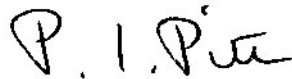


Date: 20 April 2009

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, 28 APRIL 2009 at 6.30 pm.**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. I. Pitt', written in a cursive style.

Pat Pitt (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 26 February and 30 March 2009. Attached marked 'C63 and C64'.
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 presentation.
9. To receive for information only the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 12 February and 2 April 2009 attached marked C65 and C66.
10. To consider the following reports:-
 - (a) Capital Expenditure – Setting of Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2009/10. Attached marked C67. (Pages 1 - 17)
 - (b) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2011/12. Attached marked C68. (Pages 18 - 20)
 - (c) Virement – Housing Revenue Account. Attached marked C69. (Pages 21 – 22).
 - (d) Poors Platt Charity, Barwell – Nominative Trustees. Attached marked C70. (Pages 23 - 24).
 - (e) Approval of the Council's Community Plan 2009-14, Corporate Plan 2009-14 and Business Delivery Plans 2009-12. Attached marked C71. (Pages 25 - 28)
 - (f) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy 2008/11. Attached marked C72. (Pages 29 - 31)
 - (g) Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy. Attached marked C73. (Pages 32 – 35).
 - (h) Hinckley Town Centre Strategic Transport Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document. Attached marked C74. (Pages 36 - 40)
 - (i) Allocation of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. Attached marked C75. (Pages 41 - 44)
11. To consider the following motions, notice of which has been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13:-

From Mr. S.L. Bray

“This Council notes with deep concern the increasing amounts of applications for telecommunication masts within the Borough. Government PPG8 seeks to facilitate growth of telecommunications systems whilst minimising environmental impact and protecting public health.

The impact of such masts clearly causes an eyesore in many settlement and countryside areas.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Director of Community and Planning Services to write to the Secretary of State expressing our concerns over the limited options available to Local Planning Authorities to refuse such applications.

The Council further resolves to enter into immediate discussions with mobile phone operators to assess the current demand for future mobile phone masts and assist them with finding sites away from countryside and residential areas. We should also remind them of their obligation to try and share mast facilities with other operators to minimise the number of masts required within the Borough.”

From Mr. P.S. Bessant

“We request that the Council Leader submits the following to the Secretary of State:

Since the inception of Circular 01/06 greater emphasis is placed upon Local Authorities to provide Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. The document was drafted in such a way that more weight is given to the views and needs of Gypsies and Travellers and whilst the document intends to create a level playing field, members of the settled community are no longer involved in local planning consultation even when the development has an adverse affect upon them. Circular 01/06 in its current form discriminates positively in favour of the Gypsy and Travelling community but against members of the settled community who are left without a forum in which to voice their concerns in denial of their human rights. This would seem to be in direct contravention of The Human Rights Act and therefore we seek urgent reappraisal and amendment of the ODPM Circular 01/06. We submit that all planning applications to which Circular 01/06 apply should be stayed pending the conclusion of this exercise”.

From Mr. J.C. Bown

“That this Council reverses its decision to close the Earl Shilton public toilets in Wood Street and instead replace these with a new toilet. Those Members responsible for making the decision did not take into consideration the needs of those people out shopping with medical problems, i.e. having to take water tablets. This problem was highlighted during 2008 in both the Hinckley Times and Leicester Mercury. With the closure of the public toilets it follows that Earl Shilton will have lost a public facility and the funding, when at the same time the Borough Council want to increase domestic properties in Earl Shilton by 50% over the period of the LDF”.

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

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

26 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. J.G. BANNISTER - MAYOR
MR. K. NICHOLS - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. P.S. Bessant, 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, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. D.M. Gould, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. P.A.S. Hall, Mr. D.W. Inman, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. M. R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mr. R. Mayne, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mr. S. J. Richards, Mr. A. J. Smith, Mrs. S. Sprason, Mr. R. Ward, Ms. B.M. Witherford and Mr. D.O. Wright.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S.J. Atkinson, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. D. Bunker, Mr. B. Cullen, Miss L. Horton, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse

436 **PRAYER**

Two representatives of Hinckley Baptist Church attended and offered prayer.

437 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mr. C. Ladkin, Ms. W.A. Moore and Mr. B.E. Sutton.

Mr. Morrell entered the meeting at 6:33 pm.

438 **MINUTES (C54)**

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

439 **ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

The Mayor indicated that, and as previously circulated to Members, he had agreed to take as a matter of urgency an item on Revised Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure. The reason for the urgency was that the information contained within the report (C52) had only just been agreed and a decision was needed as to proposed funding arrangements.

440 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr. and Mrs. Hall both declared a personal and prejudicial interest in report number C62 and Mr. Wright declared a personal interest in the same item.

441 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor reported the receipt of a number of letters, namely:-

- From Mr. A Wessell of Desford relating to the forthcoming Opera Festival in Hinckley from 13–25 April 2009 (an event for which tickets were still available).
- From the organisers of that Festival commending the work of Lindsay Orton, the Council’s Strategic Arts Officer.
- From the Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP commending this Council on its recent CPA assessment of ‘Excellent’.

Additionally, the Mayor stated that he had accepted an invitation from the warden of Thornton Reservoir to visit that area.

442 PETITION

On behalf of residents of Thornton Mr. O’Shea presented a petition objecting to a proposed travellers’ site in that vicinity. Following the receipt of the petition by the Mayor the Chief Executive indicated that this would be included in the formal representation as part of the wider consultation process on this issue.

443 QUESTIONS

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

(a) Question raised by Mrs. S. Sprason and addressed to Mr. S. L. Bray

“Attached is the response to the Leader from the Regional Assembly clearly stating that the housing numbers and Gypsy and Traveller sites are in his gift, will he now be honest with the residents of Hinckley and Bosworth and tell them that it is this Authority that has decided to build 655 more houses than needed and to have 49 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and has nothing to do with the East Midlands Regional Assembly. Will he now agree to reduce the number of houses and Gypsy & Traveller sites?”

Response from Mr. S. L. Bray

“The Core Strategy (which contains housing and gypsy and traveller numbers) has been submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. The place to suggest any amendments is at the Examination which will take place in May.

I would also like to draw Council’s attention to the attached report and minutes from the final cabinet meeting of the last Conservative administration. I can only speculate that the former administration decided, having seen the writing on the wall in the local elections, to deliberately leave this as yet another problem they would leave for my group to pick up the pieces on. This clearly states that the Conservative cabinet committed us to the recommendations of accepting the Gypsy & Travellers Accommodation Assessment as part of the document evidence base for the LDF process. Contrary to what many people are being led to believe, that independent assessment was commissioned by all the Councils in Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland, including Leicestershire County Council. I am further astonished that the original officer recommendation gave members at the time the option to reject the findings citing the flawed

methodology. It is particularly interesting to note the list of members present at that meeting included two councillors who now are claiming to be against having all these travellers pitches.

Myself and Cllr Bill recently met with Officials from the Government Office – we made it clear during that meeting that we would not be allocating any more housing than is required by the Regional Assembly. I have also launched a public petition calling for that number of houses and travellers pitches to be further reduced. This has received the support of many hundreds of residents across the Borough but so far neither Cllr Mrs. Sprason, her husband or any other Conservative member of this Council or Leicestershire County Council has signed. You will be more than welcome to contact me outside this meeting for details on how to add your name to our campaign.”

In response to a supplementary question from Mrs. Sprason, Mr. Bray reiterated that the former administration had committed the acceptance of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment as part of the document evidence base for the Local Development Framework. Further, that independent assessment had been commissioned by all of the districts within Leicestershire, including the County Council.

(b) Question raised by Mr. M R Lay and addressed to Mr. D S Cope

"Will the Council swiftly review its housing policy with regard to how it defines those at risk of being made homeless. I have recently come across a case of a family in rented accommodation who have been given 6 months notice to vacate. This length of notice was done to help the family . The Council however, due to its own policy, cannot consider the family as at risk and a priority until 4 weeks before they are homeless.

I know all Members will come across similar situations so I ask for this to be addressed urgently."

Response from Mr. D. S. Cope

“This Council’s Housing Options Team has an excellent track record of preventing homelessness and has been able to help many residents of the Borough with their housing difficulties at an early stage in order that the crisis of homelessness is avoided. Early intervention is crucial to the prevention work that takes place and it is recognised that Officers require as many different tools as possible in order to provide a wide range of options to people facing accommodation difficulties. One of these tools is the Council’s own Housing Allocations Policy and it has been recognised that some revisions are required to the policy in order to ensure that in the current economic climate as much assistance can be given to people facing future homelessness.

Officers are currently reviewing the Housing Allocations Policy and will be bringing a report to Executive in April outlining the amendments required in order to ensure that as much assistance as possible is given to people who the council has a homelessness duty to.

If Members are aware of residents who are facing housing difficulties I would urge them to contact the Housing Options team so that the necessary advice

and assistance can be given to them. This advice and assistance will not in the majority of cases result in the allocation of council accommodation, but can provide a far more beneficial solution to the individual's circumstances either by resolving the issues with their current accommodation to enable them to remain in their homes or by helping with access to accommodation in the private rented sector, which is often of the type and in the location that best suits the applicant's needs, thus reducing the impact on others areas of their life, such as children's schooling."

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. Lay Mr. Cope referred to the intention to review the Housing Allocations Policy. Once amendments to the revised documents were agreed this would have the benefit of ensuring that all possible assistance was given to those who the Council had a homelessness duty to. Mr. Cope undertook to keep Mr. Lay fully informed in this process.

(c) Question raised by Mr. C. W. Boothby and addressed to Mr. W. J. Crooks

"It is my understanding that despite this Council, and in particular, your administration's vow to help and support the priority neighbourhoods identified in the L.S.P., you have yet again done an amazing u-turn and are now snubbing the very communities you promised to help.

These neighbourhoods, in particular Thornton and Bagworth, suffer from economic and social deprivation, high unemployment, lack of health care, social welfare and amenities.

The Council agreed to raise the limit that priority neighbourhoods could claim from the Parish and Community Initiative Fund from £10,000 to £15,000 and you even spoke in support of this at the priority neighbourhood day held in Bagworth.

I have now been told that you have refused to champion this and the reason is and I quote from your rural issues officer "it would not be fair to the other parishes!"

I would remind the Executive Member for Rural Issues that those other parishes have not been identified as priority and he should know this.

Will the executive member rethink his decision to abandon those he promised to help?"

Response from Mr. W. J. Crooks

"Councillor Boothby -

I am disappointed that you imply this administration is doing nothing to support our priority neighbourhoods of the Borough.

With the support of the Local Strategic Partnership, Action Plans and Neighbourhood Action Teams have been established for Earl Shilton, Barwell and Bagworth and Thornton. A Neighbourhood Co-ordinator has been jointly funded by the Council, Voluntary Sector and County Council, who has been working closely with the Neighbourhood Action Teams over the past two years.

Some extremely innovative work and initiatives have been introduced and we have seen positive impacts regarding joint agency working, reductions in crime and environmental clean-up campaigns**.

The Parish & Communities Initiative Fund is available for all parishes to bid for resources and has operated very successfully in recent years. Over the past 4 years a total of £306,124 has been awarded to parishes, with £62,885 invested into Priority Neighbourhoods via this fund. Whilst I would welcome an increase in resources for the fund, this should not be at the expense of reductions in allocations for all parishes. The Executive has considered this matter and agreed that due to budget pressures, whilst it is unable to allocate any further resources to the initiatives and for Neighbouring Priority Areas at this stage, this will be kept under review.”

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. Boothby in the absence from the meeting of Mr. Crooks, Mr. Bray indicated that he would convey Mr. Boothby’s views to Mr. Crooks but highlighted the levels of support available to priority neighbourhoods and paid tribute to all parties involved in this process.

444 POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

In presenting this, the Leader referred to:-

- The need, at this meeting, to set a budget and council tax for the next financial year.
- The current financial situation.
- Benefits to the community with the provision of a regeneration programme, Children’s Centre Programme and additional advice service.
- The County-wide Infrastructure Organisation for the Voluntary Sector and funding of new “Community Hubs”.
- The approval by the Executive of a Conditional Development Agreement in connection with Hinckley bus station development.

445 MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING 8 JANUARY 2009

In presenting these Mr. Lay referred to discussions on:-

- The revised costs of concessionary travel.
- The intended introduction of an anti-poverty strategy.
- The use of developer contributions by Parish Councils.

Mrs. Francks left the meeting at 6:55 pm

446 FINANCIAL STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE ON REPORTS C56, C57, C58 AND C59

In his introduction, Mr. Lynch indicated his intention, since these 4 financial reports were inter-related, and should not be considered in isolation, to present them in a single block.

Mrs. Francks returned at 7:01 pm

In his presentation of the General Fund Revenue Budget (report C56), Mr. Lynch referred to the current economic downturn and the difficulty in putting this budget together. The economic downturn and the increased costs of the statutory Concessionary Travel Scheme, had added significant costs and pressures over and above those already identified in the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Emphasised was that further work would be done by the Executive and Officers during the 2009/10 financial year to realise would be savings included in the 2009/10 budget and to identify further base line savings for 2010/11 onwards. Nonetheless, the Council was able to deliver a budget for 2009/10 year that would continue to provide excellent services to the taxpayer. It was emphasised that each of the financial reports presented tonight had been scrutinised and endorsed by the Finance and Audit Services Select Committee.

In setting the level of Council Tax Increase for 2009/10 (report C57) a balanced view had been taken between the financial pressures that the Council faced and the necessary needs of the Borough's residents in the current climate.

So far as the Capital Programme (report C58) was concerned, Members were mindful of the need to support projects Borough-wide and of the fact that provisions made in the budget included significant expenditure in rural areas.

In referring to the Housing Revenue Account (report C59), Mr. Lynch reminded Members of the Government's prescribed method for the calculation of rents, resulting in an average increase for this Council of 7%.

Mr. Smith left the meeting at 7:17 pm, returning at 7:20 pm.

Discussion arose regarding investment income. The Director of Finance, in response to a question from Mr. Lay referred to the assumption and application in the budget of an average base rate of 1% for 2009/10, based on a prudent estimate consistent with financial approach. The Council would continue to review this in order to secure the best rates on the money market, whilst recognising that security of investment was paramount. Furthermore, stressed was that in accordance with the MTFS there was a need to reduce reliance on investment income.

