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Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

**Bill Cullen** MBA (ISM), BA(Hons) MRTPI  
*Chief Executive*

**Date: 18 November 2025**

**To: All Members of Council**

Dear Councillor,

Please see overleaf a supplementary agenda for the meeting of the **COUNCIL** on **TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2025 at 6.30 pm.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Owen'.

Rebecca Owen  
Democratic Services Manager

## COUNCIL - 18 NOVEMBER 2025

### SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

#### 6. QUESTIONS

To deal with questions under Council Procedure Rule number 14.

##### (a) **Question from Councillor Sutton to the Executive member for Planning**

- (i) How long has the Council been in discussion with Nurton Developments with regard to the proposed development at Norton Heath?
- (ii) How many landowners have signed up to the proposed development?
- (iii) Can the Norton Heath development be removed from the Local Plan given the misinformation that is being circulated?

Response from Councillor Crooks:

- “(i) The Council is currently consulting on its Regulation 18 draft Local Plan consultation. As the name suggests, this is a draft document for consultation purposes and is at an early stage of the Local Plan process. The site was submitted to the Council for the first time as part of the 2024 Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). This is available to view on the Council’s website.

This site was presented to members in a planning policy meeting held via MS Teams earlier this year and the developer recently offered a presentation to all councillors on their proposals. It is a shame Cllr Sutton was unable to attend either of these.

As Cllr Sutton will be aware, the concept of delivering housing growth in the west of the borough is not new. Back in 2017 the administration he was part of proposed new “garden villages” as a way of providing the housing that the government required.

The Conservative leader at the time said “one option that is being considered to deliver this growth is the creation of garden villages. I personally believe this option to be of great value and if we can create more villages with an appropriate level of infrastructure we can deliver some fantastic new places to live, rather than destroying the ones that we already have.”

- (ii) The site has been submitted to the Council by Nurton Developments Ltd, not by any landowners. Any agreements between landowners and Nurton Developments are not a matter for the Council. The Council welcomes any correspondence from any landowners if they do not consider their land to be available for development. Any received will be investigated. Some of the site has previously been put forward to the Council for development through the SHELAA process prior to any involvement from Nurton

Developments.

- (iii) No. The current consultation is for the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan only. The Council welcomes representations on the Local Plan. This site is one of many proposed sites at this Regulation 18 stage and is proposed in order to meet a nationally set housing target of over 15,000 dwellings to 2045. The Council will provide further statements and a further FAQ page on its website to provide a response to current misinformation circulating outside of the formal council statements.  
I remind Cllr Sutton that the Conservative group voted in favour of proceeding with the Local Plan – with this site in it.

Should this site be removed at the next stage then I must remind Cllr Sutton and everyone else that the shortfall will need to be found elsewhere in the borough. I look forward to hearing from Cllr Sutton as to where he thinks these should go.”

(b) **Question from Councillor C Allen to the Executive member for Climate Change**

“I note with concern the stated position on climate change of Reform UK nationally, and more locally the comments of former deputy leader of Leicestershire County Council Joseph Boam who said “I think it is absolutely great to see Reform UK starting to scrap the wasteful net stupid zero agenda”. Can the Executive member please advise if any current or future climate change projects of this Council have been or are anticipated to be adversely affected by the policies and actions of the Reform UK administration at Leicestershire County Council?”

Response from Councillor Cartwright:

“I also share grave concerns over the messages that were coming from the new Reform administration at County Hall and I hope that the sacking of Mr Boam will see a change of tone. To deny climate change is, in my view, pretty stupid when virtually all scientific experts agree that not only does it exist but it is having catastrophic consequences across the globe.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council primarily funds and delivers its own climate change projects at the borough level. We do, however, take part in some partnership initiatives with other Leicestershire authorities, for example the Green Living Leicestershire programme, where delivery or funding is shared.

At present, there has been no direct impact on Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council’s own climate projects or funding streams, and we do not anticipate any immediate adverse effects. Our commitments and progress towards our targets remain unchanged.

We will continue to monitor developments at the county level, particularly where they may affect partnership projects or shared funding arrangements, and will report any material changes to members.

I welcome Councillor Allen raising this and the fact she appears to be distancing herself from her own party leadership on this matter who appear to be following Reform down this dangerous path. I will remind Councillor Allen that only last month Kemi Badenoch vowed to scrap the 2008 Climate Act and the man out to try and unseat her, Robert Jenrick, has described carbon reduction plans as “something out of Putin’s Russia”.

