number (3870) employed of the

			assessed villages. The village has one of the highest car usage rates for trips to work at 70.4%. A bus service passes through the village every 30 minutes throughout the day Monday to Saturday and hourly in the evenings Monday to Friday. Service into Desford operating every 2 hours on a Sunday. Some congested areas to east of Desford. Some scope for highway improvement to the south via the A47, but limited scope to the east due to constraints through Ratby.
Groby	1	1	Scope to walk to local facilities relatively poor. Excellent employment opportunities with one of the largest number (2024) employed of assessed villages. Good cycling routes to employment sites, but a high percentage of trips to work by car at 68.3%. Highest frequency of buses operating of the villages assessed. Excellent bus service into Groby with frequencies of one bus every 10 minutes throughout the day/evening Monday to Friday. Also Saturday bus service into Groby operating every 15 minutes. Hourly service into Groby on a Sunday. Congested areas. However good scope for highway and public transport improvements that would considerably improve the capacity for these movements.
Market Bosworth	4	5	Scope to walk to facilities good. Offers good employment opportunities with 1304 employed. Percentage of car trips for work poor, with car usage rate for trips to work at 68.6%. Bus service passing through the village every 30 minutes throughout the day Monday to Saturday and hourly in the evenings Monday to Saturday. Service into Market Bosworth every 2 hours on Sunday. No materially congested areas around Market Bosworth, although localised congestion within village. Average scope for public transport or highway improvements for the village.
Markfield	2	2	Scope to walk to facilities good. Good employment opportunities with over 1500 employed within the village. Has one of the highest car usage rates for trips to work at 70.6%, although there are good facilities for people to cycle to major employment sites. Bus frequencies good with services

			operating every 20 minutes throughout the day Monday- Saturday. Hourly service on Sundays. No congested areas that car trips to Markfield would need to travel through. Considered good scope for public transport and highway improvement.
Newbold Verdon	5	5	Scope to walk to local facilities good. Poor employment opportunities with only 557 employed within the village, one of the lowest of the assessed villages. However of the villages assessed, Newbold Verdon had the lowest percentage of people driving to work by car (61.8%) despite having poor cycling routes to major employment. Bus frequencies reasonable, with services operating every 20 minutes into Newbold throughout the day Monday to Saturday and hourly in the evenings. There is a service every two hours on Sundays. No materially congested areas around Newbold Verdon although there is localised congestion at the junction with the A447. Average scope for public transport improvements and limited benefit from highway improvements for the village.
Ratby	3	3	Scope to walk to local facilities reasonable. Average employment opportunities with close to 1000 people employed within the village. One of the lowest percentages of people driving to work by car (66%) of the villages assessed. Good proximity to city and town and good opportunities to cycle to employment. Bus frequencies excellent with services operating every 10 minutes throughout the day Monday to Friday and every 15 minutes in the evenings. Services operate every 20 minutes on a Saturday. Service every 2 hours on Sunday. Congested areas for most trips. Scope for highway improvements limited due to village and local highway constraints, although there is some scope for public transport improvements.
Stoke Golding	3	3	Scope to walk to local facilities good. Good employment opportunities and the ward employs one of the highest number of people for the villages assessed (1420). Good facilities to cycle to major employment and has one of the lowest percentages of people driving to work by car (66.9%). Bus

			<p>services into Stoke Golding are one of the poorest of the villages analysed. No evening service Monday to Friday into Stoke Golding and no service on a Sunday. Daytime services running into Stoke Golding Monday to Friday operate every 30 minutes. Saturday services operate on an hourly basis. Development of a residential area may provide an opportunity to increase the level of bus services in the area. No congested areas. Reasonable scope for highway and public transport improvement.</p>
Thornton	7	7	<p>Scope to walk to local facilities limited. Has one of the highest car usage rates for trips to work at 70.3%. Good opportunities to cycle to major employment. Bus services into Thornton are one of the poorest of the villages analysed. There is no evening service Monday to Saturday operating into Thornton and no service on Sunday. Daytime services into Thornton Monday to Saturday operate hourly. Development of a residential area may provide an opportunity to increase the level of bus services in the area. No materially congested areas. Scope to improve the existing highway and particularly public transport to materially improve accessibility was also considered to be relatively high.</p>

Range of Services

Based on the assumption that it would be preferable in sustainability terms for people to be able to shop, go to the doctors and for their children to go to school in the same village in which they live, the following settlements had access to all the aforementioned services: Desford, Groby, Market Bosworth, & Stoke Golding.

Barlestone, Newbold Verdon, Ratby, Markfield had all of the aforementioned facilities except for a secondary school.

Table 3: Range of Services

Key Rural Centre	Has GP, primary school, secondary school & shop	Has GP, primary school & shop- no secondary school	Categorisation
Bagworth	No	No	3
Barlestone	No	Yes	2
Desford	Yes	N/A	1
Groby	Yes	N/A	1
Market Bosworth	Yes	N/A	1
Markfield	No	N/A	2
Newbold Verdon	No	Yes	2
Ratby	No	Yes	2
Stoke Golding	Yes	N/A	1
Thornton	No	No	3

School Enrolments

Information provided by the Education Authority was used to determine which schools had a surplus of school places. Based on this information, Newbold Verdon Primary School had the highest surplus of school places followed by Higham on the Hill and Nailstone. Further detail is provided in Appendix 3.

