



COUNCIL - 4 NOVEMBER 2014

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

6. QUESTIONS

Question received under Council Procedure Rule number 11.1 from Councillor Hulbert:

“Could the Executive Member for Cultural Services tell me how he envisages Leicestershire County Council's cuts to children and young people's services will impact in Hinckley and Bosworth?”

Response from Councillor Cope:

As reported in the public report to Leicestershire's County Council's Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 1 September 2014 the Children & Families Department needs to make savings of £3.6m, representing a 33% budgetary reduction.

Because of the significant cuts that need to be achieved by LCC this will involve whole service redesign. This includes a management re-structure at LCC. At present the Sure Start Children Centres, which we have 7, will remain operational. However, the service delivered from these Centres, which targets families in need, is likely to be reduced. It is highly likely that the delegated budget which HBBC administers for Sure Start programme along with locality based grant aid programmes will be cease.

The County Council is currently consulting the Local Authorities and voluntary sector on how it intends to make these significant savings this year and over the next 3 years.

The exact impact on services will not be known for some time. Following the consultation period, the County Council's Cabinet is due to consider proposals in December 2014, with many of the changes commencing in April 2015.

To minimise the impact the Borough Council is working collaboratively with Senior Management representatives at LCC and is liaising with other Districts over the budgetary position.

It must be stressed that the Borough Councils commitment to providing all children from within the Borough the best possible start in life remains a key corporate aim.

7. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT

Mr Mayor, fellow Councillors, Officers, members of the public and media

Whilst tonight's agenda is relatively short, there are two significant items – Housing

Allocations and Waste Recycling – which will require much debate, although on the latter that may be more appropriate for the Scrutiny Commission; the Commission has considered already the implications of the former. Suffice to say at this juncture that we are being asked to consider charging for green waste as a direct consequence of decisions taken by the County Council to withdraw funding from Districts. So, this Council and our residents may have to pay the price! But at least we will give residents a choice – more than the County Council has done- to opt in or out.

On a very much more positive note, progress with the two major developments: the Crescent and the Leisure Centre is moving forward as programmed. The steel frameworks soon to be put in place at the bus station site will be clear evidence of that progress and be testament to the efforts and decisions made by this Administration for the benefit of the town and the wider area; looking to the future, not the past.

Although final decisions on the Council's budget for 2015/16 are a few months' away, the hard work of our officers continues to identify new/increased funding streams, as well as further efficiencies, and I am confident that, coupled with some hard decisions being taken by the Council, led by this Administration, we will continue to set a sound foundation not just for next year, but for the three years thereafter. So confident am I that I can state now that I will be recommending for 2015 an extension to the council tax freeze which our residents have enjoyed throughout the term of this Administration.

On the wider growth front, we continue to lead the work with our colleagues in Coventry and Warwickshire towards the adoption of an Economic Prosperity Board for the area, which will increase our ability to coordinate decision-making on regeneration over the wider area and give central government more confidence in agreeing to allocate funding to us for such work. That confidence is beginning to show, evidenced by the recent Pre-Adjournment debate in the House of Commons, which sought a commitment from the Transport Minister to support continued funding for work to significantly enhance the A5 trunk road between the M69 and M42; this was sponsored by Marcus Jones, MP for Nuneaton on 28 October, with a supporting Brief from Bill Cullen.

Whilst I am on the topic of the A5, I would like to offer my thanks to the communities of Fenny Drayton and other surrounding villages in the west of the Borough for their patience and understanding arising from the inconvenience they will be experiencing from current works. This is a result of the major improvements currently underway as part of the RGF scheme that this Council successfully secured to part dual the A5 and improve the Redgate Junction. This will support Mira Enterprise Zone and the 5,000 jobs that will be created as well as other road users along this corridor. I would make the point that decisions on road closures and diversions are the responsibility of the Highway Authorities as this Council have no jurisdiction on such matters.

Members will be aware of the late item on the agenda in respect of the need to appoint a new Monitoring Officer for Louisa Horton, who is leaving the Council to explore other opportunities, which will enable her to achieve a better work life balance following the birth of her daughter. I am sure we will all thank Louisa for her work with Hinckley and Bosworth and wish her and her new family well for the future.