It was agreed that a collective vote be taken on the recommendations contained in reports C56, C57, C58 and C59. These recommendations having been moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bray a show of hands indicated that 15 members were in favour of the respective recommendations, 11 were against and 2 members abstained from voting. It was thereupon

RESOLVED – the recommendations contained within reports C56, C57, C58 and C59 of the Director of Finance be approved, as set out separately below.

447 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10 (C56)

Council was called upon to consider and approve this, together with the Revised Budget for 2008/09. These had been prepared taking into account the Capital Housing Revenue Account Budgets, which were presented at this meeting separately, but needed to be read in conjunction with this report.

The following was agreed:-

- (i) The general fund service expenditure shown in table 1 (page 2 of the report of the Director of Finance);
- (ii) The special expenses area expenditure shown in table 2 (page 3);
- (iii) The total General Fund Service Expenditure for the Council shown in table 3 (page 4); and
- (iv) The proposed movement of General Fund Reserves as set out in table 5 (pages 12 – 13).

448 CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX FOR 2009/10 (C57)

Having endorsed the previous report, Members were now requested to formally approve the Council Tax for the financial years 2009 and 2010.

The following was approved:- in accordance with Sections 32–36 of The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), for 2008/09:

- (i) The Council's budget requirement as set out in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2009/10 (report C56) excluding Special Expenses and Parish Councils, be £10,704,040;
- (ii) The Council's budget requirement as set out in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2009/10 (report C56), including Special Expenses, be £11,305,470;
- (iii) The Council's total net budget requirement including Special Expenses and Parish Councils be £12,706,596;
- (iv) The contribution from Revenue Support Grant and Non-Domestic Rates be £7,225,340;
- (v) A surplus of £30,169 on the Collection Fund be recovered in 2009/10;
- (vi) The Council Tax for Borough-wide services (excluding Special Expenses and Parish Council precepts) (for Band D) be £93.78;
- (vii) The Council Tax for Borough-wide services and an average of Special Expenses services for Band D be £110.13;
- (viii) The basic amount of Council Tax, being the tax relating to Borough-wide Services and an average of Special Expenses and Parish Council services for Band D, be £148.24;
- (ix) The Council Tax for Borough-wide Services together with the relevant Special Expenses or Parish Council Services for each area and valuation band be as follows:

The Council Tax for Borough-wide services together with the relevant Special Expenses or Parish Council services for each area and valuation band								
BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
HINCKLEY	102.40	119.46	136.54	153.60	187.72	221.85	255.99	307.19
BAGWORTH	102.82	119.96	137.11	154.24	188.50	222.78	257.05	308.47
BARLESTONE	105.12	122.64	140.17	157.69	192.72	227.76	262.80	315.37
BARWELL	100.98	117.81	134.65	151.48	185.13	218.79	252.45	302.95
BURBAGE	98.92	115.40	131.90	148.38	181.34	214.31	247.29	296.75
CADEBY	79.96	93.28	106.62	119.94	146.58	173.23	199.89	239.87
CARLTON	88.36	103.09	117.83	132.55	161.99	191.45	220.90	265.09
DESFORD	95.75	111.70	127.68	143.63	175.54	207.45	239.37	287.25
EARL SHILTON	97.64	113.91	130.20	146.47	179.01	211.56	244.10	292.93
GROBY	103.38	120.60	137.85	155.07	189.52	223.98	258.44	310.13
HIGHAM	85.28	99.48	113.71	127.92	156.34	184.76	213.19	255.83
MARKET BOSWORTH	93.73	109.35	124.98	140.60	171.83	203.08	234.32	281.19
MARKFIELD	94.62	110.39	126.17	141.94	173.47	205.01	236.55	283.87

NAILSTONE	86.60	101.03	115.48	129.91	158.77	187.64	216.50	259.81
NEWBOLD VERDON	100.94	117.76	134.60	151.42	185.06	218.71	252.35	302.83
OSBASTON	78.20	91.22	104.27	117.30	143.36	169.42	195.49	234.59
PECKLETON	89.47	104.38	119.30	134.21	164.02	193.85	223.67	268.41
RATBY	104.78	122.23	139.71	157.17	192.09	227.01	261.94	314.33
SHACKERSTONE	92.14	107.50	122.87	138.22	168.92	199.64	230.35	276.43
SHEEPY	90.74	105.86	121.00	136.12	166.36	196.61	226.85	272.23
STANTON-U-BARDON	87.85	102.49	117.14	131.78	161.05	190.34	219.62	263.55
STOKE GOLDING	90.59	105.68	120.80	135.89	166.08	196.27	226.47	271.77
SUTTON CHENEY	84.30	98.34	112.41	126.45	154.54	182.64	210.74	252.89
TWYCROSS	82.32	96.03	109.77	123.48	150.91	178.35	205.79	246.95
WITHERLEY	75.24	87.77	100.33	112.86	137.93	163.01	188.09	225.71

- (x) The total Council Tax, including amounts for the County Council, Police Authority and Fire Authority, and for each area and valuation band be as follows:

The total Council Tax including amounts for the County Council, Police Authority, Fire Authority and for each area and valuation band								
BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
HINCKLEY	938.47	1,094.88	1,251.29	1,407.70	1,720.52	2,033.34	2,346.17	2,815.40
BAGWORTH	938.89	1,095.38	1,251.86	1,408.34	1,721.30	2,034.27	2,347.23	2,816.68
BARLESTONE	941.19	1,098.06	1,254.92	1,411.79	1,725.52	2,039.25	2,352.98	2,823.58
BARWELL	937.05	1,093.23	1,249.40	1,405.58	1,717.93	2,030.28	2,342.63	2,811.16
BURBAGE	934.99	1,090.82	1,246.65	1,402.48	1,714.14	2,025.80	2,337.47	2,804.96
CADEBY	916.03	1,068.70	1,221.37	1,374.04	1,679.38	1,984.72	2,290.07	2,748.08
CARLTON	924.43	1,078.51	1,232.58	1,386.65	1,694.79	2,002.94	2,311.08	2,773.30
DESFORD	931.82	1,087.12	1,242.43	1,397.73	1,708.34	2,018.94	2,329.55	2,795.46
EARL SHILTON	933.71	1,089.33	1,244.95	1,400.57	1,711.81	2,023.05	2,334.28	2,801.14
GROBY	939.45	1,096.02	1,252.60	1,409.17	1,722.32	2,035.47	2,348.62	2,818.34
HIGHAM	921.35	1,074.90	1,228.46	1,382.02	1,689.14	1,996.25	2,303.37	2,764.04
MARKET BOSWORTH	929.80	1,084.77	1,239.73	1,394.70	1,704.63	2,014.57	2,324.50	2,789.40
MARKFIELD	930.69	1,085.81	1,240.92	1,396.04	1,706.27	2,016.50	2,326.73	2,792.08
NAILSTONE	922.67	1,076.45	1,230.23	1,384.01	1,691.57	1,999.13	2,306.68	2,768.02
NEWBOLD VERDON	937.01	1,093.18	1,249.35	1,405.52	1,717.86	2,030.20	2,342.53	2,811.04
OSBASTON	914.27	1,066.64	1,219.02	1,371.40	1,676.16	1,980.91	2,285.67	2,742.80
PECKLETON	925.54	1,079.80	1,234.05	1,388.31	1,696.82	2,005.34	2,313.85	2,776.62
RATBY	940.85	1,097.65	1,254.46	1,411.27	1,724.89	2,038.50	2,352.12	2,822.54
SHACKERSTONE	928.21	1,082.92	1,237.62	1,392.32	1,701.72	2,011.13	2,320.53	2,784.64
SHEEPY	926.81	1,081.28	1,235.75	1,390.22	1,699.16	2,008.10	2,317.03	2,780.44
STANTON-U-BARDON	923.92	1,077.91	1,231.89	1,385.88	1,693.85	2,001.83	2,309.80	2,771.76
STOKE GOLDING	926.66	1,081.10	1,235.55	1,389.99	1,698.88	2,007.76	2,316.65	2,779.98
SUTTON CHENEY	920.37	1,073.76	1,227.16	1,380.55	1,687.34	1,994.13	2,300.92	2,761.10
TWYCROSS	918.39	1,071.45	1,224.52	1,377.58	1,683.71	1,989.84	2,295.97	2,755.16
WITHERLEY	911.31	1,063.19	1,215.08	1,366.96	1,670.73	1,974.50	2,278.27	2,733.92

and;

- (xi) The calculation of the estimated surplus on the Collection Fund be delegated to the Director of Finance (the surplus will be transferred, in accordance with the Council's Policy, to the Pension Reserve.

Whilst fully supportive of the reinstatement of the Greenfields (Sunnyside) Industrial Units project, some Members expressed concern that the Leisure Centre project was to be deferred until further feasibility works were undertaken.

The Capital Programme for 2008/09 to 2011/12 was then endorsed.

450 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES 2009/10 (C59)

Presented to Council was the proposed budget in respect of the Housing Revenue Account for the above period, together with recommendations as to the level of rent increase which should apply in 2008/09.

The following was approved:

- (i) Dwelling rent increases for 2009/10 be set in accordance with the process prescribed by the Government for rent restructuring, averaging 7.0% and the budgets presented in Appendices "A", "B" and "C" to the report of the Director of Finance;
- (ii) An increase of 0.9% be applied to all private sector charges for "Lifeline Rental", "Central Control Connection" and "Solo Rental"; and
- (iii) The Budget for 2009/10.

Mr. Batty left the meeting at 8:02 pm.

451 ORTON ON THE HILL AND OSBASTON CONSERVATION AREAS STATEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS (C60)

Council approval was sought to these and to the delegation, in order to meet Government targets, of the adoption of 3 further Conservation Area Statements and Management Plans by the Planning Committee on 10 March 2009.

Mrs. Richards left the meeting at 8:02 pm.

It was moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Lay and

RESOLVED

- (i) Conservation Area Statements and Management Plans for the villages of Orton on the Hill and Osbaston as planning guidance be adopted;
- (ii) Council delegates the approval of the Conservation Area Statements and Management Plans for the conservation areas at Druid Street, Hinckley, Shackerstone and Newbold Verdon to the Planning Committee to be held on 10 March 2009

452 APPROVAL OF VIREMENT (C61)

In accordance with the Council's financial procedure rules, Members' approval was sought to a virement from existing budgets and a supplementary estimate for sponsorship income.

Mrs. Richards returned to the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Members being fully supportive of this in-house recycling initiative for the collection of kerbside mixed plastic and all cardboard, it was moved by Mrs. Francks, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – agreement be given to a virement of £94,000 from existing budgets and a supplementary estimate of £3,000 for sponsorship income.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall, having both declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item, left the meeting at 8:10 pm whilst this was considered.

453 REVISED VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE (C52)

Circulated to Members at the meeting was additional information from the seven Leicestershire districts in 2009/10 relating to County-wide Infrastructure Organisation / Community Hubs.

Mrs. Sprason left the meeting at 8:13 pm.

The Chief Executive then outlined details of the revised arrangements, effective from 1 April 2009, and their potential implications for local and countywide activity and sought agreement on the proposed funding and relationship management arrangements to support this new infrastructure. It was emphasised that this same report would be considered by all seven districts, to ensure all-Council support, since the arrangements were wholly dependant on all districts pooling their existing contributions.

Mrs. Sprason returned to the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Although supportive of the new proposals concerns were expressed that the quality of service to the public should not be diluted. The excellence of the current arrangements in addressing the public's needs was recognised and concerns were expressed that the new proposals would not benefit the volunteers or the public, in that the service would no longer be locally-based.

The Chief Executive emphasised that, with the Relationship Protocol, local decisions would remain local and gave an assurance that the new arrangements would be kept under review by the Scrutiny Commission.

On the motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Mayne it was

RESOLVED – the proposed funding arrangements detailed in Appendix C and the Relationship Protocol detailed in Appendix D to the report of the Chief Executive be supported and agreed.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall returned to the meeting at 8:28 pm.

454 AMENDMENT TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION WITHIN THE CONSTITUTION – DETERMINATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE APPLICATIONS

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee sought Council's approval to the further delegation of the determination of certain applications from the full Licensing Committee to a Licensing Sub Committee comprising 3 Members (to be selected by the Principal Licensing Officer on an alphabetical / rotational basis)

It was moved by Mr. Lay, seconded by Mrs. Francks and

RESOLVED – the scheme of delegation within the Constitution be amended along the lines indicated above.

(the meeting closed at 8:30 pm)

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

30 MARCH 2009 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. J.G. BANNISTER - MAYOR
MR. K. NICHOLS - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. P.S. Bessant, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. S.L. Bray, Mr. M.B. Cartwright, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. D.M. Gould, 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, Dr. J.R. Moore, Ms. W.A. Moore, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. A. J. Smith, Mrs. S. Sprason, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward, Ms. B.M. Witherford and Mr. D.O. Wright.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S.J. Atkinson, Mr. A. Bottomley, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. B. Cullen, Mr. M. Evans, Miss L. Horton, Mrs. B. Imison, Mr. S. Kohli, Mr. R. Parkinson, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mrs. J. Puffett and Mrs. S. Stacey.

478 PRAYER

The Reverend Canon B. Davis offered prayer.

479 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. C.W. Boothby and Mrs. R. Camamile.

480 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this stage.

481 MATTER FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

It was moved by Mr. Lay and seconded by Mr. Ward that the following item be debated in public. An amendment was proposed by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Bray that the matter remain in private. Upon having been put to a vote 17 Members voted for the amendment and 12 against. The amendment was therefore CARRIED and

RESOLVED – in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remaining item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

482 PROPOSED SALE OF BRODICK PARK OPEN SPACE (C62)

Circulated to Members immediately before the meeting were copies of supplementary information from the Council's Section 151 and Monitoring Officers relating to this item. In the light of this it was agreed that there be a brief adjournment to afford Members the opportunity to read the additional details.

For clarification the Chief Executive indicated that the information now provided to Members was supplementary to that originally circulated with the agenda for tonight's meeting and that the supplementary report contained a firm recommendation by officers as to a suggested course of action. The Chief Executive then stated that it was his statutory duty to advise on the need for the Council to be mindful, in its deliberations, of the well-being of the whole community, the proper use of funding and Value for Money in the current economic circumstances.

Mr. Bown entered the meeting at 6.40 p.m.