No information was available from the Education Authority in relation to the capacity for expansion at existing schools.

Capability of Existing Infrastructure

Contact was made with Severn Trent Water, the Primary Care Trust, the Education Authority, Highways Agency and Police Authority. The impact of development on the local road network was identified through the White Young Green Hinckley Core Strategy Transport Review 2007, a summary of which is provided in Table 2 above.

Severn Trent Water

Severn Trent Water have not identified any significant constraints to development, but have stated in general that to 'provide adequate capacity in the sewerage and drainage networks it is anticipated that extensions and reinforcements will be required at developers cost'.

Primary Care Trust

The Primary Care Trust (PCT) has completed a baseline exercise based on the condition, capacity and workload of the primary care facilities across Leicestershire County and has identified, based on this exercise, the priorities for development.

In response to the specific issue of developments in the rural areas of Desford, Groby, Ratby, Markfield, Barelestone, Market Bosworth, Newbold

Verdon and Stoke Golding. The PCT's premises baseline exercise has placed all County PCT premises in a red, deep amber, light amber or green category where red is an indicator of being in greatest need of development based on the criteria used. Groby and Ratby are in the red category, with Newbold Verdon and Market Bosworth being in the deep amber category. Barlestone, and Stoke Golding are in the light amber category. A new surgery facility was built in Desford in 2006 and a small extension is under construction in Markfield, hence both features below the other sites in the list of priorities, with Desford being in the green category.

It is therefore likely that those premises in the red or deep amber category will experience greater difficulties in absorbing large scale population increases but, depending on other factors, may also see future primary care premises development in that area. The opportunity to reflect the needs of any proposed increases in population would be part of the planning process for new primary care developments.

It should also be noted that Market Bosworth, Stoke Golding and Barlestone are branch surgery facilities and therefore it is likely that the demand arising from population increases will also impact on the main surgeries of each of the practices at Newbold Verdon, Hinckley and Ibstock respectively.

Key Rural Centre	Comments	Key
Barlestone	Branch facility- so increased demand would also impact on main surgery at Ibstock.	Greatest need of development
Desford	New surgery facility built in 2006.	Next greatest
Groby		Next greatest
Market Bosworth	Branch facility- so increased demand would also impact on main surgery at Newbold Verdon.	Least need
Markfield	Small extension under construction so lower on list of priorities than others	
Newbold Verdon		
Ratby		
Stoke Golding	Branch facility- so increased demand would also impact on main surgery at Hinckley.	

Education Authority

See school enrolment section.

Highways Agency

The Highways Agency identified that there was limited capacity for expansion at Witherley without significant improvements to the A5 junction. No other specific issues were identified.

Leicestershire Police Authority

Leicestershire Police Authority have not identified any specific constraints to development, but would require developers to contribute to community safety infrastructure as part of any development proposals.

Environmental/Landscape Constraints

This was investigated as part of the Hinckley & Bosworth 'Directions for Growth Study' undertaken in 2007. This is available on the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council website at www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk.

Mix of housing/people already currently provided

The mix of housing and people currently available in each of the villages has been identified using Mosaic, a geo-demographic system which classifies every UK postcode and its population into 1 of 5 distinct 'Types'. These Types identify groups of individuals and households that are as similar as possible to each other, and as different as possible to any other group. They describe the residents of a postcode in terms of their typical demographics, their behaviours, their lifestyle characteristics and their attitudes. Full maps of each of the settlements are available in Appendix 4. The types of houses available in each settlement was also identified using data from the SHMA.

Conclusion

Based on the above analysis, the following housing distribution is suggested:

Proposed Rural Housing Distribution		
Settlement	Urban Housing Potential	Greenfield development
Bagworth		0
Thornton	55	0
Barlestone	10	30
Desford	10	100
Groby		100
Stoke Golding		60
Market Bosworth		100
Markfield	20	60
Newbold Verdon		100
Ratby	15	60
Higham on the Hill		40
Congerstone		10
Sheepy Magna		20
Stanton Under Bardon		30
Twycross		20
Witherley		20
Nailstone		20
Subtotal Key Rural Centres	110	610
Subtotal Rural Villages	0	160