I look forward to working with Councillor Allen and all other members on further ways we can reduce carbon emissions locally – including planting 1,000 more trees in the borough.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the successful launch of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Nature Recovery strategy.

Outside of Leicestershire County Council, my concern in relation to delivery of climate change and biodiversity initiatives go far wider right up to Westminster and the government of the day.

I would very much welcome talks with our elected members closest to the two MPs who have an impact upon Hinckley & Bosworth residents to learn and discover what they know about the future in this vial area from the top down. I am happy to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.”

(c) **Question from Councillor R Allen to the Executive member for Planning**

“In recent years there have been several instances where developers who have received planning permission have come back to Council to advise they cannot find a registered provider to take on the permitted affordable homes element of their development. This has often resulted in no affordable homes being delivered and the Council being offered a much reduced number of properties to add to the Council’s housing stock.

Can the Executive member confirm the details including developer, site, affordable homes promised, affordable or social housing units actually delivered and resultant shortfall of all such variations please?”

Response from Councillor W Crooks:

“For sites that have received planning permission and then had difficulty finding a registered provider to take on the affordable housing units, this equates to 11 sites in the borough in total. These 11 sites are in Burbage (x3), Thornton, Stanton Under Bardon, Higham, Hinckley, Markfield, Earl Shilton and Stoke Golding. Registered providers have not taken forward S106 contribution dwellings for a number of reasons and this is a national, not a local, issue, and has been raised with Homes England who oversee the role of registered providers and affordable housing. This has also been part of a recent scrutiny review which concluded earlier this year and with its findings reported back through the Scrutiny Commission.

Of the 11 sites where registered providers have not come forward, a range of solutions have been found. These include acceptance of a commuted sum in lieu

of on site affordable provision with close to £2m received from two sites (both in Burbage). Elsewhere, gifted units have been accepted at sites at Higham and Twycross, the Council has acquired properties at two sites (Earl Shilton and Hinckley), affordable tenure units have been changed to rent plus properties at one site (Burbage) and on two sites (Stoke Golding and Stanton Under Bardon) the tenure mix has been changed to a discounted market housing product. Two sites (Thornton and Markfield) do not yet have a solution, with the Thornton site recently made available for sale following commencement on site and hope that a registered provider will take on the Markfield site.

Whilst the reduction in the number of registered providers taking on new sites is a national issue, the above solutions demonstrate that the Council is being proactive in finding alternative solutions that still deliver affordable housing, including a mix of tenures and a mix of housing products.

The reduction in the number of registered providers taking on new sites is a national issue. The above solutions demonstrate that this Council is being proactive in finding alternative solutions that still deliver affordable housing, including a mix of tenures and a mix of housing products.

Due to the concerns right across this chamber on this issue, it would be helpful if our local Member of Parliament could raise this in Parliament instead of his usual misinformation about the Council's planning department."

#### **8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT**

Welcome to Council where this evening the Mayor will be awarding long service awards to members of our staff. We will be discussing a critical report affecting the future of this borough and its residents and considering a range of motions put forward by member colleagues.

I want to begin by saying how moving it was to see hundreds of people turning out on Remembrance Sunday to pay their respects to those people who laid down their lives for peace and freedom. I know that services took place across the borough and in Hinckley I laid a wreath at the memorial in Argents Mead on behalf of the Borough Council's elected members, one of the most important duties of the year. We will remember them.

Tonight, we will be considering the report on local government reorganisation. I want to put it on record again that I don't believe the current system is broken, but in the absence of a choice in submitting a proposal, the North City South model which has been developed by the seven districts and Rutland County Council will ensure that we remain closer to our communities and can safeguard, as far as possible, the amazing work that this Council does, some of which is detailed below.

I want to put on record my thanks to our Leicestershire and Rutland council colleagues who have collaborated so well in getting to this stage of the process with our proposed North City South proposal. Personally, I think it is a travesty that we have been forced on this journey by the government, but we really have no choice in the matter. We now need to do the best for our communities and staff.