An adjournment followed at 6.42 p.m. (when all Members of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups left the Chamber and Members of the Conservative Group present remained in the Chamber). The meeting reconvened at 6.55 p.m.

The Executive Member for Finance indicated that this report was before Members in two forms and that he wished to move an amendment to the recommendations contained in the original report, namely that

'This Council has decided that as the option agreement with Morris Homes has expired the Council will retain Brodick Park within the asset register'. This amendment was seconded by Mr. Bill.

Advice from officers followed as to the significant financial impact upon the Council's Capital Programme and General Fund Revenue Budget, details of the option agreement with Morris Homes and the legal implications should this scheme not proceed. The Section 151 Officer stressed that a decision not to go ahead with the sale of the land would, when added to the financial pressures included in the 2009/10 budget and the additional financial costs since setting the budget on 26 February 2009, have a detrimental impact on the Council's finances in the short to medium term.

A lengthy debate ensued with concerns being raised by some Members as to the impact on the Capital Programme, the General Fund Revenue Budget, possible legal claims against the Council and employment issues.

Mrs. Richards left the meeting at 7.39 p.m. and Messrs. Smith and Sutton at 7.40 p.m., all returning at 7.42 p.m.

In conclusion the Executive Member for Finance indicated that revisions to the Capital Programme were being examined and referred to the commitment of the Liberal Democrat Group to campaign for the retention of green space. In referring to the democratic process of government the Deputy Leader of the Council expressed the view that it was elected Members who are charged with making the ultimate decision.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.4 the requisite number of Members present called for a recorded vote on the amendment proposed by Mr. Lynch earlier in the meeting, as follows: 'This Council has decided that as the option agreement with Morris Homes has expired the Council will retain Brodick Park within the asset register'. A vote was then taken, recorded as follows:

For the amendment: Mr. Nichols, Mr. Bill, Mr. Bray, Mr. Cope, Mr. Crooks, Mrs. Francks, Mr. Gould, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Hall, Mr. Inman, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Mayne, Dr. Moore, Ms. Moore, Mr. Smith, Ms. Witherford and Mr. Wright (18 votes)

Against the amendment: Mrs. Aldridge, Mr. Batty, Mr. Bessant, Mr. Bown, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Ladkin, Mr. Lay, Mr. Morrell, Mr. O'Shea, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Sprason, Mr. Sutton and Mr. Ward (13 votes).

(The Mayor did not participate in the voting process).

The amendment was declared CARRIED and, on the motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bill it was thereupon

RESOLVED - 'This Council has decided that as the option agreement with Morris Homes has expired the Council will retain Brodick Park within the asset register'.

It was agreed that the decision made tonight be published as soon as possible and that officers inform all interested parties simultaneously.

(The meeting closed at 8.28 p.m.)

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

12 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman
Mrs R Camamile - Joint Vice-Chairman
Mr P Hall - Joint Vice-Chairman

Mr PR Batty, Mr DM Gould, Mrs A Hall, Mr DW Inman, Mr CG Joyce, Mr C Ladkin, Dr JR Moore, Mr K Morrell, Mr K Nichols, Mrs S Sprason and Mrs B Witherford.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mrs T Darke, Miss L Horton, Mr S Kohli, Miss R Owen, Mr TM Prowse and Mrs S Stacey.

Colin Roxborough from Bentley-Jennison and Andy Wright from CI Research were in attendance.

399 MINUTES (SC64)

Contrary to the minutes, Mr Hall stated that he did not leave the meeting at 7.13pm. On the motion of Mrs Camamile, seconded by Mr Nichols, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2009 be confirmed subject to the above amendment and signed by the Chairman.

400 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

401 HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS (SC65)

The Scrutiny Commission received a report which provided further information as requested at its meeting on 16 October 2008 with regard to the issues in respect of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Capital and Revenue budgets in 2007/08. Members were advised of the progress in respect of the recommendations made at the meeting on 16 October.

Dr Moore arrived at 6.34pm and Mr Gould arrived at 6.42pm.

It was reported that a back-to-basics approach had been taken, reverting to a robust paper-based system of monitoring with a dedicated member of staff to do this. It was felt that this level of monitoring should have been undertaken from the start of the contract.

Members requested an update on the progress of the interface and schedule of rates. It was agreed that this would be sent to Members when available.

Mr Ladkin arrived at 7.05pm.

Members again asked to be informed when the end costs resulting from the issues and investigations were known. It was stated that this would be brought to the Council Services Select Committee when available.

RESOLVED –

- (i) An update on the progress of the interface and Schedule of Rates be provided to Members when available;
- (ii) A report on the final costs resulting from this issue be presented to the Council Services Select Committee when available;
- (iii) A report on the performance of the Inspace Partnership be brought to the Scrutiny Commission every six months;
- (iv) The need for these reports on the Inspace Partnership to the Scrutiny Commission be reviewed in March 2010.

402 PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT APPEAL DECISIONS (SC66)

Members received a report which informed them of the Planning and Enforcement appeal determinations which had been made contrary to the decision of the Local Planning Authority.

Some Members felt that whilst they had been elected to represent the well-being of the community, they were unable to make decisions at Planning Committee which reflected this due to the national and local policies in place. Members were reminded that local policies had to acknowledge national policies, but were agreed by Members of this Council. It was pointed out that a productive workshop with Members of the Planning Committee had taken place earlier in the municipal year, but it was felt that further discussion was needed with regard to this particular issue, probably by means of a further workshop.

RESOLVED –

- (i) Planning Committee be RECOMMENDED to look at the issues raised with regard to following national and local policies;
- (ii) the report be noted.

403 ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY – FINAL REPORT – CI RESEARCH (SC67) AND ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY (SC68)

Members received the final report prepared by CI research which helped to inform and scope the Anti Poverty Strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth, and also the Council's draft Anti Poverty Strategy. Andy Wright from CI Research presented his report and was available to answer questions. He highlighted important points as strong and responsive leadership, a strong LSP and an understanding of local communities.

Concern was expressed that the strategy may lack direction, but it was confirmed that the aim of the strategy was to pull together the agencies to coordinate work being undertaken and the strategy was an overall framework affecting other projects rather than being the project itself.

It was suggested that 'poverty implications' be included on the committee report template and that a Member 'Poverty Champion' be appointed.

It was reported that an action plan would be drawn up with input from the stakeholders. It was agreed that this be brought to the Commission in three months.

Mr Batty left the meeting at 8.15pm.

Members were asked to feed any comments and information on any initiatives to the Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the Action Plan be brought to the Scrutiny Commission in 3 months' time;
- (ii) the report be noted.

404 COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES REVIEW (SC69)

Members were provided with feedback regarding the outcomes from the Community Health Services Review consultation. It was reported that the Scrutiny Commission had been put forward as a consultee in future consultation exercises.

Mr Ladkin left the meeting at 8.18pm. Mr Batty returned at 8.19pm.

With regard to the out of hours healthcare services offered, Members expressed concern that these were not well publicised, particularly for those people who rarely went to their Doctor's Surgery. It was suggested that this information be put into the Borough Bulletin.

Concern was raised with regard to travel and it was requested that the PCT be asked to ensure the turning circle for buses inside the hospital site was implemented at phase 2 or sooner.

RESOLVED –

- (i) Information with regard to the out of hours health services offered be published in the Borough Bulletin;
- (ii) Concern be conveyed to the PCT with regard to the implementation of the turning circle for buses
- (iii) The report be noted.

405 HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP: END OF YEAR UPDATE ON THE PARTNERSHIP (SC70)

The Scrutiny Commission was provided with an end of year update on performance and achievements of the Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

406 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09 AND 2009/10 (SC71)

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2008/09.

Mr Ladkin returned at 8.27pm.

The Chairman reported that he had received a request for the Scrutiny Commission to look into the LDF process. Reports were also requested with regard to the effect of the restructure of the community and voluntary sector, services for older people and how these can be improved and affordable housing in rural areas. It was suggested that the latter may involve a larger piece of work and a working group to be set up.

RESOLVED – the Work Programme be agreed with the abovementioned additions and those noted elsewhere in these minutes.

407 FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS (SC72)

Members received the Forward Plan of Executive and Council decisions.

RESOLVED – the Forward Plan be noted.

408 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) Finance & Audit Services Select Committee, 22 December 2008 (SC73);
- (ii) Barwell & Earl Shilton Scrutiny Working Group, 26 January 2009 (SC74).

(The meeting closed at 8.32 pm)

CHAIRMAN

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

2 APRIL 2009 AT 6.45 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman
Mrs R Camamile - Joint Vice-Chairman
Mr P Hall - Joint Vice-Chairman

Mr PR Batty, Mr PS Bessant, Mr DM Gould, Mrs A Hall, Mr DW Inman, Mr CG Joyce, Mr C Ladkin, Dr JR Moore, Mr K Nichols, Mrs S Sprason and Mrs B Witherford.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mr Michael Brymer, Mrs S Crossfield, Ms E Grant, Mr R Grantham, Miss L Horton, Mr M Hryniw, Mrs B Imison, Mr S Kohli, Mr D Moore, Miss R Owen, Mr R Palmer, Mr D Potter, Mr TM Prowse and Mrs J Puffet.

486 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr Morrell.

487 **MINUTES (SC75)**

On the motion of Mr Nichols, seconded by Mr Hall, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

488 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs Hall declared a personal interest in report SC79 as a Parish Councillor and member of Burbage Heritage Group. Messrs P Hall, Inman and Lay also declared a personal interest in this report as Parish Councillors.

489 **URGENT ITEM – COUNCIL DECISION ON THE SALE OF LAND AT BRODICK ROAD**

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission had requested that the sale of land at Brodick Road be discussed further to the decision of Council earlier in the week not to sell the land. It was explained that the aim of this discussion was not to review the decision but to consider whether the decision exposed the Council to added risk. Members were reminded that as the decision had been taken in private session, discussions from that meeting remained private.

Mrs Camamile arrived at 6.55pm.

The Executive Member for Finance referred to his claims at the Council meeting that he had not been sufficiently briefed on the date of termination of the agreement with Morris Homes. He said that he had since been made

aware and presented with previous reports (of which members of the Scrutiny Commission had also had sight) which contained the relevant information with regard to the option granted to Morris Homes. He stated that regretted that he had overlooked this information and the opportunity to terminate the agreement with Morris Homes earlier – in September 2008.

With regard to the impact of the decision on the budget, the Director of Finance explained that the Capital Programme would now be £1m short of funds and that savings would have to be found from other projects or the programme kept intact which would give rise to Revenue implications of £55,000 at best and £80,000 at worse if the Council was to borrow £1m to fund the current capital programme. Members were reminded that the budget and Capital Programme had already been set but that if this decision had been made earlier the shortage of funds could have been budgeted for. It was stated that the Capital Programme would be revised within the next few weeks before the Medium Term Financial Strategy is presented to Council on 28 April.

In terms of the legal risks, it was reported that the only legal responsibility was under the pre-emption agreement and that there were no strong grounds for Morris Homes to make any claims. As such, the only risk to the Council would be in defending any claims made and the requirement of the pre-emption agreement to offer Morris Homes an alternative site. The Director of Finance stated that the requirement to offer another site to Morris Homes in the current economic climate when land values had diminished and were at the lowest levels for some time had the risk of further diluting the Council's asset base.

Mr Bessant left the meeting at 7.40pm. Messrs Bill and Lynch left at 7.43pm.

490 CONSULTATION RESULTS – CITIZENS' PANEL – WINTER 2008/09 (SC76)

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of the findings of the citizens' panel survey conducted in December 2008. The key results from the survey were presented to the Commission.

Mr Bessant returned to the meeting at 7.46pm.

During the presentation and discussion on the report, the following points were raised:

- The local press was the greatest influence on public perception of the Council;
- The spread of members of the citizens' panel was representative of the population both geographically and demographically.

With regard to litter picking, Members raised concerns with regard to the A46, and in response it was explained that there was joint responsibility for cleansing along this route. Members felt that there was still a lot of litter on this road and that the matter should be looked into. Litter picking near to schools was also discussed and it was confirmed that a report on proposed changes was planned which would hopefully recommend increasing litter picking near schools.

RESOLVED –

- (i) Officers look into the issues raised with regard to litter picking on the A46;
- (ii) the results be considered in conjunction with the development of Business Delivery Plans.

491 ANNUAL REPORT – RURAL AREAS REVIEW (SC77)

Members were updated on the achievements and outcomes arising from the annual rural areas review 2008/09. It was stated that the Executive Member for Rural Affairs held six-monthly monitoring meetings with regard to this and that the majority of the recommendations arising from the original review had been completed or had become an integral part of the Council's work programme through Business Development Plans.

It was suggested that the focus of the review should now be examined in light of the current Corporate Plan, with the Executive Member driving this. Members of the Scrutiny Commission supported this suggestion but asked that the Scrutiny Commission continues to receive an annual report.

With regard to services in the rural areas, it was requested that Parish Clerks receive schedules of grounds maintenance and street cleansing so they could inform the community when these activities were planned and monitor and provide feedback following the activity. Officers agreed to publish the new schedules when the service review had been completed.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the Executive Member for Rural Affairs be RECOMMENDED to examine the focus of the review in light of the current Corporate Plan;
- (ii) annual reports continue to be presented to the Scrutiny Commission.

492 HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (SC78)

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of changes to the Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety Partnership's Crime and Disorder Reduction plan 2008/2011 made through its statutory annual refresh and of the Council's Beacon Round 10 award. During presentation of this report reference was made to how a small authority with limited resources can achieve a safe place with innovative schemes and partnership working.

Members congratulated officers on the report and the success of the partnership. It was hoped that schemes such as neighbourhood watch would be adopted in other areas of the borough as they had been so successful in Burbage, but it was noted that the ongoing cost of such schemes was high. Members expressed their gratitude to the Community Safety Manager and Inspector Martyn Ball of Hinckley LPU for their hard work and success.

RESOLVED – the Partnership’s refreshed plan for 2009/10 and related priority action plans be endorsed.

493 PARISH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND (SC79)

At this juncture, Mr Batty declared a personal interest in this item as a Parish Councillor.

Members were provided with a presentation which showed how some of the Parish & Community Initiative Fund had been used by parishes previously, and outlined the Assessment Panel’s recommendations for the awarding of this year’s funds. It was noted that 18 applications had been accepted (two had been withdrawn) totalling £263,000 – the Council’s contribution to this would be £84,000.