Settlement	Justification
Groby	In submarket with high affordable housing need and also showing need for most housing to maintain existing population levels. Also most sustainable in relation to transport and services. However village is constrained by motorway and A50 and by need to retain settlement identity from Ratby. Also limited capacity in existing schools. Reduce population projection figure to reflect this. Mosaic profile suggests there is a good mix of people.
Markfield	Showing high need for housing to maintain existing population levels, but only middling need for affordable housing need. Scored highly in relation to sustainable transport. Has a range of services, but no high school within the settlement (although South Charnwood High School). PCT suggests that because the PCT premises have just had small extension, it is lower on list of priorities to improve. Reduce population projection figure to reflect this. Mosaic profile suggests there is a good mix of people although mix suggests that there will be a need to provide for an aging population.
Newbold Verdon	Showing high need for housing to maintain existing population (and parish expressed view that more housing needed to support local school, supported by school role figures), reasonable level of affordable housing need, middle range for sustainable transport and access to services (doesn't have secondary school). Has main surgery which caters for surrounding population. Reduce population projection figure to reflect transport sustainability and lack of secondary school. Mosaic figure suggests there is a good mix of people.
Desford	Showing high need for housing to maintain existing population, reasonable level of affordable housing need, middle range for sustainable transport and good access to services. Retain population projection figure. Mosaic profile suggests there is a good mix of people.
Stoke Golding	Reasonable need for affordable housing, middling in relation to sustainable transport & good in relation to services. Close to Hinckley sub regional centre. In same submarket as Witherley which has high affordable housing needs, therefore housing in this location could help address this need. Increase original population projection figures to reflect this. Mosaic profile suggests there may be a need for more housing for younger people.
Barlestone	Showing need for 30 homes to retain population, middling need for affordable housing. Average to poor in relation to transport sustainability and no secondary school. Retain population projection figure. Mosaic profiles suggests there is a good mix of people.
Ratby	Showing need for 30 homes to retain population levels, in submarket with high need for affordable homes. Middling in relation to sustainable transport and reasonable in relation to services (no secondary school). However limited capacity for development without impacting on important relationship to countryside to the west and issues of congestion. Increase population projection level to 60 to reflect affordable housing needs. Mosaic profiles suggests there is a good mix of people.
Market Bosworth	Not showing need to maintain population, but middling need for affordable homes. Profile suggests need for more family homes for young people. Reasonable in relation to transport sustainability and access to services. Provide 100 dwellings based on providing for some of the need in the surrounding parishes and affordable.

Bagworth & Thornton	Not showing need to maintain population, high need for affordable housing, although some of this could be coming from outside the Borough (submarket model includes some of North West Leicestershire). Poor in relation to travel sustainability and services. Retain population projection housing figures (ie. infill development on urban housing potential site). Mosaic profile suggests there is a good mix of people within the village.
Witherley	High need showing for housing to retain population, but a lower need for affordable housing (although this increases substantially when look at parishes needs model). Has a primary school and is close to Atherstone. However has access issues onto the A5, therefore reduce population projection figures to reflect this. Mosaic profile suggests the majority of people living in Witherley are either career professionals or older families which suggests there may be a need for housing to address the needs of younger people in village.
Twycross	Showing need for homes to retain population, but lower need for affordable housing (although this increases substantially when look at parishes model). Has a primary school (independent), but is quite isolated in relation to access to services. Reduce population projection figures to reflect this. Mosaic profile suggests the majority of people living in Twycross are either career professionals or older families which suggests there may be a need for housing to address the needs of younger people in village.
Sheepy Magna	Showing need for 30 homes to retain population, but lower need for affordable housing (although this increases when look at Parish model). Has a school, but no shop. Reduce population projection figures to reflect transport sustainability issues. Fairly high number of school places compared to other rural villages. Mosaic profile suggests an aging population. May need to provide for this to allow downsizing within the village to free up family homes.
Stanton Under Bardon	Showing need for 30 homes to retain population, middling need for affordable housing. Has primary school which has spare capacity. Close to Markfield which scored well for sustainable transport. Retain population projection housing figure. Mosaic profiles suggests a good mix of people.
Congerston	Showing need for 15 dwellings to maintain population levels and is within submarket with reasonable affordable housing need. Closest local centre is Market Bosworth. School is already oversubscribed. Reduce population projection figure to reflect this. Mosaic profile suggests that the majority of people living in the village are younger families in new homes and career professionals which suggests the school will continue to be supported.
Higham on the Hill	Not showing need to maintain population, but is in submarket with high need for affordable housing. Mosaic profile suggest there is a good mix of people within the village although the village has also lost a number of smaller houses through conversions. Increase population projection figure to reflect this.
Nailstone	Showing need for 20 dwellings to maintain population levels and within submarket with middling need for affordable housing. School well subscribed although some spare school places still available. Retain population projection housing figure. Mosaic profile showing a reasonable mix of people.