## **Making a Difference awards**

Councillor Michael Mullaney hosted the annual Making a Difference awards ceremony at the Hinckley Rugby Club last week. A fantastic event that celebrated and showcased what fabulous communities we have in our borough. 36 awards were presented that covered our heritage, culture and tourism offer, community pride, our environment and our young volunteers. It is always inspiring to hear the contribution that volunteers make in so many different areas of life and the awards are a celebration of the close connection we have with our community groups and residents.

## **Hinckley area foodbank**

I am also pleased to share some excellent feedback from Hinckley area foodbank following their recent AGM. They expressed heartfelt thanks for the support and partnership provided by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and our approach was highlighted as a shining example of best practice.

This recognition reflects the proactive steps we've taken, from financial support to creating dedicated roles and facilitating regular network meetings that bring agencies together. These efforts have been described as "transformative", enabling better coordination of food and welfare services and improving outcomes for residents in crisis.

## **Our partnership work**

Our partnership work is not just important, it is essential. By working closely with organisations like Hinckley area foodbank and other local agencies, we can ensure that those most in need receive timely, practical and compassionate support. This collaboration helps us to pool resources, share expertise and create a safety net for the most vulnerable members of our community. Unless this local knowledge, understanding and collaboration continues following reorganisation, residents will suffer, and we know from our community work and our responses in emergency situations that smaller councils who are more local to their communities are able to be flexible and respond quickly, something that one large unitary covering the whole of Leicestershire would struggle to do.

Our excellent local relationship and partnership with the police is vital in delivering positive outcomes for residents, businesses and visitors. These local relationships ensure actions and responses to emerging priorities are informed by our community intelligence, including intelligence from elected members. Some highlights of our work include:

- Tackling retail crime: Our good work continues to tackle retail crime in the town centre, with the DISC information sharing system and CCTV, and we have successfully bid for 20 free body worn cameras for retailers. Local performance shows that we are the best in the county for effectively detecting and dealing with shop related theft.
- Community safety: We continue to use Community Safety Partnership funding to support police and partnership work, for example we have funded thermal

imaging cameras for the police to detect cannabis grows and delivered targeted campaigns on numerous themes such as anti-social behaviour, burglary, retail crime and keeping safe in the night time economy.

- Prevention work and young people: We continue our prevention and awareness work with young people and have already engaged with 2000 young people this year in schools and other settings on a number of community safety and wellbeing themes.
- We have recommissioned Leicester City in the Community to delivery their Kicks youth diversion offer until March 2026, with young people and the police engaging locally in the programme.
- Road safety: We have started quarterly road safety meetings with our partners to support our work around road safety to ensure partners are working together to tackle local road safety concerns and working together to reduce road traffic collisions.
- Victim support: We continue to provide practical and emotional support to victim-survivors of domestic abuse in the borough via our dedicated outreach services and in November we will be supporting the national White Ribbon domestic abuse campaign with a full programme of awareness and activity.

We need to ensure we do everything we can to continue our excellent local partnership working across many areas of our council work.

To return to the North City South proposal, the focus on a strong economic growth, neighbourhood delivery and prevention “Big enough to deliver, close enough to respond” will give the best chance of protecting our services. Officers from across the Council have been heavily involved in the development of the proposal, particularly around the areas of finance, economic distinctiveness, prevention and governance as well as the resident consultation work and I would like to thank them for their contribution.

### **Free tree scheme**

Moving onto our work on climate change, our annual free tree scheme this year has once again been a success, with 35,000 trees and hedging packs offered to everyone in our borough, helping to do our part fighting in making the borough a greener place to live and work. Since launching this scheme, we have over the past few years handed out well in excess of 100,000 trees. By spring 2026 we hope to have planted the equivalent of one tree per resident which is an incredible achievement. Assuming all of these trees survive for 40 years they will absorb over 40,000 tonnes of carbon, demonstrating our commitment to fighting climate change. I would like to thank our lead member and Green Spaces and Communications teams for their work on this positive initiative.

### **Draft Local Plan consultation**

I'd like to say “thank you” to everyone who has taken part in our Regulation 28 draft Local Plan consultation. This is the key planning document guiding development in the borough for the next 20 years, including housing, jobs, infrastructure, environment and design. To remind us all, we are having to provide over 18,000 new homes in the borough by 2046. This target includes an increase

imposed on us by the government last year of over 4,000 homes.