The Executive Member for Rural Affairs said he would like to carry the underspend forward and the Scrutiny Commission supported this. Officers confirmed that they would not reduce the budget as a result of the underspend.

RESOLVED – the Scrutiny Commission

- (i) supports the proposals made by the Assessment Panel; and
- (ii) RECOMMENDS:
 - (a) that SLB approves these proposals;
 - (b) that the underspend be carried forward.

Mr Crooks left the meeting at 8.38pm and Mrs Hall left at 8.40pm.

494 ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY (SC80)

The Scrutiny Commission was presented with the final draft of the Hinckley & Bosworth Economic Regeneration Strategy 2009-2012.

Concern was expressed with regard to the current economic climate and businesses that may be struggling as a result. It was suggested that a development agency-type initiative be investigated by which programmes could be facilitated by the Authority but run by commercial (perhaps local) companies, drawing on government initiatives. Members supported this suggestion.

Mrs Hall returned to the meeting at 8.45pm.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the publication of the Strategy be supported;
- (ii) the support that may be provided by the Borough Council be investigated.

Mrs Camamile left the meeting at 8.47pm.

495 HINCKLEY TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SC81)

Members were presented with proposed amendments to the above document which had been prepared jointly with Leicestershire County Council and consultants White Young Green. It was noted that the document supported the current Area Action Plan and had been through working groups and would soon require approval by Council.

Mrs Camamile returned to the meeting at 8.50pm.

Members highlighted the importance of improving cycle routes and looking at initiatives such as 'cycle parks' due to the need to change transport culture.

Mr Batty left the meeting at 8.49pm and returned at 8.51pm.

Members were asked to feed any comments back to Richard Palmer within ten days of this meeting.

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed and the SPD be RECOMMENDED for adoption by Council.

496 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (SC82)

Further to a request at the last meeting of the Scrutiny Commission to hold a review of the Local Development Scheme process, Members were provided with some initial information on the Scheme, in particular the timetable for consultation and examination of the Development Plan Documents currently being prepared. Officers explained that there were many aspects to consider including the Planning Inspectorate timetable, and that the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant was awarded according to meeting milestones.

It was felt that there were two aspects which needed investigating, firstly whether the process was fair, and secondly if it had been followed. It was suggested that a working group be set up to look at the issues. It was also requested that the LDF working group be reformed, although it was noted that this was not a working group of Scrutiny and therefore the Commission could only recommend that it be reconvened.

It was agreed that Mr Bessant would chair the working group, and that it would consist of five Councillors including the Chairman.

RESOLVED –

- (i) a working group be set up, chaired by Mr Bessant along with four other Members;
- (ii) the LDF working group be RECOMMENDED to reform.

497 COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

The Scrutiny Commission were informed of the Councillor Call for Action which came into force on 1 April 2009 and which allowed for Councillors to call for a Scrutiny debate on a topic of neighbourhood concern. It was stated that a full report and procedure would be brought to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission.

Mr Inman left the meeting at 9.21pm.

498 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORKSHOP

Members were informed that a Scrutiny planning and training evening would be held at the Council offices on 30 April at 6.30pm, with a buffet available from 6.00pm.

499 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09 (SC84)

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2008/09.

The Chairman reported that she had met with representatives of Blaby District Council's scrutiny function to discuss joint scrutiny. It was also suggested that a public transport review be added to next year's work programme.

RESOLVED – the Work Programme be agreed.

500 FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS (SC84)

Members received the Forward Plan of Executive and Council decisions.

RESOLVED – the Forward Plan be noted.

501 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) Council Services Select Committee, 28 January 2009 (SC86);
- (ii) Finance & Audit Services Select Committee, 16 February 2009 (SC87).

(The meeting closed at 9.29 pm)

COUNCIL – 28 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – SETTING OF PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS,
TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2009/10

1. Purpose of Report

This report outlines the Council's prudential indicators for 2009/10 – 2011/12 and sets out the expected treasury operations for this period. It fulfils four key legislative requirements:

- The reporting of the **prudential indicators** setting out the expected capital activities (as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities – Paragraph 3A);
- The Council's **Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy**, which sets out how the Council will pay for capital assets through revenue each year (as required by Regulation under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 – Also Paragraph 3A);
- The **treasury management strategy statement** which sets out how the Council's treasury service will support the capital decisions taken above, the day to day treasury management and the limitations on activity through treasury prudential indicators. The key indicator is the **Authorised Limit**, the maximum amount of debt the Council could afford in the short term, but which would not be sustainable in the longer term. This is the Affordable Borrowing Limit required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. This is in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and shown at Paragraph 3B;
- The **investment strategy** which sets out the Council's criteria for choosing investment counterparties and limiting exposure to the risk of loss. This strategy is in accordance with the CLG Investment Guidance. And also shown in Paragraph 3B.

2. Recommendation

Council is asked to approve:

1. The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2009/10 to 2011/12 contained within paragraph 3A of the report.
2. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement contained within paragraph 3A which sets out the Council's policy on MRP.
3. The Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10 to 2011/12 and the treasury Prudential Indicators contained within Paragraph 3B.
4. The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator.

5. The Investment Strategy 2009/10 contained in the treasury management strategy (paragraph 3B), and the detailed criteria included in Appendix 1.

3. Background

A The Capital Prudential Indicators 2009/10 – 2011/12

Introduction

1. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to adopt the CIPFA Prudential Code and produce prudential indicators. Each indicator either summarises the expected capital activity or introduces limits upon that activity, and reflects the outcome of the Council's underlying capital appraisal systems. This report updates currently approved indicators and introduces new indicators for 2011/12.
2. Within this overall prudential framework there is an impact on the Council's treasury management activity – as it will directly impact on borrowing or investment activity. As a consequence the treasury management strategy for 2009/10 to 2011/12 is included as paragraph 3B to complement these indicators, and treasury strategy includes the prudential indicators relating specifically to the treasury activity.

The Capital Expenditure Plans

3. The Council's capital expenditure plans are summarised below and this forms the first of the prudential indicators. A certain level of capital expenditure is grant supported by the Government; any decisions by the Council to spend above this level will be considered unsupported capital expenditure. This needs to be affordable, sustainable and prudent. The revenue consequences of unsupported expenditure will need to be paid for from the Council's own resources.
4. This capital expenditure can be paid for immediately (by applying capital resources such as capital receipts, capital grants etc., or revenue resources), but if these resources are insufficient any residual expenditure will add to the Council's borrowing need.
5. The key risks to the plans are that the level of Government support has been estimated and is therefore maybe subject to change. Similarly some estimates for other sources of funding, such as capital receipts, may also be subject to change over this timescale. Anticipated asset sales may be postponed due to the impact of the credit crisis on the property market.
6. The Council is asked to approve the summary capital expenditure projections below. This forms the first prudential indicator:

Table 1

Capital Expenditure £'000	2008/09 Revised	2009/10 Estimated	2010/11 Estimated	2011/12 Estimated
Non-HRA	4,998	9,197	5,532	2,512
HRA	2,513	2,698	2,594	2,578
Financed by:				
Capital receipts	3,011	4,099	3,578	1,881
Capital grants & Contributions	1,800	4,669	1,813	790
Revenue	2,036	2,294	2,071	2,036
Net financing need for the year	664	833	664	383

The Council's Borrowing Need (the Capital Financing Requirement)

7. The second prudential indicator is the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is simply the total outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need. The capital expenditure above which has not immediately been financed will increase the CFR.

8. The Council is asked to approve the CFR projections below:

Table 2

£'000	2008/09 Revised	2009/10 Estimated	2010/11 Estimated	2011/12 Estimated
Capital Financing Requirement				
CFR – Non Housing	10,529	10,395	10,085	10,065
CFR – Housing	1,208	1,766	2,324	2,324
Total CFR	11,737	12,161	12,409	12,389
Movement in CFR	301	424	248	-20

Movement in CFR represented by				
Net financing need for the year (above)	664	833	664	383
MRP/VRP and other financing movements	363	409	416	403
Movement in CFR	301	424	248	-20

9. The Council is required to pay off an element of the accumulated General Fund capital spend each year through a revenue charge (the Minimum Revenue Provision - MRP), although it is also allowed to undertake additional voluntary payments (VRP).

10. CLG Regulations have been issued which require full Council to approve **an MRP Statement** in advance of each year. A variety of options are provided to councils to replace the existing Regulations, so long as there is a prudent provision. The Council is recommended to approve the following MRP Statement :

11. For capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008 or which in the future will Supported Capital Expenditure, the MRP policy will be:
- **Existing practice** - MRP will follow the existing practice outline in former CLG Regulations (currently 4% of CFR)
12. From 1 April 2008 for all unsupported borrowing the MRP policy will be
- **Asset Life Method** – MRP will be based on the estimated life of the assets, in accordance with the proposed regulations (this option must be applied for any expenditure capitalised under a Capitalisation Direction)

The Use of the Council’s resources and the Investment Position

13. The application of resources (capital receipts, reserves etc.) to either finance capital expenditure or other budget decisions to support the revenue budget will have an ongoing impact on investments unless resources are supplemented each year from new sources (asset sales etc.). Detailed below are estimates of the year end balances for each resource and anticipated day to day cash flow balances.

Table 3

Year End Resources £'000	2008/09 Revised	2009/10 Estimated	2010/11 Estimated	2011/12 Estimated
Fund balances	2,757	2,539	2,539	2,539
Capital receipts	5,191	1,642	804	0
Earmarked reserves	2,705	2,439	2,439	2,439
Provisions	156	0	0	0
Total Core Funds	10,809	6,620	5,782	4,978
Working Capital*	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Under borrowing	8,437	7,620	6,782	5,978
Expected Investments	3,372	0	0	0

* Working capital balances shown are estimated year end; these may be higher mid year and may be adjusted for planned over/under borrowing.

Affordability Prudential Indicators

14. The previous sections cover the overall capital and control of borrowing prudential indicators, but within this framework prudential indicators are required to assess the affordability of the capital investment plans. These provide an indication of the impact of the capital investment plans on the Council’s overall finances. The Council is asked to approve the following indicators:
15. **Actual and Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream** – This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

Table 4

%	2008/09 Revised	2009/10 Estimated	2010/11 Estimated	2011/12 Estimated
Non-HRA	-1.9	2.4	5.1	5.1
HRA	20.6	20.1	20.1	20.1

16. The estimates of financing costs include current commitments and the proposals in this report.

17. **Estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Council Tax** – This indicator identifies the revenue costs associated with *new schemes* introduced to the three year capital programme recommended in this budget report compared to the Council's existing approved commitments and current plans. The assumptions are based on the budget, but will invariably include some estimates, such as the level of Government support, which are not published over a three year period.

18. **Incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Band D Council Tax**

Table 5

£	Proposed Budget 2008/09	Forward Projection 2009/10	Forward Projection 2010/11	Forward Projection 2011/12
Council Tax - Band D	0.00	0.36	-6.77	0.83

19. **Estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on Housing Rent levels** – Similar to the Council tax calculation this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of proposed changes in the housing capital programme recommended in this budget report compared to the Council's existing commitments and current plans, expressed as a discrete impact on weekly rent levels.

20. **Incremental impact of capital investment decisions Housing Rent levels**

Table 6

£	Proposed Budget 2008/09	Forward Projection 2009/10	Forward Projection 2010/11	Forward Projection 2011/12
Weekly Housing Rent levels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

21. This indicator shows the revenue impact on any newly approved schemes, although any discrete impact will be constrained by rent controls.

B Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10 – 2011/12

1. The treasury management service is an important part of the overall financial management of the Council's affairs. The prudential indicators in Appendix A consider the affordability and impact of capital expenditure decisions, and set out the Council's overall capital framework. The treasury service considers the effective funding of these decisions. Together they form part of the process which ensures the Council meets balanced budget requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992. There are specific treasury prudential indicators included in this strategy which require approval.
2. The Council's treasury activities are strictly regulated by statutory requirements and a professional code of practice (the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management). This Council adopted the Code of Practice on Treasury Management on 30 June 2003, and as a result adopted a Treasury Management Policy Statement (30 June 2003). This adoption meets the requirements of the first of the treasury prudential indicators.
3. The Constitution requires an annual strategy to be reported to Council outlining the expected treasury activity for the forthcoming 3 years. A key requirement of this report is to explain both the risks, and the management of the risks, associated with the treasury service. A further treasury report is produced after the year-end to report on actual activity for the year.
4. This strategy covers:
 - The Council's debt and investment projections;
 - The Council's estimates and limits on future debt levels;
 - The expected movement in interest rates;
 - The Council's borrowing and investment strategies;
 - Treasury performance indicators;
 - Specific limits on treasury activities;

Debt and Investment Projections 2009/10 – 2011/12

5. The borrowing requirement comprises the expected movement in the CFR and any maturing debt which will need to be re-financed. The table below shows this effect on the treasury position over the next three years. The expected debt position at the end of each year represents the Operational Boundary prudential indicator. The table also highlights the expected change in investment balances.

Table 7

£'000	2008/09 Revised	2009/10 Estimated	2010/11 Estimated	2011/12 Estimated
External Debt				
Debt at 1 April	11,436	11,737	12,161	12,409
Expected change in debt	301	424	248	-20
Debt at 31 March	11,737	12,161	12,409	12,389
<i>The debt estimated at 31 March represents the Council's Operational Boundary</i>				
Investments				
Total Investments at 31 March	3,372	0	0	0
Investment change	-3,578	-3,372	0	0

6. The related impact of the above movements on the revenue budget are:

Table 8

£'000	2008/09 Revised	2009/10 Estimated	2010/11 Estimated	2011/12 Estimated
Revenue Budgets				
Interest on Borrowing	13	19	11	-1
Related HRA Charge	25	25	25	0
Net General Fund Borrowing Cost	-12	-6	-14	-1
Investment income	-137	-66	0	0

Limits to Borrowing Activity

7. Within the prudential indicators there are a number of key indicators to ensure the Council operates its activities within well defined limits
8. For the first of these the Council needs to ensure that its total borrowing net of any investments, does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2009/10 and the following two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years.