Appendix 1: Population Projections: Updated 2008

Appendix 1: Population Projections: Updated 2008

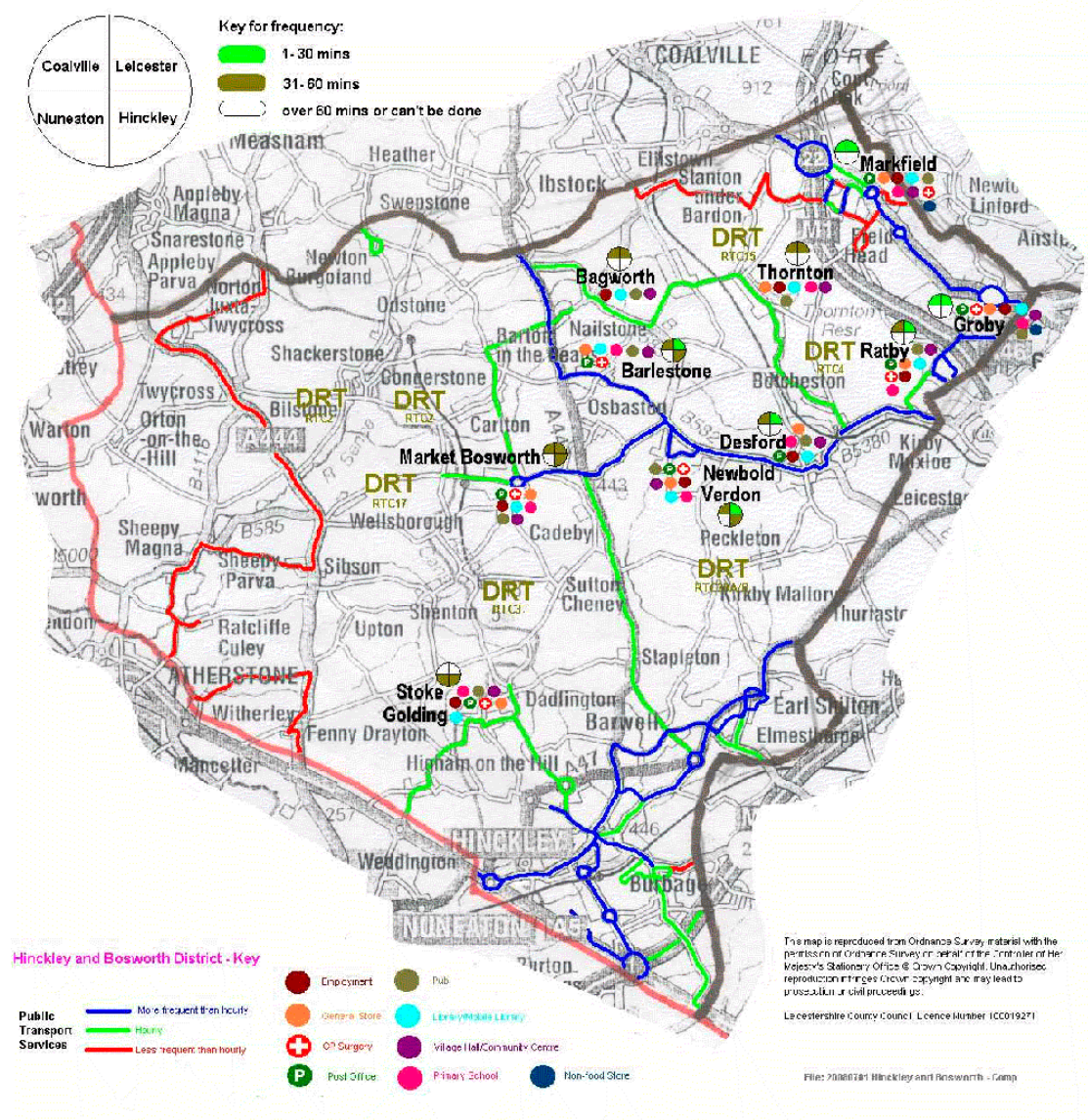
Parish/Settlement	Population Estimate 2004	Non-household population	2004 population estimate - non household population	Population decrease 2004- 2026	Urban Housing Potential (dwellings)	Population through UHP (based on 2.3 people per house)	Dwellings completed 2004- 2008	Dwellings committed 2008	Population through developments 2004- 2008	Non-household population	Total additional population	Additional population needed to maintain 2004 population	Additional houses needed to maintain 2004 population
Bagworth & Thornton	2231	0	2231	245	55	127	114	40	354	0	354	-109	-47
Barlestone	2459	0	2459	270	10	23	67	21	202	0	202	68	30
Desford (Desford)*	3903	69	3834	422	10	23	54	2	129	69	198	224	97
Groby (Groby)*	7329	0	7329	806	0	0	31	104	311	0	311	496	216
Higham on the Hill	856	150	706	78	0	0	4	9	30	150	180	-102	-44
Market Bosworth	1881	44	1837	202	0	0	94	22	267	44	311	-109	-47
Markfield	4402	61	4341	478	20	46	31	3	78	61	139	338	147
Nailstone	529	0	529	58	0	0	1	6	16	0	16	42	18
Newbold Verdon (Newbold Verdon)*	3178	7	3171	349	0	0	4	31	81	7	88	261	114
Ratby	4035	6	4029	443	15	35	119	45	377	6	383	60	26
Shackerstone (Congerstone)*	821	0	821	90	0	0	3	23	60	0	60	30	13
Sheepy (Sheepy Magna)*	1196	40	1156	127	0	0	3	2	12	40	52	76	33
Stanton Under Bardon	632	0	632	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	30
Stoke Golding	1696	6	1690	186	0	0	32	9	94	6	100	86	37
Twycross (Twycross)*	786	0	786	86	0	0	1	1	5	0	5	82	36
Witherley (Witherley)*	1437	0	1437	158	0	0	1	2	7	0	7	151	66
Total													723
Total Key Rural Centres													572
Total Rural Villages													151

*population estimate includes all villages in the Parish, all other figures relate only to the specified village

Key Rural Centre

To determine how much additional housing might be required to maintain the populations in rural areas, a reduction of 1.2% per year has been made to the 2004 population estimates for each parish to reflect the likely effect of population ageing and movement, if no new housing provision is made (11% reduction over the 22 years left of the plan period taking 2004 as the base date). Existing urban housing potential, completions and planning commitments have then been factored in to come up with an estimated figure of how many dwellings will be required to maintain 2004 population levels to 2026.

