



Date: 17 March 2015

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

To: **All Members of Council**

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear Councillor,

Please see overleaf a Supplementary Agenda for the meeting of the **COUNCIL** on **TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2015 at 6.30 pm.**

Yours sincerely

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

Rebecca Owen
Democratic Services Officer

COUNCIL - 17 MARCH 2015

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

7. QUESTIONS

The following questions have been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule number 11.1, with answers provided as follows:

(a) Question received from Councillor MT Mullaney

“Does the Deputy Leader of the Council agree with me that a town the size of Hinckley should have proper A&E and Maternity Services? Will he make representations through the various external partnerships to try and secure these much needed facilities?”

Response from Councillor DC Bill

“Thank you for your question. I fully agree that Hinckley residents deserve to have proper and well-resourced A&E and Maternity services. Members may be aware that a major review of community health care services is currently underway for the Borough, led by West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. This work started in September 2014 and options for future service configuration (which is being informed by a broad range of carers, patients, professionals and stakeholders) are due to be published later this year, and will then be subject to a comprehensive public consultation exercise. Whilst the focus of this review is about the effective future provision of community health services in Hinckley, it will also take account of any proposed service changes on other hospital services both acute and community, for example the proposed 40% transfer of outpatient and day case surgery from UHL to community settings. Therefore, in my role as Executive Lead for Health and a member of the Hinckley & Bosworth Health & Wellbeing Partnership, I will make strong representations on this matter and seek a commitment for these services to be considered.

I am pleased to confirm the Council has launched with its health partners, a local Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Borough. This captures how we intend to improve health and wellbeing for all our residents. Particular priorities include reducing obesity in children and adults, promoting good mental health, reducing the misuse of alcohol and supporting our aging population.”

(b) Question received from Councillor DS Cope

“Could the lead member for housing update the Council on what measures he and officers have been taking to tackle issues around anti-social behaviour in the St Peter’s Drive area of Thornton?”

Response from Councillor MT Mullaney

As members will be aware we have established a temporary Neighbourhood Action Hub in St. Peter’s Drive, Thornton, to provide targeted support to focus on a range of community issues, including ASB. The overall aim of this initiative is to help improve community cohesion, reduce isolation and increase satisfaction with the local area. Our investment is also to support the development of community

capacity and confidence, to enable community- led work to continue beyond the initial 12 months of this project.

The hard work and commitment of two of our most experienced community development workers has enabled the establishment of a growing programme of community activities and initiatives, informed by the community. The approach to building community trust and confidence has been achieved through a measured but visible presence within the community, by having a regular presence at the community hub and by regular door to door consultation.

Work is also underway to address some of the physical improvements for the neighbourhood. In addition, a consultation exercise with the broader community is taking place, which will culminate in a 'Planning for Real' exercise, and subsequently a community owned action plan, to begin the process of community ownership for longer term priorities.

I am pleased to report the following positive information for the Thornton area, to which I am confident the above work has made an important contribution, along with the ongoing response and action of the Community Safety Team and the Police:

Police recorded **all crime** incidents:

April 2013- end Jan 2014 = 44

April 2014- end Jan 2015 = 37

This is a reduction of approx. 15% year on year

Police recorded **ASB** incidents:

April 2013- end Jan 2014 = 16

April 2014- end Jan 2015 = 9

This is a reduction of approx. 45% year on year

(c) Question received from Councillor MS Hulbert

"Could the Leader of the Council inform me how much external investment is being put into Barwell from the Sustainable Urban Extension and could he give me a breakdown of where this will be spend?"

Response from Councillor SL Bray

"Thank you for your question Councillor Hulbert. As Members will be aware Planning permission has now been granted for the SUE at Barwell which will trigger the major regeneration of the Village. This includes creating jobs, providing new and affordable housing and securing major new community facilities such as a new Doctors surgery, Community Centre, new and improved schools and a major facelift for the centre of Barwell.