Table 9

£'000	2008/09 Revised	2009/10 Estimated	2010/11 Estimated	2011/12 Estimated
Gross Borrowing	11,737	12,161	12,409	12,389
Investments	3,372	0	0	0
Net Borrowing	8,365	12,161	12,409	12,389
CFR	11,737	12,161	12,409	12,389

9. The Director of Finance reports that the Council complied with this prudential indicator in the current year and does not envisage

difficulties for the future. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in this budget report.

10. The Authorised Limit for External Debt – A further key prudential indicator represents a control on the overall level of borrowing. This represents a limit beyond which external debt is prohibited, and this limit needs to be set or revised by full Council. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all councils' plans, or those of a specific council, although no control has yet been exercised.

11. The Council is asked to approve the following Authorised Limit:

Table 10

Authorised limit £'000	2008/09 Revised	2009/10 Estimated	2010/11 Estimated	2011/12 Estimated
Borrowing	15,737	16,161	16,409	16,389
Other long term liabilities	164	128	92	56
Total	15,901	16,289	16,501	16,445

Expected Movement in Interest Rates

Medium-Term Rate Estimates (averages)

Table 11

Annual Average %	Bank Rate	Money Rates		PWLB Rates*		
		3 month	1 year	5 year	20 year	50 year
2008/09	3.9	5.0	5.3	4.2	4.8	4.5
2009/10	1.0	1.6	1.8	2.4	3.9	3.8
2010/11	1.7	2.1	2.8	3.2	4.1	4.0
2011/12	2.4	2.8	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.1

* Borrowing Rates

12. The UK economy has entered a profound recession, worsened by a dangerous combination of negative growth and dislocation in the domestic and world financial markets. The situation in the economy is considered critical by the policy setters who are concerned that the testing financial environment, the sharp decline in house prices and persistently tight credit conditions could trigger a collapse in consumer confidence. At best this could deliver a short, sharp downturn, at worst a prolonged Japanese-style recession.

13. The sharp downturn in world commodity, food and oil prices, the lack of domestic wage pressures and weak retail demand promises a very steep decline in inflation in the year ahead. In the recent pre-Budget

Report, the Treasury suggested RPI inflation could fall to **minus 2.25%** by September 2009. Inflation considerations will not be a constraint upon Bank of England policy action. Indeed, the threat of deflation strengthens the case for more aggressive policy ease.

14. The Government's November pre-Budget Report did feature some fiscal relaxation but it also highlighted the very poor health of public sector finances. The size of the package is considered insufficient to kick-start the economy. The onus for economic stimulation will fall upon monetary policy and the Bank of England.
15. The Bank will continue to ease policy and the need to drive commercial interest rates, currently underpinned by the illiquidity of the money market, to much lower levels suggests the approach will be more aggressive than might otherwise have been the case. A Bank Rate below 1% is now a reality and short-term LIBOR rates of below 2% may result. Only when the markets return to some semblance of normality will official rates be edged higher.
16. Long-term interest rates will be the victim of conflicting forces. The threat of deep global recession should drive bond yields to yet lower levels and this will be a favourable influence upon the sterling bond markets. But the prospect of exceptionally heavy gilt-edged issuance in the next three years (totalling in excess of £100bn per annum), as the Government seeks to finance its enormous deficit, could severely limit the downside potential for yields.

Borrowing Strategy 2009/10 – 2011/12

17. The uncertainty over future interest rates increases the risks associated with treasury activity. As a result the Council will take a cautious approach to its treasury strategy.
18. Long-term fixed interest rates are at risk of being higher over the medium term. The Director of Finance, under delegated powers, will take the most appropriate form of borrowing depending on the prevailing interest rates at the time, taking into account the risks shown in the forecast above. It is likely that shorter term fixed rates may provide better opportunities
19. With the likelihood of a steepening of the yield curve debt restructuring is likely focus on switching from longer term fixed rates to cheaper shorter term debt, although the Director of Finance and treasury consultants will monitor prevailing rates for any opportunities during the year.
20. The option of postponing borrowing and running down investment balances will also be considered. This would reduce counterparty risk and hedge against the expected fall in investments returns.
21. The Director of Finance in consultation with the Treasury Advisors (Butlers) repaid a PWLB loan of £2.5m in January 2009. The interest being charged on this loan at 4.55% was in excess of the interest that could be earned by investing the money and this has generated a net saving after taking into account the premium paid of **£108,000** pa in a full year.

Investment Counterparty and Liquidity Framework

22. The primary principle governing the Council's investment criteria is the security of its investments, although the yield or return on the investment is also a key consideration. After this main principle the Council will ensure:

- It maintains a policy covering both the categories of investment types it will invest in, criteria for choosing investment counterparties with adequate security, and monitoring their security. This is set out in the Specified and Non-Specified investment sections below.
- It has sufficient liquidity in its investments. For this purpose it will set out procedures for determining the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed. These procedures also apply to the Council's prudential indicators covering the maximum principal sums invested.

23. The Director of Finance will maintain a counterparty list in compliance with the following criteria and will revise the criteria and submit them to Council for approval as necessary. This criteria is separate to that which chooses Specified and Non-Specified investments as it selects which counterparties the Council will choose rather than defining what its investments are. The rating criteria use the **lowest common denominator** method of selecting counterparties and applying limits. This means that the application of the Council's minimum criteria will apply to the lowest available rating for any institution. For instance if an institution is rated by two agencies, one meets the Council's criteria, the other does not, the institution will fall outside the lending criteria.

- **Banks 1** – the Council will use banks which have at least the following Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors ratings (where rated):
 - **Short Term** – *F1*
 - **Long Term** – *A*
 - **Individual / Financial Strength** – *C* (Fitch / Moody's only)
 - **Support** – *3* (Fitch only)
- **Banks 2** – In addition, the Council will use banks whose ratings fall below the criteria specified above if all of the following conditions are met:
 - (a) wholesale deposits in the bank are covered by a government guarantee;
 - (b) the government providing the guarantee is rated "AAA" by all three major rating agencies (Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors); and
 - (c) the Council's investments with the bank are limited to amounts and maturities within the terms of the stipulated guarantee.

- **Banks 3** - the organisation is an Eligible Institution for the HM Treasury Credit Guarantee Scheme initially announced on 13 October 2008
- **Banks 4** – The Council's own banker if this falls below the above criteria
- **Bank Subsidiary and Treasury Operations** – the Council will use these where the parent bank has the necessary ratings outlined above.
- **Building Societies** – the Council will use all Societies with assets in excess of £500m
- **Money Market Funds** – AAA
- **UK Government** (including gilts and the DMADF – Debt Management Office Deposit Account Facility)
- **Local Authorities, Parish Councils etc**
- **Supranational institutions**

24. Due to the uncertainty in the financial markets it is recommended that the Investment Strategy is approved on a similar approach to previous years which will provide officers with the flexibility to deal with any unexpected occurrences. Officers will restrict the pool of available counterparties from this criteria to safer instruments and institutions. Currently this involves the use of the DMADF, AAA rated Money Market Funds and institutions with higher credit ratings than those outlined in the investment strategy or which are provided support from the Government. Investments are being maintained short term to also improve the security of investments.

25. The proposed criteria for Specified and Non-Specified investments are shown in Appendix 1 for approval.

26. In the normal course of the council's cash flow operations it is expected that both Specified and Non-specified investments will be utilised for the control of liquidity as both categories allow for short term investments.

27. The use of longer term instruments (greater than one year from inception to repayment) will fall in the Non-specified investment category. These instruments will only be used where the Council's liquidity requirements are safeguarded. This will also be limited by the investment prudential indicator below.

Investment Strategy 2009/10 – 2011/12

28. Expectations on shorter-term interest rates, on which investment decisions are based, show a likelihood of the current 0.5% Bank Rate and maintaining that level throughout 2009 and into 2010. The Council's investment decisions are based on comparisons between the rises priced into market rates against the Council's and advisers own forecasts.

29. There is a clear operational difficulty arising from the current banking crisis. Ideally investments would be invested longer to secure better returns, however uncertainty over counterparty creditworthiness suggests shorter dated investments would provide better security.
30. The criteria for choosing counterparties set out above provide a sound approach to investment in “normal” market circumstances. Whilst Members are asked to approve this base criteria above, under the exceptional current market conditions the Director of Finance will temporarily restrict further investment activity to those counterparties considered of higher credit quality than the minimum criteria set out for approval. These restrictions will remain in place until the banking system returns to “normal” conditions. Similarly the time periods for investments will be restricted.
31. Examples of these restrictions would be the greater use of the Debt Management Deposit Account Facility (DMADF – a Government body which accepts local authority deposits), Money Market Funds, guaranteed deposit facilities and strongly rated institutions offered support by the UK Government. The credit criteria has been amended to reflect these facilities.

Sensitivity to Interest Rate Movements

32. Future Council accounts will be required to disclose the impact of risks on the Council’s treasury management activity. Whilst most of the risks facing the treasury management service are addressed elsewhere in this report (credit risk, liquidity risk, market risk, maturity profile risk), the impact of interest rate risk is discussed but not quantified. All the instruments used by the Council are fixed term/fixed interest and therefore there is no interest rate risk.

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators and Limits on Activity

33. There are four further treasury prudential indicators. The purpose of these prudential indicators is to contain the activity of the treasury function within certain limits, thereby managing risk and reducing the impact of an adverse movement in interest rates. However if these are set to be too restrictive they will impair the opportunities to reduce costs. The indicators are:
 - Upper limits on variable interest rate exposure – This indicator identifies a maximum limit for variable interest rates based upon the debt position net of investments
 - Upper limits on fixed interest rate exposure – Similar to the previous indicator this covers a maximum limit on fixed interest rates.
 - Maturity structures of borrowing – These gross limits are set to reduce the Council’s exposure to large fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing, and are required for upper and lower limits
 - Total principal funds invested for greater than 364 days – These limits are set to reduce the need for early sale of an investment, and are based on the availability of funds after each year-end.

34. The Council is asked to approve the following prudential indicators:

Table12

£m	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Interest rate Exposures			
	Upper	Upper	Upper
Limits on fixed interest rates based on net debt	16	16	16
Limits on variable interest rates based on net debt	4	4	4
Maturity Structure of fixed interest rate borrowing 2009/10			
	Lower	Upper	
Under 12 months	0%	100%	
12 months to 2 years	0%	100%	
2 years to 5 years	0%	100%	
5 years to 10 years	0%	100%	
10 years and above	0%	100%	
Maximum principal sums invested > 364 days			
Principal sums invested > 364 days	£5m	£5m	£5m

Performance Indicators

35. The Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires the Council to set performance indicators to assess the adequacy of the treasury function over the year. These are distinct historic indicators, as opposed to the prudential indicators, which are predominantly forward looking. Examples of performance indicators often used for the treasury function are:

- Debt – Borrowing - Average rate of borrowing for the year compared to average available
- Debt – Average rate movement year on year
- Investments – Internal returns above the 7 day LIBID rate

4. Financial Implications

These are contained in the body of the report

5. Legal Implications

There are none arising directly from this report

6. Corporate Plan Implications

Delivery of the Prudential Indicators contributes to the achievement of Strategic Objective 3: “Deliver the Councils Medium Term Financial with a sustained focus on the Council’s priorities whilst working to resolve the continuing pressure of service requirements in the context of available resources”.

7. 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:

Management of Significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating Actions	Owner
Failure to achieve planned level of capital expenditure on the Capital Programme	Monitor expenditure via Budget Monitoring process and Capital Forum	Ilyas Bham
Failure to generate sufficient Capital Receipts and/or grants and other external funding to support the proposed programme	Look to revise the programme to bring spend into line with available resources	Ilyas Bham

8. Rural Implications

Schemes in the Capital Programme cover all services and all areas of the Borough including rural areas

9. 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: Capital Programme 2008/09 to 2001/12
The CIPFA Prudential Code
Treasury Management Policy
Revenue Budget 2009/10

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Executive Member: Cllr K.W.P. Lynch

11C28Apr09

Appendix 1

Treasury Management Practice (TMP) 1 (5) – Credit and Counterparty Risk Management

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now CLG) issued Investment Guidance on 12th March 2004, and this forms the structure of the Council's policy below. These guidelines do not apply to either trust funds or pension funds which are under a different regulatory regime.

The key intention of the Guidance is to maintain the current requirement for Councils to invest prudently, and that priority is given to security and liquidity before yield. In order to facilitate this objective the guidance requires this Council to have regard to the CIPFA publication Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes. This Council adopted the Code on 30 June 2003 and will apply its principles to all investment activity. In accordance with the Code, the Director of Finance has produced its treasury management practices. This part, TMP 1(5), covering investment counterparty policy requires approval each year.

Annual Investment Strategy - The key requirements of both the Code and the investment guidance are to set an annual investment strategy, as part of its annual treasury strategy for the following year, covering the identification and approval of following:

- The strategy guidelines for decision making on investments, particularly non-specified investments.
- The principles to be used to determine the maximum periods for which funds can be committed.
- Specified investments the Council will use. These are high security (i.e. high credit rating, although this is defined by the Council, and no guidelines are given), and high liquidity investments in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year.
- Non-specified investments, clarifying the greater risk implications, identifying the general types of investment that may be used and a limit to the overall amount of various categories that can be held at any time.

This strategy is to be approved by full Council.

The investment policy proposed for the Council is:

Strategy Guidelines – The main strategy guidelines are contained in the body of the treasury strategy statement.

Specified Investments – These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity, or those which could be for a longer period but where the Council has the right to be repaid within 12 months if it wishes. These are low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include investments with:

1. The UK Government (such as the Debt Management Account deposit facility, UK Treasury Bills or a Gilt with less than one year to maturity).

2. Supranational bonds of less than one year's duration.
3. A local authority, parish council or community council.
4. Pooled investment vehicles (such as money market funds) that have been awarded a high credit rating by a credit rating agency.
5. A body that has been awarded a high credit rating by a credit rating agency (such as a bank or building society).

For category 4 this covers pooled investment vehicles, such as money market funds, rated AAA by Standard and Poor's, Moody's or Fitch rating agencies.

For category 5 this covers bodies with a minimum rating of F1 (or the equivalent) as rated by Standard and Poor's, Moody's or Fitch rating agencies. Within these bodies, and in accordance with the Code, the Council has set additional criteria to set the time and amount of monies which will be invested in these bodies. This criteria is up to £5 for up to 1 year.