Appendix 2: Key Rural Centres: Accessibility by Public Transport



Appendix 4: Mosaic Profiles

Mosaic Data Summary

Bagworth & Thornton Summary

Bagworth

For the settlement of Bagworth, the types of people living there can be divided into three distinct areas:

Area 1 - to the South of the village incorporating Main Street and the southern section of Station Road includes predominantly 'Older families living in suburbia' with small sections of 'Younger families living in newer homes' (Lime Grove) and 'Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities' along Station Road.

Area 2 – the new housing estates on the Old Colliery Site to the west of Station Road includes predominantly 'Younger families living in newer homes' and 'Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles', with small sections of 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords'.

Area 3 – to the North and East of the village incorporating the northern section of Station Road and Station terrace including predominantly 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords', with some sections of 'Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities' and 'Low income families living in estate based social housing'.

Thornton

For the settlement of Thornton, the types of people living there can be divided into three distinct areas:

Area 1 – along Main Street where the road includes predominantly 'Older families living in suburbia' with small sections of 'Career professionals living in sought after locations'.

Area 2 – Hawthorne Drive which is a small housing estates which includes predominantly 'Younger families living in newer homes' with small sections of 'Career professionals living in sought after locations'.

Area 3 - Highfields which is a small housing estates which includes predominantly 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords' with small sections of 'Low income families living in estate based social housing' and 'Older people living in social housing with high care needs'.

Barlestone Summary

For the settlement of Barlestone, the types of people living there can be divided into four distinct areas:

Area 1 - to the North and East of the village incorporating Westfields and Bagworth Road which Road includes predominantly 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords'.

Area 2 – the main section of the village including Main Street, Meadow Road, Barton Road and all other roads, which consists mainly of 'Younger families living in newer homes' and 'Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities', with small

sections of 'Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles' and other people types.

Area 3 – to the West of the village incorporating the Curtis Way housing estate which consists predominantly of 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords', and small sections of 'Low income families living in estate based social housing'.

Area 4 – to the east of the village stretching along Newbold Road towards Newbold Verdon, where this linear section consists of 'Older families living in suburbia' and 'Career professionals living in sought after locations'.

Congerstone Summary

In Congerstone there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, though the majority of groups covering the settlement may be defined as 'People living in rural areas far from urbanisation' and 'Career professionals living in sought after locations', with small areas of 'Younger families living in newer homes' and 'older families living in suburbia'.

Desford Summary

For the settlement of Desford, the types of people living there can be divided into four distinct areas:

Area 1 - to the East of the village incorporating Station Road, Peckleton Lane and the modern housing estates located off these roads which includes predominantly 'Career professionals living in sought after locations'.

Area 2 – the housing estate located between Peckleton Lane and Kirkby Road which consists mainly of 'Older families living in suburbia' with small sections of 'Younger families living in newer homes'.

Area 3 – the housing estate located between Kirkby Road and Manor Road which consists of 'Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities', 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords', 'Older people living in social housing with high care needs', and small sections of 'Younger families living in newer homes'.

Area 4 – to the North of the village stretching along Newbold Road and Manor Road where this section consists of 'Career professionals living in sought after locations' and 'Older families living in suburbia'.

Groby Summary

For the settlement of Groby, the types of people living there can be divided into four distinct areas:

Area 1 - to the South of the village incorporating the relatively modern housing estate between Laundon Way and Sacheverell Way which includes predominantly 'Younger families living in newer homes' and up to the Cowpen Spinney which includes more sections of 'Career professionals living in sought after locations'.

Area 2 – the housing estates located off Pymm Ley Lane stretching up to the village centre and the housing located off Leicester Road which consists mainly of ‘Career professionals living in sought after locations’, ‘Older families living in suburbia’ and some small sections of ‘Younger families living in newer homes’.

Area 3 – the area of housing located to the South of Fir Tree Lane Industrial Estate and housing located on Ratby Road stretching into the village centre, which includes mainly ‘Older people living in social housing with high care needs’, ‘Younger families living in newer homes’, ‘Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities’ and then small sections of other Mosaic groups.

Area 4 – the housing estates above the College to the West of the village where this section consists of ‘Older families living in suburbia’ and ‘Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles’.

Higham on the Hill Summary

In Higham on the Hill there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, though the types of people living in the settlement can be defined for certain areas:

Area 1 - to the East of the village along Main Street which includes ‘Older families living in suburbia’, ‘Younger families living in newer homes’ and ‘Career professionals living in sought after locations’.

Area 2 – Cherry Orchard and Nuneaton Lane which includes ‘Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords’, ‘Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities’, ‘Younger families living in newer homes’ and ‘Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles’.

Area 3 – Station Road which includes ‘Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords’, ‘Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities’, ‘Younger families living in newer homes’, and Hilary Bevins Close which consists of ‘Older families living in suburbia’.

Market Bosworth Summary

In Market Bosworth there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, though there is a mix of predominantly ‘Career professionals living in sought after locations’ and ‘Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles’ spread throughout the village, with some small sections of ‘Older families living in suburbia’ and ‘Older people living in social housing with high care needs’.