With that, Mr Mayor, I commend this statement to the Council

Cllr Stuart Bray
Leader of Council

10. INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES FOR GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

An additional recommendation will be proposed as follows:

- 2.2 that the Scrutiny Commission be asked to consider the detailed questions at its next meeting on 13 November, along with any longer-term implications, and review the response prior to any final recommendations to Council.

13. APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER (Pages 1 - 4)

The Mayor has agreed to accept this as an urgent item. The reasons for urgency are contained within the report.

14. MOTIONS RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES 13.1 AND 13.2

(a) Received from Councillor Bill, seconded by Councillor Mullaney:

“This Council endorses the letter sent to the 3 national party leaders on the need for a genuine local voice in planning and agrees that this should also be sent to the DCLG, the Local Government Association and the Royal Town Planning Institute for their information and for a response. The letter is attached as an appendix”.

(b) Urgent motion received from Councillor Gould, seconded by Councillor Hulbert:

“This Council deplores the notion that the Earl Shilton branch of NatWest should close, and requests that the Chief Executive writes to RBS raising the following points:

- Limited opening during weekdays has undermined the business case; why has consideration not been given to weekend opening?
- There is a strong community need for local banking services in Earl Shilton; NatWest now sits as the last branch
- NatWest has constantly given reassurances that it will not close branches; why has the folly of City Bankers been used to punish customers?”

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COUNCIL – 4 NOVEMBER 2014

APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Council of the need to appoint a new Monitoring Officer and to secure approval for the recommended appointee. It is brought to the Council as an urgent item to ensure that there is a designated Monitoring Officer, for the reasons set out in Section 3.3 of the report.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council approves the appointment of Julie Kenny to the statutory role of Monitoring Officer for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The role of Monitoring Officer for Local Authorities was established by Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended by Schedule 5, paragraph 24, of the Local Government Act 2000. It is one of three such statutory roles; the others being Head of Paid Service and Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer). At this Council those roles are fulfilled by the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) – Steve Atkinson and Sanjiv Kohli respectively. The roles should remain distinct and separate.

- 3.2 In simple terms, the Monitoring Officer has three main responsibilities:

- To report on matters he/she believes are, or are likely to be, illegal or to amount to maladministration;
- To be responsible for matters relating to the conduct of Councillors and Officers; and
- To be responsible for the operation of the Council's Constitution.

- 3.3 At the time of writing, the Monitoring Officer for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is Louisa Horton. However, in the last few days, Louisa has indicated her intention to leave the Council's service as of 14 November 2014 – the date her maternity leave ends. As the next Council meeting is not until 16 December, that would leave a considerable gap between Louisa's leaving and the formal appointment of her replacement, the matter is being brought to this meeting.

- 3.4 I have consulted with my colleagues on the Strategic Leadership Board and we have agreed that the role of Monitoring Officer should be performed by Julie Kenny, who is the Chief Officer for Finance, Resources and Housing Repairs. It is my considered view that the importance of the role, not least because it can involve challenge to Members and to Senior Managers in the Authority, must be undertaken by a Chief Officer, at least, and it is for this reason that Julie Kenny has been selected.

- 3.5 In making this recommendation to Council, I should emphasise that it is not a reflection on the other Chief Officers, but a recognition that this role is an additional responsibility and there is a need to ensure that the Chief Officer workloads are as evenly distributed as possible, whilst also recognising the need for the Monitoring Officer to act impartially.

3.6 The role of Deputy Monitoring Officer will continue to be undertaken by Emma Horton, the Legal Services Manager.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [SK]

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [ST]

5.1 The requirement for the appointment to the statutory post has been dealt with in Paragraph 3 above. There are no further legal implications to report.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report has implications for an overall aim of being 'a Borough to be Proud of' and our value of being 'a confident and capable Council'.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Members of the Strategic Leadership Board and Corporate Operations Board have been consulted.

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

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Not having a Monitoring Officer in place could put the probity of the Council at risk.	Adopting the recommendation in the report.	Chief Executive

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report and the decision made by the Council will have an effect on all the Council's activities, wherever they are undertaken.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 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

- Planning Implications
 - Voluntary Sector
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Background papers: None

Contact Officer: Steve Atkinson
Executive Member: Councillor Witherford

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