Non-Specified Investments – Non-specified investments are any other type of investment (i.e. not defined as Specified above). The identification and rationale supporting the selection of these other investments and the maximum limits to be applied are set out below. Non specified investments would include any sterling investments with:

	Non Specified Investment Category	Limit
a.	<p>Supranational Bonds greater than 1 year to maturity</p> <p>(a) Multilateral development bank bonds - These are bonds defined as an international financial institution having as one of its objects economic development, either generally or in any region of the world (e.g. European Investment Bank etc.).</p> <p>(b) A financial institution that is guaranteed by the United Kingdom Government (e.g. The Guaranteed Export Finance Company {GEFCO})</p> <p>The security of interest and principal on maturity is on a par with the Government and so very secure, and these bonds usually provide returns above equivalent gilt edged securities. However the value of the bond may rise or fall before maturity and losses may accrue if the bond is sold before maturity.</p>	<p>£3m</p> <p>£3m</p>
b.	<p>Gilt edged securities with a maturity of greater than one year. These are Government bonds and so provide the highest security of interest and the repayment of principal on maturity. Similar to category (a) above, the value of the bond may rise or fall before maturity and losses may accrue if the bond is sold before maturity.</p>	£3m
c.	<p>A body which has been provided with a government issued guarantee for wholesale deposits within specific timeframes. Where these guarantees are in place and the government has an AAA sovereign long term rating these</p>	£3m

	institutions will be included within the Council's criteria temporarily until such time as the ratings improve or the guarantees are withdrawn. Monies will only be deposited within the timeframe of the guarantee.	
d.	A body which is an Eligible Institution for the HM Treasury Credit Guarantee Scheme initially announced on 13 October 2008.	£3m
e.	The Council's own banker if it fails to meet the basic credit criteria. In this instance balances will be minimised as far as is possible.	£3m
f.	Building societies not meeting the basic security requirements under the specified investments. The operation of some building societies does not require a credit rating, although in every other respect the security of the society would match similarly sized societies with ratings. The council may use such building societies which have a minimum asset size of £500m, but will restrict these type of investments to £2m	£2m
g.	Any bank or building society that has a minimum long term credit rating of A (Fitch), for deposits with a maturity of greater than one year (including forward deals in excess of one year from inception to repayment). Lending will be up to 3 years	£5m
h.	Any non rated subsidiary of a credit rated institution included in the specified investment category. These institutions will be included as an investment category subject to a limit of £2m for a period of 6 months	£2m

Within categories c, d and e, and in accordance with the Code, the Council has developed additional criteria to set the overall amount of monies which will be invested in these bodies. This criteria is

a) Building Societies £2m for a period of 1 year

b) Banks with a minimum long term rating of A (Fitch) £5m for a period of 3 years.

The Monitoring of Investment Counterparties - The credit rating of counterparties will be monitored regularly. The Council receives credit rating information from Butlers on a daily basis, as and when ratings change, and counterparties are checked promptly. On occasion ratings may be downgraded when an investment has already been made. The criteria used are such that a minor downgrading should not affect the full receipt of the principal and interest. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria will be removed from the list immediately by the Director of Finance, and if required new counterparties which meet the criteria will be added to the list.

COUNCIL – 28 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

RE: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2009/10 TO 2011/12

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider and approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2011/12.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the three year period 2009/10 to 2011/12, subject to scrutiny by Finance and Audit Select Committee at the meeting on 29 April 2009.

3. **COPIES OF THE STRATEGY**

Electronic copies of the Strategy have been circulated on disc with the agenda. Hard copies will be available and will be left in the Annexe to the Council Chamber. If additional hard copies are required before the Council meeting then these will be sent to individual members and other interested parties on request from the Director of Finance.

4. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

The Medium Term Financial Strategy which accompanies this agenda (in electronic form) sets out clearly the Council's financial position for the four years from 2009/10 to 2011/12. The financial strategy underpins the Council's Corporate Plan and ensures that resources are allocated and used effectively to achieve the targets set out in the Corporate Plan whilst at the same time not placing an unreasonable burden on local taxpayers. In order to achieve this, significant levels of savings have been included in the Strategy.

The Strategy sets out the financial planning framework for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and shows how national, regional and local issues are taken into account in planning the resources available for service delivery.

Section 8 of the Strategy sets out the main financial pressures affecting the Council and Section 7 sets out explicitly the 10 financial objectives of the Council. Section 10 sets out the Capital Programme of the Council and emphasises that the programme contains a number of major schemes that have a revenue implication on the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

These financial implications, together with actions required to mitigate the funding gap, are summarised in section 8 and detailed in the appendices in the Strategy.

This revision of the MTFS has been most difficult to put together. The current recessionary economic conditions which are anticipated to last well into the period relevant to this Strategy, present the council with significant challenges as services seek to continue to deliver excellent front line services to the community and ensuring essential and effective support is maintained to the whole organisation.

As well as the economic conditions, the stringent finance settlement for 2009/10 and 2010/11 under CSR07, the reduction in income (Development Control, Building Control and Land Charges), the increased financial burden of the Concessionary Travel Scheme and the uncertainties of the Council's main projects (Bus Station Re-Development, the Business Enterprise Centre at the Goddards Building, the partnership with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, the future of the current Leisure Centre and the alternative options for the long term location of Council offices, in conjunction with the roll out of Flexible Working) all add to the capacity requirements and financial uncertainties for 2009/10 that this council will have to bear, stay abreast of, provide direction to Officers and will require some difficult decisions to be made along the way.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (SK)**

These are contained within the report.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

Council has a statutory requirement to set a budget each year and approve the MTFS, including a three year capital programme. The Capital Programme was approved by Council on 26 February 2009. Without the proper financial planning laid out in the MTFS it is unlikely the Council will be able to comply with its statutory duty to produce a balanced budget and meet the aspirations of the Corporate Plan.

7. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

A robust MTFS is required to ensure that resources are effectively allocated in order to ensure delivery of the aims, outcomes and targets included in the Council's Corporate Plan 2009 -14.

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.

The Risk Management Strategy is the vehicle that manages the risks to the council and the Strategic Risk Register identifies the key risks to successful delivery of the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Realisation of the savings built into the MTFS are critical on the delivery of the financial forecasts underpinning the Strategy. Failure to realise the savings will result in a detrimental impact on service delivery. To mitigate against this the savings will be monitored on a monthly basis and reported quarterly as part of the Corporate Performance Framework.

9. **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

Contact Officer: Sanjiv Kohli, Director of Finance. Ext 5607

Executive Member: Cllr Keith Lynch

Background Papers : Chief Executive's Report to Council on the Corporate Plan Capital Programme 2007/2008 to 2010/11

COUNCIL – 28 April 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

VIREMENT – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To request approval of a virement within the Housing Revenue Account

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That the virement be approved

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

Following the overspend on Capital maintenance expenditure in 2007/08 a significant amount of work has been undertaken in 2008/09 to review the repairs contract. This has involved the use of consultants, the cost of which was not included in the original budget.

It has been possible to identify savings to cover this cost and a formal request for virement is now being made as follows

Budget Head	Increased Budget £	Reduced Budget £
Supervision & Management – General Consultancy Fees		15,000
Repairs - Salaries		20,000
Supervision & Management - Special - Salaries		20,000
Repairs - Consultancy	55,000	

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Savings have been made to cover the additional cost of this work

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are none

6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

This report will provide input into the following Corporate Aim

Decent, well managed and affordable housing

7. **CONSULTATION**

None

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.

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

Management of Significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
None		

9. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

10. **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: Budget Monitoring Reports

Author: David Bunker Accountancy Manager ext 5609

Executive Member : Cllr K W P Lynch

19C28Apr09

COUNCIL – 28 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF HEAD OF CORPORATE AND SCRUTINY SERVICES
RE: POORS PLATT CHARITY, BARWELL – NOMINATIVE TRUSTEES

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider, following an approach from Leicester Charity Link (on behalf of the trustees of the Poors Platt Charity), this Council relinquishing its power of appointment of two nominees.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is requested, having regard to the representations made, to determine whether to relinquish its current nominative powers.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

The trust deeds of the Poors Platt Charity provide that “the Trustees shall apply the income of the Charity as they think for the benefit either of the poor of the area of the Ancient Parish of Barwell generally or of such persons resident therein as they elect”.

At present this Authority has the power to nominate, for a 4 year period, two trustees to the Poors Platt Charity. The Council’s current 2 nominative trustees are Mrs. E. Hemsley and Mr. A. Wheeler, both non-elected members, whose appointments cease in May 2011. In addition it is understood that the trustees comprise the Rector of Barwell, 2 Church Wardens and 2 members of the public. The Charity has recently reviewed its arrangements for the appointment of trustees and in an effort to make the process more manageable is considering a reduction in the number of nominative members. These members would be replaced by co-optative trustees, with the overall number being increased by a maximum of 4 new members. It has been identified that there are a number of gaps in the areas of expertise needed on the board of trustees and these changes have been proposed so as to allow the Charity to recruit a more diverse number of trustees with suitable skills. The move to increase the number of co-optative trustees will allow for a greater degree of flexibility in that recruitment. In consequence of these proposed arrangements the trustees are seeking to remove the Council’s power of appointment, subject to the approval of the Authority. The Charity Commission has been notified of the proposals but has asked Leicester Charity Link to consult with this Council before a formal approach is made to the Commission.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (DB)**

There are none arising directly from this report.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

None raised directly by this report as the Council is only being consulted on this matter.

6. **CONSULTATION**

According to the Trust deeds of this Charity nominative trustees may be, but need not be, members of the Council and shall be approved by the Council on the nomination of the Councillors for the time being representing the ward/wards comprising any part of the Ancient Parish of Barwell. In the light of this the views have been sought of Members representing Hinckley de Montfort Ward, Barwell and Newbold Verdon/Desford/Peckleton. Additionally, Mrs. Hemsley and Mr. Wheeler have been advised of the proposals.

Representation has been received from two consultees that the Council should retain its current position and this view has been reinforced by one of the existing nominative trustees. The suggestion has also been made that the Council should nominate trustees on an annual basis but this would be an issue for determination by the Charity itself.

The other nominative trustees are in general agreement with the changes proposed citing the valuable assistance now received from Leicester Charity Link in ensuring that the Charity remains totally open and that the expansion of numbers will enable the Charity to recruit a more diverse number of trustees with suitable skills.

Any further responses will be reported verbally at the Council meeting.

Background papers: Letters dated 19 February and 20 March from Leicester Charity Link
Trust Deeds, Poors Platt Charity
Minute No. 153 (Council Meeting August 2007)

Contact Officer: Pat Pitt, ext. 5770

Executive Member: Mr. DO Wright

COUNCIL – 28 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RE: APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY PLAN 2009-14, CORPORATE PLAN 2009-14 AND BUSINESS DELIVERY PLANS 2009 - 12

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the Community Plan 2009-14, Corporate Plan 2009-14 and Business Delivery Plans 2009-12.

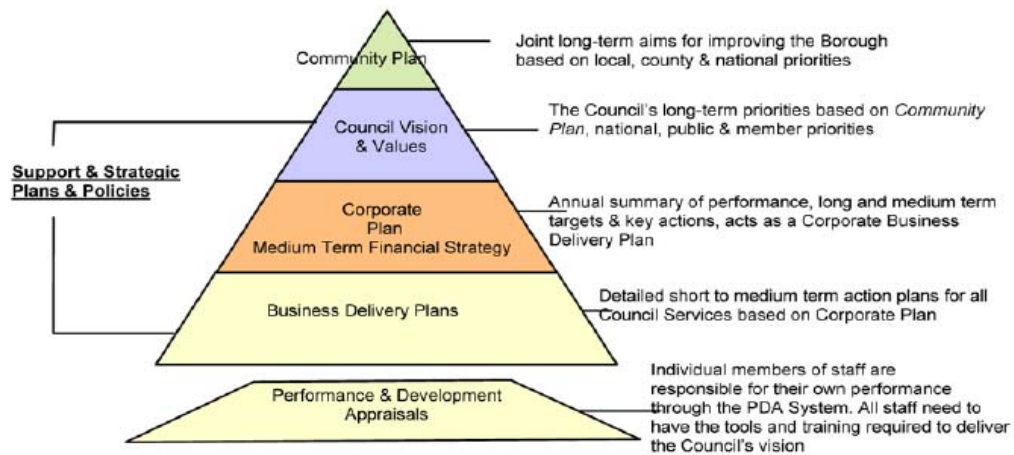
2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- (i) Agree the Community Plan 2009-14
- (ii) Agree the Corporate Plan for 2009-14 together with the underlying Business Delivery Plans 2009-12
- (iii) Agree to delegate any final amendments to the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Business Delivery Plans to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan reflect national, regional and local priorities. Both of these documents have been developed based on extensive consultation and encompass public priorities. The plans are key to the Council's Corporate Planning Framework in order to clearly set the future direction of the Council and define the business activities needed to deliver our Aims.
- 3.2 Sitting below these strategic documents are four Business Delivery Plans owned by services to show in the shorter-term what key actions will be taken to deliver priorities. The Corporate Planning Framework showing how these plans fit together is provided below:



Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy & Local Area Agreement

- 3.3 Leicestershire Together is the County-wide Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The Partnership revised its "Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)" in 2008/09. This document sets out priority issues for Leicestershire over the next five years the top 35 of which form the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Council's Community Plan assists in delivering these wider Leicestershire priorities whilst maintaining a focus on local priorities for Hinckley and Bosworth.

Community Plan

- 3.4 Implementation of the refreshed Community Plan 2009-14 will be overseen by the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).
- 3.5 As part of the continual process to review effective delivery of the Community Plan, the LSP commissioned an independent review in December 2007. The outcomes of this review were considered by partners subsequently and resulted in the formation of the 4 Strategic Priorities detailed in the Community Plan 2009-14. Leicestershire County Council were involved in this process to help provide balance (and avoid duplication) between delivery of local priorities for Hinckley and Bosworth area and the wider Leicestershire priorities contained in the LAA.
- 3.6 Each of the 4 Strategic Priorities is being led by an LSP Board Member.