Markfield Summary

In Markfield there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, with a mix of people living in the village. Only two distinct areas can be identified, with Leicester Road and its associated housing being inhabited by ‘Older families living in suburbia’, and the housing estate off Launde Road and London Road being inhabited by ‘Career professionals living in sought after locations’ and ‘Younger families living in newer homes’.

Nailstone Summary

In Nailstone there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, with a mix of people living in the village. Only one distinct area can be identified, with The Oval and its associated housing being inhabited by 'Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities'.

Newbold Verdon Summary

There is a large mix of people living in Newbold Verdon as defined by the Mosaic data groups, but some distinct areas can be identified:

Area 1 – to the East of the village stretching along Desford Road where this linear section consists of mainly 'Older families living in suburbia'.

Area 2 – the housing estates to the South of the village (e.g. Gilberts Drive and Peters Avenue) again consist of mainly 'Older families living in suburbia'.

Area 3 – The Preston Drive housing estate to the North West of the settlement which consists mainly of 'Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities' and 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords', with some small sections of 'People living in social housing with uncertain employment in deprived areas', 'Low income families living in estate based social housing', and 'Older people living in social housing with high care needs'.

Area 4 – The Sparkenhoe housing estate which consists of mainly 'Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities' and 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords', with some small sections of 'Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles'.

Ratby Summary

In Ratby there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, though the types of people living in the settlement can be defined for certain areas:

Area 1 – to the North West of the village stretching along Markfield Road and Charnwood where this area consists of mainly 'Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities', 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords', and 'Older people living in social housing with high care needs'.

Area 2 – the housing estates off Ferndale Drive and Nicholas Drive to the East of the village consist of mainly 'Younger families living in newer homes' and 'Older families living in suburbia'.

Area 3 – the area of housing off Dane Hill and Gillbank Drive which consists predominantly of 'Older families living in suburbia' and 'Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles'.

Sheepy Magna Summary

In Sheepy Magna there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, though the majority of groups covering the settlement may be defined as 'Career professionals living in sought after locations' and 'Older families living in suburbia', with small areas of 'Younger families living in newer homes' and 'Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles'.

Stanton Under Bardon Summary

In Stanton Under Bardon there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, though the majority of groups covering the settlement may be defined as 'Older families living in suburbia', 'Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities', 'Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords', and 'Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles', with small areas of 'Career professionals living in sought after locations' and 'Younger families living in newer homes'.

Stoke Golding Summary

In Stoke Golding there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, though the majority of groups covering the settlement may be defined as of 'Career professionals living in sought after locations', Younger families living in newer homes', and 'Older families living in suburbia', with smaller sections of other groups located around Stoke Golding.

Twycross Summary

For the settlement of Twycross, the types of people living there can be divided into three distinct areas:

Area 1 – Main Road, Church Street and Assheton Lane which consists of predominantly 'Career professionals living in sought after locations'.

Area 2 – Church Street to Flax Lane which consists predominantly of 'Older families living in suburbia'.

Area 3 – Hallfields which consists of 'Older families living in suburbia' and 'Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles'.

There are also small sections of other Mosaic data groups located randomly throughout the settlement.

Witherley Summary

In Witherley there is no distinctive pattern of Mosaic data groups, though the majority of groups covering the settlement may be defined as 'Career professionals living in sought after locations' and 'Older families living in suburbia', with a small section of 'Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles' located around Orchard Close/Hall Lane to the North-West of the settlement.

**REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE RE: ECONOMIC PROSPECTS
- A LOCAL RESPONSE**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To outline for Members the particular issues posed for the local community by the current and predicted future effects of the downturn in the national economy and to propose measures which this Council and our partners need to put into place to address these effects and support our community.
- 1.2 To outline the impact of the downturn in the national economy on the income in certain service areas and on the utility costs of the Council.
- 1.3 To seek endorsement to the draft Economic Regeneration Strategy (2008-2012) for consultation purposes to complement the package of measures to respond to current and predicted economic climate.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members endorse and agree the implementation of the phased strategy set out in Sections 4.1 to 4.4 of the report, specifically the commitment to funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and other agencies.
- 2.2 That Members endorse the draft Economic Regeneration Strategy (2008-2012) (copies of which have been deposited in the Members' room) for consultation purposes.
- 2.3 That Members note in particular the potential impact on income to the Council outlined in Section 4.5 of the report and agree that the Director of Finance (together with the Director of Community and Planning Services) monitor the situation and report to a future Council meeting the steps to be taken to mitigate the impact on the Council.
- 2.4 That Members note the impact on utility costs of the Council outlined in Section 4.6 of the report and agree that the Director of Finance monitors the situation and report to a future Council meeting the steps to be taken to mitigate the impact on the Council.

3. CONTEXT

- 3.1 In recent months, there have been increasingly gloomy predictions and projections about the decline in economic prospects globally. The causes, direct and indirect, are many and mostly inter-related: rises in costs of fuel and energy; increased cost of basic food and other necessities; significant falls in the value of property and land; and the 'credit crunch' arising (initially) from the collapse of the 'sub-prime' arrangements in the United States of America and evidenced most recently by some startling events in the banking sector.

