

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:

| <b>The Council Tax for Borough-wide services together with the relevant Special Expenses or Parish Council services for each area and valuation band</b> |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 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:

| <b>The total Council Tax including amounts for the County Council, Police Authority, Fire Authority and for each area and valuation band</b> |        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|--|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 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)