Corporate Plan and Vision - 'A Borough to be Proud of'

- 3.7 The Council's Corporate Plan 2008-13 was presented to Council on 26 February 2008. It contained 5 Strategic Aims focusing on the delivery of outcomes for local people. This document aligned to and supported delivery of the 4 Community Plan Strategic Priorities. The Executive has agreed progress to deliver outcomes against these 5 Strategic Aims on a quarterly basis during 2008/09.
- 3.8 In view of the move to a focus on 'Place' under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment regime and to maintain a focus to deliver outcomes for local people, a 'refresh' of the Corporate Plan for 2009-14 has been undertaken. As a result:

- The Council's Values have been amended to be more outwardly facing;
- Key ambitions for each Strategic Aim have been identified to show tangibly what the Strategic Aim should mean for local people
- Key deliverables have been identified for each Strategic Aim (with targets) which will be managed through the Performance Management Framework to ensure Aims/ambitions are realised.

Business Delivery Plans

- 3.9 Business Delivery Plans represent how each service will contribute to the achievement of the council's Strategic Aims and overall Vision over a three year period. These have been considered and agreed by the Strategic Leadership Board and are recommended for adoption by the Council as integral to the achievement of the ambitions and key deliverables set out in the Corporate Plan attached to this report. The individual plans are available for Members as background papers in the Members Room.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [DB]**

- 4.1 The financial implications of the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Business Delivery Plans are reflected in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and individual service budgets.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AB]**

- 5.1 None directly associated with this report

6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The report provides a revised Corporate Performance Plan 2009 – 2014. The issues covered in this report identify the specific plans for the achievement of all the Council's Strategic Aims:

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

7. **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Borough-wide consultation exercises have been undertaken to inform the Corporate Performance Plan.

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

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

- 8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 8.3 The Strategic Risk Register identifies the key risks to the organisation and the delivery of the Corporate Performance Plan.

9. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Rural Implications are considered as an integral part of delivering the Community and Corporate Plans.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications - Non directly associated with this report
 - Environmental implications - Non directly associated with this report
 - ICT implications - Non directly associated with this report
 - Asset Management implications - Non directly associated with this report
 - Human Resources implications - Non directly associated with this report

11. **APPENDICIES**

Appendix 1: Draft Community Plan 2009-14

Appendix 2: Draft Corporate Plan 2009-14

Business Delivery Plans 2009-12 are available in the Members Room

Background papers: Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy

Contact Officer: Darren Moore ext 5962

Executive Member: Don Wright

COUNCIL 28 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES
RE: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGY 2008-11

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

That Council agree the draft Climate Change Strategy 2008-11 which demonstrates the Council's approach to addressing the mitigation and adaptation of the possible effects of climate change. The Action Plan already agreed implements the objectives of the Strategy. (Hard copies will be available in the Members Room, or on request and the document will also be placed on the Council's website).

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Council agree the Climate Change Strategy 2008-11

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

3.1 Climate Change has become a national issue and it is acknowledged that local authorities have a key role in promoting actions to reduce the likelihood of significant changes in climate through reducing the impacts of its activities and those across its area. It also requires local authorities to plan ahead to seek to minimise the effects changes in climate will have on its operations and the community. In this rapidly changing area, determining how much a single local authority is able to influence these changes is a balance of political will and available resources against all the other pressing issues including economic downturns. It is however planning ahead for not just for the current generation but future ones.

3.2 The Council has already declared its commitment to reducing green house gases through the signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in November 2004 and 2006 which pledges it to systematically address the causes of climate change and to prepare our community for its impacts.

3.3 An important part of this is producing a Climate Change Strategy identifying adaptation and mitigation approaches to Climate Change. Adaptation is the term used to describe responses to the effects of climate change. In particular, it refers to planned responses aimed at minimising the threats and maximising the opportunities of a changing climate. Mitigation is the term used to describe actions to reduce the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

3.4 An initial draft Strategy was produced to generate an Action Plan for consultation through the Climate Change Action Group in 2007. Following external consultation the Action Plan was adopted by delegated authority by the Director of Community and Planning Services and Executive Member in March 2008 as required under the LAA1 target. The Plan has started being implemented during this year.

3.5 The Council has signed up in Local Area Agreement II to two of the key Climate Change National Performance Indicators: NI185 Reduction of CO₂ from Council Activities and NI188 Planning to Adapt to Climate Change. These will both be key drivers for progress in the Council's performance in Climate Change. The Council is also seeking to be accredited under Eco Management Audit Scheme

(EMAS) again showing a significant commitment to reducing its impact on the environment through accredited performance.

- 3.6 The Strategy has been subjected to consultation and amendment through the Scrutiny Environment Group and public consultation. The final version is available on the website and hard copies are available within the Members area. Any Strategy will be an evolving document as greater understanding of both local and national implications of climate change and new legislative requirements and technology becomes available. The Strategy and Action Plan will be reviewed at least annually and, if significant changes are required, brought back to members.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS(HF/IB)**

All the financial implications arising from the strategy are currently not quantifiable. Many of the required actions arising from the action plan will be achieved through existing budgets. Growth bids will need to be submitted at the appropriate time for consideration in the normal budgeting process. If implications arise after budgets have been set these will have to be reported and approved at the appropriate level in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS[LH]**

None arising from this report

6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

The Strategy and Action Plan will assist the Councils in its aim to achieve a Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhood through the outcome of a Borough that minimises its impact on the environment. One of the Corporate Plan targets is to reduce CO2 levels from Council operations by 7.81% between 2009 and 2011.

7. **CONSULTATION**

Consultation has been carried out through the Scrutiny Environment Group, Environment Steering Group and with the public

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.

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

Opportunities:

High Gold - Significant contribution to delivering of:

A Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhood through the outcome of a Borough that minimises its impact on the environment.

Management of Significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Not implementing a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan could result in missing the target of reduction in carbon dioxide emissions associated with signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and LAA II targets.	Implement the Climate Change Action Plan	Rob Parkinson
Reputation to be the significant risk along with failure to deliver one of our key targets (reduction of CO2).	Delivery of Strategy through adopted Action Plan	Rob Parkinson

9. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

Consultation will be assist in identifying the rural implications of implementing climate change measures.

10. **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

The management of all the Council's activities needs to assess the contribution towards greenhouse gas reduction and the possible adaptations needed to services to react to the effects of climate change over the short term (e.g. flooding events) and long term significant changes in temperature. (e.g. warmer summers changing grounds maintenance schedules)

Background Papers: Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan 2008-11

Contact Officer: Rob Parkinson Head of Community Services (Environment) ext 5641 Jane Neachell Environmental Coordinator 5968

Executive Member Cllr Sandra Franks.

COUNCIL 28 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES

RE: TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Policy in light of the recent consultation exercise and for Council to adopt the Policy as amended.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Council adopt the revised Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Policy (a copy of which is available in the Members Room and on the intranet)

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Following a meeting of the Licensing Regulatory Committee on the 30 April 2008, the Licensing Service was asked to undertake a full review of the Councils Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy.
- 3.2 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council has responsibility for licensing taxi and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators within the borough of Hinckley & Bosworth. It has traditionally exercised this responsibility through a number of different policies and procedures that have been developed over a significant number of years.
- 3.3 Many of these policies have now become outdated and do not adequately assist the trade or the public or truly reflect the situation today in respect of these trades.
- 3.4 Against the above background and in order to ensure that the Council is able to maintain an up to date, and forward looking licensing service, the opportunity has been taken to undertake a root and branch review of all policies and practices relevant to the taxi and private hire licensing service.
- 3.5 The Licensing Regulatory Committee approved the draft policy for consultation on 24 September 2008 and consultation was undertaken between October 2008 and January 2009. Officers have considered all comments made and as a result have amended the policy in the light of representations received and these were reported to Licensing Regulatory Committee on 18 March 2009.
- 3.6 The review process has resulted in this Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Policy that sets out the policies and procedures that the Council intends now to apply in exercising its taxi licensing function.

3.7 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

For ease of reference, the main proposals contained in the policy are summarised below:

- Revising and extending the specification of licensed vehicles including introducing new requirements in respect of disability access, Liquid Petroleum Gas powered vehicles and tinted windows.
- Amending the medical fitness standard for licensed drivers to be to Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency Group 2 Standard (Large Goods Vehicle).
- Revising and extending the conditions attached to private hire drivers and operators licences.
- Revising requirements in respect of advertising and signage on both hackney and private hire vehicles.
- Introducing Disciplinary Hearings.
- Introducing an Enforcement Policy.
- Introducing a Code of Conduct for licensed drivers.
- Introducing a formal policy for Licensing Regulatory Committee.
- Introduction of policies to help promote the use of cleaner and greener fuels.
- Introducing new controls and conditions to bring stretched limousines and similar vehicles properly under licensing control.
- Introducing the requirement of the National Vocational Qualification Level 2 in Road Passenger Transport.
- Introducing the requirement of the Driving Standards Agency driving assessment for all new drivers.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [HF]**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the adoption of this policy.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [MR]**

5.1 None.

6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS [MB]**

6.1 Objective three – A Safer and Healthier Borough.

7. **CONSULTATION [MB]**

7.1 In accordance with the Department for Transport's guidance consultation was undertaken with the following:

- HBBC Licensed Hackney Drivers
- HBBC Taxi and Private Hire Proprietors
- HBBC Ward Councillors
- HBBC Town and Parish Councils
- Neighbouring Authorities
- HBBC Community Safety
- Hinckley Chamber of Trade
- Local businesses and their representatives
- Local residents via their Ward representatives
- Leicestershire Constabulary
- Leicestershire County Council Traffic & Road Safety
- Age Concern
- The National Private Hire Association
- Other members of the Public – via website

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks, which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the risks associated with this decision have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 8.3 The significant risks associated with this report were identified from the assessment as follows.

Management of Significant Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Reputation	In adopting the revised policy the Council is demonstrating its flexibility and responsiveness to changing needs/requirements.	Mark Brymer

9. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The policy will have equal impact on all areas of the Borough.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

- Community Safety Implications [RG] - None.
- Environmental Implications [JN] -

The Environmental Considerations are covered in the report.

- ICT Implications - None.
- Asset Management Implications - None.
- Human Resources Implications - None

Background Papers:

Department for Transport Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Best Practice Guidance 2006
The National Association of Licensing and Enforcement Officers - Model Standard for Taxi and Private Hire Licensing - Published 2007
Department for Transport Guidance for operators of stretch limousines - Published January 2008
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council current Taxi and Private Hire Guidance Document
Town Police Causes Act 1847
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
Transport Act 1985
Road Safety Act 2006
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Constitution
DVLA Medical aspects of Fitness to Drive (Medical Practitioners) Responses to Consultation

Contact Officer: Mark Brymer Principal Licensing Officer ext 5645

Executive Member: Cllr Mrs S. A. Francks

12C28Apr09

COUNCIL - 28 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES

RE: HINCKLEY TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the amendments proposed to the Hinckley Town Centre Strategic Transport Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and adopt the document so that it can be taken into consideration in respect of the submission of future planning applications where relevant.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members agree:-

- (i) The proposed responses to the consultation representations and the necessary amendments incorporated into the document.
- (ii) That the Supplementary Planning Document be subsequently adopted.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which has been in process for sometime, has been prepared jointly by this Council with Leicestershire County Council and consultants, White Young Green, to advise and inform those involved in planning new development in Hinckley. It demonstrates how relevant Borough Council policies and developer contributions will be applied to a Transport Assessment Framework for the town centre.
- 3.2 The SPD sets out the Council's approach when considering planning applications for major new development proposals emanating from the strategic development areas identified in the Hinckley Town Centre Renaissance Masterplan, and proposed through the Area Action Plan for Hinckley, which will be published for submission purposes later this year.
- 3.3 Unidentified proposals, which meet the requirements as identified within the SPD, will also be eligible to make contributions towards the planning of new development. The document provides a clear and transparent strategy for bringing forward infrastructure essential to the regeneration of Hinckley town centre and to take into account developer contributions which, in some cases will have some impact, but not individually sufficient to justify the need for a discrete piece of infrastructure.

- 3.4 The SPD is intended to help support the planning of new development by recognising the aspirations of the aforementioned Masterplan and Area Action Plan which impact on the overall environment, vitality and viability of Hinckley town centre, beyond which individual planning applications would be unlikely to address.
- 3.5 The provision of essential and complementary infrastructure is considered critical to community welfare and improving the quality of the built environment.
- 3.6 To address these requirements a proposed programme of transport action measures has been drawn up to mitigate the impact of new development proposals impacting on Hinckley town centre. The proposals are contained within the executive summary of the SPD which has been attached to this report (Appendix A refers).
- 3.7 A methodology has been developed to divide the costs of the works identified as developer funded in the table, between each of the strategic development sites, to provide an equitable and transparent system and to enable developers to provide funding within the indicated timescales. Again this is detailed in Appendix A.
- 3.8 The draft SPD has previously been considered by Members and, in line with Government requirements, was published, together with a Sustainability Appraisal, for consultation purposes between 28 July 2008 and 8 September 2008.
- 3.9 A summary of representations made in respect of the document together with a justified response to each comment has been placed on the Council's website and a copy placed in the Members room.
- 3.10 Where it has been considered that the document be amended to reflect comments made, alterations have been undertaken and are now reflected in the SPD.
- 3.11 In particular, changes have been incorporated into the final document as follows:-
- To strengthen the link with Circular 05/2005 – Planning Obligations that set out the statutory framework for planning obligations. (Members may recall a recent report to Committee outlining concerns and considerations in relation to developer contributions – Report No. P35 – 18 November 2008).
 - More detailed reasoning behind the methodology proposed has been added into the document.
 - To clearly define the applicable area for contributions (for the purpose of the SPD, the town centre boundary is defined as that defined by the Hinckley Area Action Plan).

- 3.12 A full copy of the Hinckley Town Centre Strategic Transport Development Contributions SPD is available in the Members Room and on the Council's website with the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

Applicability of the SPD

- 3.13 The SPD amplifies guidance contained in the saved Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan – Policy IMP 1 – contributions towards the provision of infrastructure and facilities.
- 3.14 As work on the Local Development Framework progresses, this policy will be superseded by policies contained in newly adopted Development Plan Documents. Consequently, to remain relevant the content of this document will be required to be subject to future review.
- 3.15 The methodology relating to the “pooling of contributions” referred to in paragraph 3.7 is endorsed through Circular 05/2005 (Planning Obligations) which states in paragraph B21 that where the combined impact of a number of developments creates the need for infrastructure, it may be reasonable for developer contributions to be pooled to allow the infrastructure to be secured in a fair and equitable way.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (DB)

- 4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)

- 5.1 Are contained within the body of the report.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The report addresses the following corporate aims:-

Strong and distinctive communities
Cleaner and greener neighbourhoods

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 This SPD has been subject to public consultation in line with Government requirements. The progress of the document has previously been presented to the Hinckley Town Centre Working Party, Executive and Scrutiny Commission.

8. RECOMMENDATION OF SCRUTINY

- 8.1 Scrutiny agreed to approve the report for the adoption of the SPD. However, Scrutiny also agreed a further 10 days be given for the opportunity for additional comments from Members on the Document. No further comments have been received during this time.

9. **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 / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
The Document ceases to remain valid and up to date therefore the contribution towards the provision of infrastructure is lost.	Ensure the Document is reviewed in light of future plan making.	Richard Palmer

10. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report relates to the urban area of Hinckley town centre.

11. **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: Hinckley Town Centre Strategic Transport Development Contributions SPD and Sustainability Appraisal

Appendix A - Proposed Programme of Transportation Measures

Contact Officer: Richard Palmer x5695

Appendix A - Proposed Programme of Transportation Measures

Transportation Measure	Budget Works Cost	Funding	Priority
Upper Bond Street/Trinity Lane/Rugby Road Corridor – Signal Coordination	£144,000	Developer	Medium
Rugby Road/Brunel Road – Signalisation(*2)	-	Developer	Medium
Rugby Road/Hawley Road – Improvement	£390,000	Developer	Short
Hawley Road/Station Road – Signalisation	£290,000	Developer	Short
Brunel Road/Station Road, Mount Road/Station Road Mini Roundabout	£60,000	Developer	Medium
Trinity Lane/Coventry Rd Improvement review (*1)	TBC	Developer	Medium
Car Park – Stockwell Head	£1,197,000	Developer	Medium
Car Parks – Atkins Factory (*4)	£1,609,300	Developers	Medium
Car Park – Bus Station (*2)	-	Bus Station Developer	Medium
Variable Message Signs	£281,000	Developer	Medium
CCTV for Car Parks (*1)	TBC	Developer	Short/Medium
New bus station(*2)		Bus Station Developer	Medium
Regent Street pedestrianisation	£500,000	Developer	Medium
Rail station interchange	£310,000	Developer	Short
Residents Parking Scheme (*3)	TBC	LCC	Medium/Long
Station Road parking restrictions (*3)	TBC	LCC	Short
Station Road bus stop improvements	£30,000	Developer	Short
Rugby Road bus stop improvements	£30,000	Developer	Short
Regent Street bus stop improvements (subject to pedestrianisation proposal)	£30,000	Developer	Short
Castle Street and Upper Castle Street bus stop improvements	£15,000	LTP	Medium
Bus service improvements	£300,000	Developer	Short
star trak bus equipment	£118,000	LCC/bus operator	Short / Medium
Key pedestrian and cycle links provided as part of the Masterplan development sites (*1)	TBC	Developer	Short / Medium
Way Finding Strategy – study	£40,000	Developer	Short
Way Finding Strategy - implementation	£200,000	Developer	Short / Medium
Station Road (between post office and Market Place) footway widening	£72,000	Developer	Long
Station Road junctions with Royal Court and Coley Close pedestrian build outs	£29,000	Developer	Short
Station Road dropped kerbs and tactile paving	£35,000	Developer	
Trinity Lane/Blockley's Yard Toucan	£50,000	Developer	Long
London Road/Park Road junction advanced cycle stop lines	£2,000	Developer	Medium
Town centre cycle parking	£13,500	Developer	Short
Travel Plans (*1)	TBC	Developer	Short / Medium / Long

(*1) – Costs to be met by developers

(*2) – Costs to be met by bus station developer

(*3) – Costs to be met by LCC

(*4) – Assumed 150 operational car park at Atkins

3. In terms of developer/LCC contributions these are split as follows:

- Total cost = £5,745,800 (exc Bus station and bus station site car park)
- Developer funded = £5,612,800 (98% of total cost)
- LCC/Network Rail/Bus operator funded = £133,000 (2% of total cost)

COUNCIL – 28 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES
RE: ALLOCATION OF HOUSING AND PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To identify areas of improvement in the delivery of the planning service that may be funded from the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That Council agree the proposed allocations of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant outlined in Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.11 of this report, amounting to £325,810.

2.2 That the 2008/09 under spend of £40,999 be transferred to the General Fund balances.

3. **COMMENTS OF EXECUTIVE**

At their meeting on 8 April 2009, Executive endorsed the report for consideration by Council.

4. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

The Borough Council has now received notification to confirm the final tranche of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant allocated to Local Authorities for their delivery of housing, e-planning and meeting milestones in the Local Development Framework. Since 2003 there has been money allocated each year to Local Authorities to improve their planning services. Although the money has not been ring-fenced (apart from a requirement to spend 33% on capital), the grant is given specifically to ensure housing delivery whilst maintaining planning performance, and those authorities who in the future do not continue to perform against targets following the investments will have abatements from the new grant system.

The grant does not have to be spent in the current financial year. It is for long-term and sustained improvements to the service.

Having reviewed the areas for improvement, the HPDG may assist in making significant improvements as follows:-

- 4.1 Purchasing of pen-tablets for staff to be able to work more remotely. This will help to move forward the aim of the organisation to encourage staff to work flexibly. A trial scheme commenced in April 2008 until October 2009 and, if successful, we will need to purchase in the region of 20 additional pen-tablets. Cost per pen-tablet with licences, approximately £4,000 - totalling £80,000. If the trial scheme identifies that pen-tablets are not a solution, the £80,000 will assist in setting up

some officers with a package at home in line with the flexible working project. Either way, it will offset £80,000 to the corporate project to purchase equipment for individuals to work from home.

- 4.2 Investing in regeneration and economic development - There is a significant amount of work to be done in implementing the new Economic Development Strategy and assisting in the delivery of the major schemes through the Masterplan. Additional post for 2 years - £65,000. This is the Council's 25% contribution to the £215,000 grant from the LSEP in terms of match funding.
- 4.3 Exhibition Material – There are many events, particularly through the consultations on the LDF documents and the Masterplan work, where we need better display panels and materials as those we have are poor. Exhibition display equipment has improved significantly in recent years with a more manageable and mobile system - £5,000.
- 4.4 Annual Monitoring Officer post is currently funded from the PDG and the temporary contract expires on 31 March 2009. The AMR post is essential to meet the resource necessary to collate all the information for the AMR. The AMR is required by the Government and consists of an assessment of the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in local development documents are being achieved. Although this only takes up part of the post, the current post-holder has excellent technical skills on GIS and mapping systems which assist with the support work to the policy documents. With the loss of this post-holder, it would result in a reduction in skill levels at a time when it is crucial to the plan-making process. It is therefore proposed to allocate £25,000 to retain this post for a further year.
- 4.5 Temporary administration and enforcement support whilst implementing new systems, ie EDMS, 1APP, logging of enforcement complaints, paperless planning application files, use of Anite and support on scanning - £20,000. There is a very apparent need for additional support as we are changing and improving processes during this time when there are a number of significant changes in the way we need to be operating.
- 4.6 LDF Programme Officer to be funded from the HPDG. This is a mandatory requirement as part of the LDF and by funding it from HPDG it reduces the pressure on the LDF reserves - £25,000.
- 4.7 Principal Planning Officer Cover – This current post is to be vacated by the existing member of staff in April 2009. As it is a key post in progressing the Core Strategy DPD and the Town Centre AAP to Examination in April and October 2009 respectively, it is felt essential to recruit as soon as possible to provide an overlap with the existing post-holder and the new one - £5,750.
- 4.8 Training – As there has always been a shortfall in the training budget to meet the needs of the planning service, particularly with CPD requirements and in light of the likely reduction in the budget for future

years, the HPDG may help to bridge the gap to ensure that we still continue to develop staff for the future and is fundamental to ensuring that staff are professionally developed - £10,000.

- 4.9 Rural Housing Enabling Officer – This is to provide a contribution towards a shared post with other districts to provide an updated housing needs survey - £2,060 for 2009/10.
- 4.10 Budget Deficit – It is considered likely that the current economic pressures will prevail throughout 2009/10 and 2010/11. Whilst the number of planning applications has declined, Development Control officers have been redeployed to support work in other areas, eg major projects, planning policy and climate change. It is recommended that the HPDG supports the shortfall in the budget of £38,000 in 2009/10 and £38,000 in 2010/11, which will help to retain the service and staff during this period of economic decline - £76,000.
- 4.11 IT Support – Recently it has been apparent that there are difficulties in capacity to allow scanned information to be viewed in public access. There may be a need to increase service capacity - £10,000 (approximately).

Whilst the above gives a broad indication of likely cost, the need to invest in these areas will help in the regeneration of the Borough, provide more efficient systems and processes and give officers the tools for the job that will help them to be more versatile in their working arrangements. The above totals £325,810, which fully utilises the whole amount of the grant carried over from last year and a large proportion of the new tranche of money allocated this year.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

- 5.1 Appendix A shows that the total revenue expenditure for new projects which require approval for the year 2008/09 is £17,730. This is to be funded by Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) income.
- 5.2 At Executive on 8 April 2009 it was agreed that the predicted under spend on the approved 2008/09 budget of £30,529 be transferred to the Council's General Fund balances. Further work has been carried out to bring estimates to near actual and this has identified a further saving of £10,470. It is recommended that £40,999 be transferred to General Fund balances. This will reduce the amount of grant available and this is reflected in the information in Appendix A.
- 5.3 The total expenditure requiring approval in 2009/10 is £244,080. This total is made up of £164,080 for revenue related projects and £80,000 for capital projects. These budgets will need to be approved by Council. These budgets are funded from PDG income. If the capital element is approved, it will then need to be included within the Council's capital program 2009/10-2011/12.
- 5.4 The Council was required to allocate 25% of PDG income towards capital related projects for grants received in 2007/08 and previous

years. This percentage has now increased to 33% in 2008/09. Appendix A shows that if all the proposed items are approved then £52,743 will still remain unallocated up to the year 2010/11. This full amount will need to be allocated to capital-related projects. The capital shortfall of £42,645 will need to be added to the capital allocation for the 2009/10 grant. The sum of this grant is yet unknown.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)**

None.

7. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

The Housing and Planning Delivery Grant will help to contribute to the Corporate Plan aims in being 'Proud of Value in service Delivery and Investment in People', 'Proud of Our Excellence in Performance Achievements for the Community'.

8. **CONSULTATION**

ICT are working with Planning in identifying the best pen-tablet equipment to use. Finance have been tracking the amount of grant spent to date and assisted in identifying the amounts to be allocated.

9. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

The HPDG supports improvements to the Planning service. If the money is not invested in these projects, it will not be possible to bring forward these changes in a reasonable timescale and will affect performance and development of the service, which has significantly improved with the PDG over the last 4 years.

10. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The HPDG is to improve the delivery of the Planning service across the whole of the Borough.

11. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

- ICT Implications – contained within the report.

Background Papers: HPDG consultation report

Contact Officer: Tracy Darke, Development Services and Policy Manager

Portfolio Holder: Councillor S L Bray

Planning Delivery Grant Schedule- 2008/09,2009/10 & 2010/11							
Appendix A							
			2008/09	2008/09	Variance	2009/10	2010/11
			£	£	£	£	£
		Grant B/F 2007/08 Underspend	(92,212)				
		Grant 2007/08 Reserve	(218,421)				
		New grant 2008/09	(235,449)				
		Grant B/F 2008/09 to 2009/10				(401,822)	
		2008/09 under spend transfer to GF balances				40,999	
		Grant B/F 2009/10 to 2010/11					(116,743)
		Total available	(546,082)			(360,823)	
Ref	Ledger Code	Description	2008/09 Original Budget	Predicted Outturn	Predicted Variance	2009/10 Original Budget	2010/11 Original Budget
			£	£	£	£	£
		Development Control					
1	edq/a5045	Training	4,330	4,005	325		
2	zuh/a3005	Planning Enforcement Officer Post	25,320	26,245	-925		
3	edq/g1051	On site Technology	10,640	0	10,640	Costs Trfd to Capital Program	
4	edq/g1104	Website Developments	10,000	0	10,000		
5	edq/g5060	Backscanning	15,280	9,870	5,410		
		Total Development Control	65,570	40,120	25,450		
		Planning Policy					
6	edr/a1015	Annual Monitoring (Temporary Staff)	18,100	22,461	-4,361		
7	edr/a5045	Training	3,880	0	3,880		
8	edr/g1051	LDF/Appeals Software	14,980	13,950	1,030		
9	edr/g5020	Masterplan	15,000	0	15,000		
10	edj/t4062	Environmental Initiatives	9,000	9,000	0		
		Total Planning Policy	60,960	45,411	15,549		
		Approved in Budget	Total Original Budget 2008/09	126,530			
		Under spend transferred to GF balances			40,999		
		Total Unallocated Budget %	£	(419,552)			
		Revenue Allocation	244,164				
		Capital Allocation	175,388				
		New Items Requiring Approval					
4.1	Capital	ICT Equipment- Pentablets				80,000	
4.2	Revenue	Regeneration Post - 2 years	14,000			25,000	26,000
4.3	Revenue	Exhibition Material				5,000	
4.4	Revenue	Annual Monitoring Review 09/10				25,000	
4.5	Revenue	Temporary staff				20,000	
4.6	Revenue	Program Officer Post				25,000	
4.7	Revenue	Cover Principal Planning Policy Officer	1,730			4,020	
4.8	Revenue	Training				10,000	
4.9	Revenue	Housing enabler joint post	2,000			2,060	
4.10	Revenue	Budget deficit				38,000	38,000
4.11	Revenue	IT improvements				10,000	
		Total to be approved	17,730	0		244,080	64,000
		Total Unallocated Budget	(401,822)		40,999	(116,743)	(52,743)
		Capital Breakdown	Budget				
		Cumulative Capital % Unallocated from previous Grant sums	43,085				
		2007/08 25% of £218,421	54,605				
		2008/09 33% of £235,449	77,698				
		Capital	175,388				
4.1	Capital Allocation 09/10	(80,000)					
	Capital Shortfall	95,388					
	Grant unallocated (For Capital)	52,743					
	Capital Shortfall 2009/10	42,645					