- 3.2 The effects of these circumstances have already begun to bite and are predicted to become more widespread in the longer term. They impact on different areas and different strata of our society in different ways. Of particular immediate concern is actual and potential debt and its consequences (for example on health - nutritional, physical and mental), especially for those who are single and/or older. There is also the longer term potential for fraud and other criminal activity, if debt becomes too great.
- 3.3 Most predictions are that these circumstances will deteriorate before they improve and that they will last at least until the end of this decade. Government is introducing a number of measures to address fuel costs/fuel poverty, inflation, economic growth and the property market. These will have some effect but, on the evidence already of contacts with the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB), many individuals need more basic and more immediate help, before a number of measures being introduced can have the full effect. (See Appendix A).

4. **PROPOSED STRATEGY**

- 4.1 (a) What is proposed in this report, therefore, is a phased approach, aimed at tackling more effectively the immediate practical problems being faced by our communities locally, whilst finalising the implementation of actions arising from the 'Poverty' study undertaken by the Scrutiny Commission and reformulating a longer term Economic Development Strategy, a consultative draft of which is deposited in the Members' room.
- (b) The proposed framework and timescales are:
- * Actions to address increasing debt and its effects
 - *Immediate*
 - * Actions to address broader 'poverty' issues
 - *From January 2009*
 - * Borough-wide Economic Regeneration Strategy
 - *Draft endorsed by Council September 2008*
 - *Consultation October-November 2008*
 - *Consultation completed December 2008*
 - *Implementation April 2009*
- (c) This work aligns itself effectively in assisting addressing outcomes identified within the Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy [Theme 1: Improved life chances for vulnerable people and places; Theme 5: A prosperous and innovative and dynamic economy]; the Borough Community Plan [Delivering a Vibrant Economy]; the Corporate Plan priority of promoting a Thriving Economy; and the emerging LDF Core Strategy.

4.2 DEBT AND OTHER IMMEDIATE ISSUES

(a) The CAB makes many positive contributions to our local community. Specifically relevant to this situation are the following:

- * being a force for economic development and regeneration (reducing poverty, increasing benefit take-up and increasing local spending)
- * being a force for social cohesion and development (such as health and active citizenship)
- * as a promoter of policy change and development
- * as a source of local community and wider knowledge and data.

In recent years, and especially in 2007/08, the CAB has had significant impact on all these areas and has worked increasingly and with greater effectiveness with this Council. In such times as we are now experiencing, we need to build on these arrangements and improve our joint capacity.

Because of the particular impact on older people, and in line with the County Council 'Strategy for Ageing Well in Leicestershire : 2008-2011', closer work with Age Concern would benefit this group and, for the wider community benefit, with Voluntary Action Hinckley and Bosworth, in furtherance of our agreed obligations under the November 2007 Compact to 'use our (joint) resources more effectively'.

(b) The Council will need to work even more closely with these agencies to:

- (i) identify financial problems early and provide advice to people experiencing financial problems (poverty, debt) via collaboration.
- (ii) identify and break down barriers to taking up entitlements. This will include advice and communications between agencies in respect of, for instance, council tax and housing benefit and income benefits amongst older people.
- (iii) provide redundancy and pre-retirement advice.
- (iv) identify the impact on local businesses of increasing fuel and energy costs and the impact of the removal of empty property rate relief from 1 April 2008. We will need to provide advice and, wherever appropriate, assistance through the discretionary hardship relief.

(c) In order to ensure that this work is effectively undertaken, Members are **recommended** to allocate funding, at least in the short term (initially to March 2010), to CAB (primarily), Age Concern and Voluntary Action Hinckley and Bosworth. It is suggested that SLB, in conjunction with the consideration of the impact of reduction in fees (para 4.5 below) and increased utility costs (para 4.6 below), allocate funding from additional efficiency underspends identified during the last three quarters of the year 2008/09 for this purpose, as a priority, subject to the report on the projected income deficits to be considered in the next cycle.

4.3 **'POVERTY REVIEW'**

The Scrutiny Commission has considered a report it commissioned from CII Research entitled, 'Study of Income Deprivation in Hinckley and Bosworth'. The aims of this study were to:

- * understand the effects of local deprivation; and
- * develop local strategies and policies to address the situations arising from local income deprivation.

The report incorporates key recommendations around developing a framework to deliver improvements and employing neighbourhood management principles in the most deprived areas. There is a fundamental role for the Local Strategic Partnership to enhance partnership working between agencies in order to deliver effective joined-up services and to involve residents in establishing service priorities.

The Scrutiny Commission agreed that a cross-party Member and Officer Action Group (including Scrutiny and Executive Members) be formed to consider the recommendations of the report in detail and to determine practical proposals for their implementation. The first meeting of the Group is planned for 27 October 2008.

It is **recommended** that the outcomes of the work of this Action Group be brought to Council as a second phase development in January 2009.

4.4 **BOROUGH ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY**

- (a) A consultative draft of a Borough-wide Economic Regeneration Strategy has been deposited in the Members room. It has been in preparation during 2008, based on stakeholder events in autumn 2007. The changing circumstances we now face have required revisions to the original draft, which have been incorporated into the latest version.

The key strands and outcomes of this strategy are:

- * To develop a targeted approach to supporting businesses which have the potential to establish, expand and relocate to the Borough.

Outcome: Achieve a prosperous thriving economy.

- * To develop an effective portfolio of sites and premises to meet the demands of business.

Outcome: Ensure the quality and range of employment sites and premises are available.