I want to particularly thank our planning staff who have been out to our communities and have been running engagement events. The outcomes of this stage of the consultation will inform the next stage which will be the development of the draft Regulation 19 Plan which will be more detailed and site specific, which we plan to bring forward in the spring of 2026.

There is still the opportunity to respond to the consultation until 5pm on Friday, 28 November. Further details can be found at [www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/localplanreview) until the deadline.

### **Peggs Close**

We are progressing redevelopment of Peggs Close in Earl Shilton, working towards a demolition start date of January with construction of a council house development proposed to commence April / May. The scheme will include a mixed type of properties and shows the commitment of this Council to meeting the needs of those on the housing register, ensuring we are providing good quality homes to our tenants and addressing issues of anti-social behaviour which historically were experienced on the site.

### **Christmas free parking**

As we enter the Christmas season, it's great to announce that the Council will again be offering free car parking in selected town centre car parks on Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas.

Shoppers will be able to park for free in Lower Bond Street, Trinity West and Castle car parks in the four Saturdays before Christmas. This is a thank you to residents for their loyalty and to increase trade for shops, Hinckley market, restaurants, the cinema and all local businesses.

### **Christmas lights switch on**

Hinckley's Christmas lights switch on will take place on Friday, 21 November and will get underway at 4pm. The main town centre lights will be turned on by the Mayor, Councillor Richard Flemming, the Mayoress and the Deputy Leader at 6.30pm in the Market Place. The festivities will feature Santa's grotto, a Christmas tree, street entertainment, two live music stages, children's crafts, a festive food and drink area alongside a host of charity and community stalls. This year we have built on the successful Lights in the Mead, launched last year to replace the fireworks, with over 25,000 lights being switched on to create a magical experience each evening through to 6 January.

I know there are other Christmas events taking place around the borough and I hope they will be enjoyed by residents and visitors on the lead up to Christmas.

Councillor Stuart Bray  
Leader, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council



**13 (e) To be proposed by Councillor R Allen and seconded by Councillor Cook**

“Council notes:

2025 has been the worst year ever for small boat crossings with over 37,000 people crossing the channel this year alone, leaving immigration policy under this government in tatters.

This Council resolves:

To request the Chief Executive to urgently assess the merits of seeking legal advice to prevent the use of local hotels for migrant accommodation where it is deemed to be in the best interests of the community. We also request the Chief Executive to ask officers to consider every option and seek legal advice on using injunctions, stop notices and other planning enforcement against change of use to prevent asylum hotels from being opened.”

Amendment to be proposed by Councillor Bools and seconded by Councillor M Mullaney:

“Council notes:

1. The previous Conservative government broke the immigration system. They began the use of asylum hotels and failed to process asylum claims in a timely manner.
2. The Conservative Members of Parliament representing the borough backed the previous government in vote after vote and are therefore implicated in this failure.
3. Under Labour, this situation is no better. 2025 has been the worst year ever for small boat crossings with over 37,000 people crossing the channel this year alone.
4. Both major parties have failed, leaving people across the country feeling let down.
5. The Conservatives, both locally and nationally, have suffered huge losses in recent local elections to both the Liberal Democrats and Reform and are getting ever more desperate as their support erodes further.

This Council further notes:

1. That there are currently no hotels anywhere in Hinckley & Bosworth borough being used for asylum seekers. This hasn't always been the case, the previous government used a hotel in Earl Shilton for asylum accommodations, despite concerns being raised directly with the Home Office by the Leader of the Council, the fire service and other public bodies about the safety of the accommodation. Eventually the Home Office listened and took on board the concerns and closed the hotel but not before significant concern was caused locally.

2. The response from the Leader of the Council to Peter Bedford MP where he has stated that he would seek to block any hotels in the borough should the government seek to bring them forward.

This Council resolves:

1. To congratulate the Leader of the Council for his stance both on this and his recent message of tolerance, diversity and inclusivity at the last Council meeting.
2. To oppose any future use of hotels for asylum seekers as tourism is a large part of the economy in our area and we already have a shortage of hotel space for visitors.
3. That, should the government propose the use of any hotel for housing immigrants in the borough, the Chief Executive will call a special meeting of the Council to discuss our response.
4. To condemn Conservative central office for circulating a “cut and paste” motion designed to scaremonger and stir up division in a short-sighted attempt to shore up support in light of their poor poll ratings and election losses.”