The level of private investment levered for the SUE is £450 million. This includes £70 million for on and off-site infrastructure and community facilities for Barwell SUE. An approximate breakdown of some of the key off-site investment is as follows:-

• Public Open Space	£4million for maintenance
• Transport Investment	£2.3million
• Off-site Highway Works	£3.5million
• Primary Education	£1.3million
• Secondary Education	£6million
• Health Facilities	£1.7million
• Public Realm	£1million
• Sport and Leisure	£500,000
• Police	£810,000
• Community Facilities	£258,000
• Libraries	£83,000
• Affordable housing	250 units on site plus up to £10million off-site contribution
• Employment and Skills	£300,000

I trust Members would agree this amounts to a significant investment for Barwell, which will help transform the facilities available for the local community.”

8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT

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

As this is my last Position Statement to the 2011/15 Council, it is very much an ‘end of term’ report, reminding everyone what has been achieved for people who live and work in Hinckley and Bosworth over the last four years, as well as what will be delivered, certainly within the first year of the next Administration.

Significant progress continues to be made on the delivery of major economic and regeneration schemes facilitated by the Council. These include:-

- RGF-funded works on the A5 upgrade, with new cycle-ways to be completed by the end of this month and the improvement of bus services between Hinckley and major employment centres and the MIRA Enterprise Zone to be introduced during summer 2015.
- The £15m new Leisure Centre scheme is progressing on programme with steel work now being erected and the scheme taking shape on Argents Mead. This scheme is still targeted for completion in the spring of 2016.
- The £60m Crescent scheme continues to show significant progress. The new shopping and leisure scheme is due to open in November 2015, with Sainsbury’s stating that they are targeting to open on 4 November!
- The MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone, which will secure £300m investment - creating 2,500 direct jobs and 2,500 indirect jobs, is developing well. Some major new occupiers are taking up new space already, including Haldex and Aston Martin. A new £10m National Training Centre is due for development on the site for opening in 2016.
- Government has announced very recently the intention to extend the Enterprise Zone by 250,000 square feet – another very welcome initiative, reflecting the economic success of this area, in which this Council has played,

and continues to play, a major part.

- We recently secured £1.4m LEADER European funding with our partners at North Warwickshire Borough Council which will be directed to a range of rural economic initiatives.
- I am delighted that, with the full support of this Council, the Hinckley Town Centre BID last year secured a further four year term to help promote and showcase the tremendous offer we have in the Town Centre.

Following the production of the multi-agency case, led by this Council and put forward to Government for further major investment in the A5, the Autumn Statement announcement of identifying the A5 as a future Expressway is a significant step in securing the long term dualling of the A5. Furthermore, the commitment of £20m from the Highways Agency to develop the detailed scheme for upgrading the A5 between the M42 and the M69 has been a key success.

Securing DPD's new £100m logistics hub at Sketchley Brook, bringing 1,000 new jobs from September this year, is a significant achievement. This will be the largest parcel delivery hub in Europe!

Two weeks ago, at the last Planning Committee, the Council took a step closer to facilitating the delivery of the £400m investment in the Barwell Sustainable Urban Extension. It is expected work will commence in 2016 delivering the major regeneration of Barwell and bringing significant improvements to community facilities in the area.

Finally, in the area of development and regeneration, it is significant that, in a recent Business Survey of Leicestershire, Hinckley was identified as having the highest level of confidence by businesses compared with any District within Leicestershire, as well as compared with Leicester City. That alone is testament to the great work undertaken by this Council; work which will continue, as we remain active and respected members of two City Deals and are in negotiation to secure increased funding from Enterprise Zone Business Rates during the term of the next Council. We should thank Bill Cullen and his team, ably assisted by our Assets, Estates and Finance/Support Services staff, for our successes in this area.

We are also in the fortunate position, through our foresight and good management, of again setting a balanced budget for 2015/16, whilst yet again making a contribution to reserves, to enable continued financial stability, at least until 2016/17. This is a doubly-significant achievement, given that we have protected (and in some cases expanded) our frontline services, against a backdrop of freezing the Council Tax for four years, whilst at the same time freezing, and in some cases even reducing, car parking charges. This has been a very difficult and challenging period for local authority finances and we should be grateful for the efforts of Keith Lynch, as our Executive Member for Finance, and to all our staff for being in such a relatively strong position. In particular, can I thank Sanjiv Kohli and his team for their husbandry of the finances, enabling a sound base for the future, of which Members will see evidence in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), to be debated later tonight.

In areas of corporate and community activity, over the last year we have seen significant commitment to supporting our communities and voluntary sector. We have remodelled sheltered housing provision to protect the level of services to our older people, following reductions in funding from the County Council. This has ensured that we can retain our control centre and provide support to older and vulnerable tenants across our 11

schemes.