- * To increase the vitality of key centres across the Borough.

Outcome: Create more vibrant and viable town centres.

- * To raise the level of skills and knowledge within the Borough.

Outcome: Priority neighbourhoods and rural areas achieve prosperity.

- * To promote the profile and assets of the Borough.

Outcome: A highly skilled population in higher value jobs.

- * To ensure the benefits of economic growth are shared by all communities in the Borough, particularly priority neighbourhoods.

Outcome: An improved image for business and tourism with a reputation for innovation and creativity.

- (b) It is proposed that, following consideration at this meeting, the revised draft be debated at further business and stakeholder summits later in the autumn, with a view to a final version being approved in January 2009. This will enable any financial implications to be considered as part of the final budget deliberations for 2009/10 and beyond and allow implementation from April 2009.

4.5 **IMPACT ON INCOME TO THE COUNCIL**

- (a) One of the early impacts of the current economic position has been on confidence in the general and house building construction industries, together with a general slowdown in the housing market. This has led directly to less applications for planning permission, building regulation approval and land searches over recent months.
- (b) The budgets for the income to be generated from these areas during the 2008/09 financial year were set at a level which reflects numbers of applications over recent years during which time activity has been strong. It is now clear that this level of income will not be achieved.
- (c) The Council's Financial Procedure Rules require that this fact be reported to Council. The table below outlines the significant extent of the current estimated shortfall in income. It is suggested that the Directors of Finance and Community and Planning Services continue to closely monitor this area of income and bring a report to a future Council meeting, when the picture is clearer, outlining the steps to be taken to mitigate the impact on the Council and community.

	Estimate 2008/09 £	Budget 2008/09 £	Variance £	Variance %
Planning applications	363,686	550,000	186,314	- 34
Building regulations	192,655	301,810	109,155	- 36
Land searches	90,380	160,000	69,620	- 44
Total	646,721	1,011,810	365,089	- 36

4.6 **IMPACT ON UTILITY COST TO THE COUNCIL**

Having carried out an early review of the electricity and gas budgets for 2008/09 and an estimate for 2009/10, the following increases look likely:-

Electricity

2008/09 £	2009/10 £
23,534	21,128
6,543	18,825
30,077	39,953

5. **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 It is vital that the Council take the lead in acting to address the serious issues which face our communities in the light of the current and predicted downturn in the national economy and that we use our powers and duties to maximum effect to ensure the wellbeing of the people who live and work in our Borough.
- 5.2 The recommendations in Section 4 of this report aim to achieve that end and fulfil our Strategic Aims of: a Thriving Economy and Strong and Distinctive Communities.
- 5.3 However, these positive actions need to be tempered by the knowledge that income to the Council is reducing and costs increasing as a result of the points raised in Sections 4.5 and 4.6. Members will be advised within the next cycle on how these pressures might be addressed in terms of overall resource capacity, whilst meeting our obligations to our communities in the Borough. The issue of fuel/energy costs adds further weight to the flexible working initiative and the move (in time) to more energy-efficient premises.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (SK)**

The downturn in the economy and associated increases in costs and reduction in income will have a direct adverse impact on the currently approved budgets for 2008/09. Any further budgetary provision for 2008/09, and the request for further funding for 2008/09 from the CAB, will be considered after the consideration of the six months outturn figures to 30th September 2008 by the Strategic Leadership Board, Finance and Audit Select Committee and Executive at the end of October 2008.

The request for additional funding for 2009/10 from the CAB and other agencies will be considered as part of the budget-setting process for 2009/10. The increase in utility costs, and the reduction in planning fee income and income from land searches will be included in the base budget for 2009/10, following further review at the end of October 2008.

7. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (LH)**

There are no legal implications arising directly from the report; each strategy will be reviewed for any legal implications in the planning and implementation stages.

8. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

The measures proposed in this report will meet our commitments under the Strategic Aims of 'A Thriving Economy', 'Strong and Distinctive Communities' and 'Safer and Healthier Borough'. They will meet our Community Plan commitments of enabling accessible services and will be based on our value of providing support to those who need it most.

9. **CONSULTATION**

The Economic Regeneration Strategy has been the subject of wide consultation in late 2007 and is recommended for further consultation in the autumn in the light of recent circumstances.

The proposals on debt management and advice have already involved engagement with Hinckley CAB and the 'Poverty Review' has involved wide consultation (with more to follow) by the Scrutiny Commission.

10. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

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.

The following significant risks associated with this report/decision were identified from this assessment:

Risk Description	Mitigating Action	Owner
The impact of non-intervention could be significant increases in community debt and relationship problems, resulting in increases in anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and other criminal activity, with impacts on community cohesion.	Taking immediate action to provide advice and support for individuals and families, jointly with our effective CAB partner.	Belle Imison
Significant reduction in income to the Council.	Regular budget monitoring and appropriate actions recommended to maintain a balanced budget .	SLB

11. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The impact of these recommendations is aimed at all who may be affected in the Borough, wherever they live.

12. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

Community Safety implications
Environmental implications
ICT implications
Asset Management implications
Human Resources implications

Background Papers: Attached as appendices

Contact Officer: Steve Atkinson, ext 5606

Executive Member: Cllr Keith Lynch