The Voluntary Sector Commissioning arrangements, which we introduced two years ago, go from strength to strength. We have facilitated a great local support network for voluntary organisations and secured opportunities for many of them in providing support services, particularly in respect of local health and wellbeing initiatives. Twenty nine projects have been supported and a detailed database has been created of all 1,200 active voluntary organisations in the Borough.

More recently, we have introduced a collective energy switching scheme, which all our residents can access, whereby we help secure the best possible tariffs from energy suppliers.

Our 'Endeavour' Community Safety partnership initiative, which seeks to take collective and proactive action to tackle difficult and recurring environmental and criminal issues, has attracted national attention and is seen by the Home Office as national good practice.

We have helped facilitate roll out of high speed broadband across the Borough with plans to secure 100% coverage over the next few years. As regards our public engagement, we have been informed in the last few days by GovMetric that we are the top performing Council in their Channel Satisfaction Indices for 'Face to Face' and 'Telephone' interactions with the public. These indices cover over 70 Councils in the UK. Even more significant has been the award by SOCITM, the independent organisation which vets public sector websites, of four stars to our own website and a commendation for its ease of use and accessibility. We are one of only 9 out of 407 councils in the country to have received this – the highest rating possible for this service. Together, these indicate the high levels of public and independent satisfaction with these very important services.

We recently launched our Health and Wellbeing Strategy with our health partners. This focuses on tackling the key health issues in the Borough, including obesity in children, supporting teenage parents and promoting good mental health. Our local work on health has been showcased at national local government events over the last year. As an example, we had 6,570 people taking part in our 'Walking for Health' scheme. The 'Lightbulb' integrated housing offer for health initiative is a key transformational project, in the development of which we have played a major part, has recently secured significant funding support from Government.

The Leicestershire Revenues and Benefits Partnership, which we initiated some five years' ago, is an efficient and high-performing organisation and, following a recent review, has introduced arrangements which will reduce the costs of operation even further. It is an excellent example of our practical partnership working. In the next few days, our staff across the Council will begin the work to support the introduction of Universal Credit into the Borough. A report later on tonight addresses how this will be approached. This is further evidence of additional work being expected of local Councils; work which, as always, in Hinckley and Bosworth will be undertaken in the most professional way and with our residents at the heart of what we are doing.

Looking even further to the future, Members will be considering proposals for a 'wholly-owned Company' tonight; a proposal which will change how we operate, initially in relation to the provision of housing, but also in wider services over time, as the proposal will change (for the better) the way in which we finance the organisation – a necessary step, given that Revenue Support Grant is expected to disappear for local authorities during the next Parliament.

Mr Mayor, these examples and others form an excellent record of achievement – the envy

of many District Councils – and it has been my privilege to lead the Council during this period, with the support of my colleagues in the Executive and the wider Administration. At times, we have had to take very difficult decisions in this room and formerly at Argents Mead; decisions which have been proved correct, once delivered by our dedicated Management and staff.

In the next few weeks, two significant events will take place – one very local and the other of national importance. The locale event is the series of ceremonies, which will culminate in the final and proper burial of Richard the Third who, as I am sure everyone knows, was killed at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. These events will be in the international media and will showcase this Borough to the world. It is perhaps the most important promotional event in recent times and I know that our Cultural Services and other staff have been working hard to ensure that the Borough is given due prominence. The other events, taking place over the weekend immediately following the elections 8-10 May, will mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day in 1945. Again our staff in Cultural Services will be giving every support to local events in the town and villages to mark this historic occasion. I hope that Members, whatever the outcome on 7/8 May will join in these celebrations.

With now very little time before the General and local elections, can I thank all Members for what they have achieved for their communities in the last four years and, in particular, those who will not be returning to office, either by personal choice or by the choice of the electorate. Being a Councillor is in many ways a thankless task, but I hope that, when we look at what has been achieved over the last four years, Members will agree that it has its rewards!

Mr Mayor, I commend this Statement to the Council.

18. CHIEF EXECUTIVE / DISTRICT COUNCILS' NETWORK (Pages 1 - 4)

Report of the Group Leaders and Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission.

19. MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

To consider the passing of a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 excluding the public from the undermentioned items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act as indicated under each item heading.

21. LAND CHARGES SETTLEMENT (Pages 5 - 12)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction).

Exempt under paragraphs 5 and 10.

This page is intentionally left blank



COUNCIL – 17 MARCH 2015

CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DISTRICT COUNCILS' NETWORK REPORT OF GROUP LEADERS (LIBERAL DEMOCRAT/ CONSERVATIVE) AND CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement from Council for a six month shared management of the Chief Executive with the District Councils' Network (DCN) – April to September 2015. The Mayor has agreed to this report being presented as a late urgent item, as the position was not known at the time the agenda was circulated.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Council endorse an arrangement for sharing the time of the Chief Executive with the District Councils' Network for the period April to September 2015, with proportional salary costs being recompensed to the Council by the DCN.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 As many Members will be aware, the Chief Executive has played a major role within the District Councils' Network over the past six years, being Chairman of the Chief Executives' Group for two years and Secretary for the other four years. The Council has gained benefit from this input in terms of information flows and influence on lobbying to Government and others. The DCN has a membership of 200 of the 201 District Councils in England.
- 3.2 The DCN has recently restructured how it is managed and how it operates, with a part of DCN Director being introduced to manage the work, based mainly at the LGA offices in Westminster.
- 3.3 With a General Election in less than two months' time, this will be a critical time for local government, particularly District Councils, and it is imperative that the DCN stakes an early and well-evidenced claim for attention to its priorities for Districts. It is imperative, therefore, that the new Director is able to hit the ground running.
- 3.4 Arising from the his existing engagement with the DCN, the Chief Executive has been asked to work in the role of DCN Director for an average of 2.5 days a week (flexibly, depending on the issues of the day) for a period of six months, to enable the DCN to maximise its impact over this critical period. The DCN will reimburse the Council the equivalent basic salary costs for the Chief Executive over this period, based on a 50:50 split.

3.5 The Chief Executive will continue to be employed by the Council and has given a commitment to being available for staff/Members and for all formal meetings he would normally attend (Council, Executive and Scrutiny Commission), as well as involvement with relevant induction/training sessions for Members of the new Council. He will fully honour his commitments as the (Acting) Returning Officer for the local and general elections on 7 May. The two Deputy Chief Executives for Corporate and Community Direction will continue to be available to act on behalf of the Chief Executive in matters of urgency.

3.6 We consider that this arrangement will reflect very favourably on the Council, in supporting our national representative body, as well as generating income for a short period. It will be a new variation on the increasing trend for shared Chief Executives and we commend it to the Council

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [IB]

4.1 If endorsed, the estimated saving/income will be £34,178. This equates to a 38.94% of the current salary related cost for 6 months.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [EH]

5.1 The Chief Executive will need to ensure that specific written delegations, signed by him giving relevant powers, to the two Deputy Chief Executives are in place to enable them to act in his absence.

5.2 A formal agreement with the “employing body” (currently Tandridge District Council) for the DCN will need to be put in place to secure the terms and conditions of the provision of the Chief Executives services to the DCN. The DCN is not a legal entity in its own right therefore the agreement will need to be with that employing authority.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This would comply with the aim of ‘Providing Value for Money and Pro-Active Services’

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation has taken place with the co-signatories of this paper, to ensure cross-party support for the initiative

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/these decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
That the Council does not secure value for money and/or effective senior officer leadership and coordination	That the Chief Executive provides regular evidence of the effective senior officer management to the Leader of the Council and the Cross Party Group of senior Members	Chief Executive
The reputation of the Council will be enhanced by its most senior officer providing support and management to the national representative body for District Councils over an important and uncertain period, whilst continuing to provide strategic management to the Council at officer level and maintain effective member-officer relations	That the DCN reflects the Council's contribution to their national work and enables the most effective balance of the workloads and timing for the benefit of the Council and the DCN	Chairman of DCN

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Approval of this arrangement will facilitate the Council's engagement in and learning from a wider base of experience and activity across the country, to enable further improvements in how we interface with and support those who are more vulnerable and those who live and work in rural communities.

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

Background Papers: None

Contact Officer: Steve Atkinson (Chief Executive)

Executive Member: Cllr Stuart Bray (Leader of Council)

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 5, 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 5, 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank