

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON

TUESDAY, 7 AUGUST 2018

at 6.30 pm

Fire Evacuation Procedures

Council Chamber (De Montfort Suite)

- On hearing the fire alarm, leave the building **at once** quickly and calmly by the nearest escape route (indicated by green signs).
- *There are two escape routes from the Council Chamber – at the side and rear. Leave via the door closest to you.*
- Proceed to **Willowbank Road car park**, accessed from Rugby Road then Willowbank Road.
- **Do not** use the lifts.
- **Do not** stop to collect belongings.

Recording of meetings

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, the press and public are permitted to film and report the proceedings of public meetings. If you wish to film the meeting or any part of it, please contact Democratic Services on 01455 255879 or email rebecca.owen@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk to make arrangements so we can ensure you are seated in a suitable position.

Members of the public, members of the press and Councillors are hereby informed that by attending the meeting you may be captured on film. If you have a particular problem with this, please contact us using the above contact details so we can discuss how we may accommodate you at the meeting.

Date: 30 July 2018



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

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, 7 AUGUST 2018 at 6.30 pm**

Yours faithfully

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

Miss RK Owen
Democratic Services Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 1 - 6)
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June.
3. Additional urgent business by reason of special circumstances
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. Items will be considered at the end of the agenda.
4. Declarations of interest
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. Mayor's Communications
To receive such communications as the Mayor may decide to lay before the Council.
6. Questions
To deal with questions under Council Procedure Rule number 14.

7. Petitions

To deal with petitions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.

8. Leader of the Council's Position Statement

To receive the Leader of the Council's Position Statement.

9. Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission (Pages 7 - 14)

To receive for information only the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 24 May and 10 July.

10. Annual Review of Constitution (Pages 15 - 28)

To present the annual review of the Council's constitution.

Appendix 3 will be sent out to follow.

11. Motions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17

(a) Motion from Councillor Witherford, seconded by Councillor Hodgkins

"Upskirting is an intrusive, vile crime against women and girls.

Members are asked to show support for an amendment to the Sexual Offences Act to make upskirting a specific offence that will allow police to prosecute those who commit this vile crime. A Private Member's Bill is being debated in Parliament and hopefully once the technicalities have been resolved, this will be incorporated into the Act.

Whilst I am aware that since the obstruction to this amendment on 15 June and the subsequent presentation on 6 July, this proposal will have moved on and could, hopefully, have received approval, however this is the first opportunity we have for this Council to show its support."

(b) Motion from Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Morrell

"On 29 June Leicestershire County Council's Leader issued a statement in which he asserted that:

'The time has come to explore having a new council for Leicestershire'

On 6 July 2018 Leicestershire County Council Cabinet met to consider a report on local government reform in Leicestershire. The Cabinet endorsed LCC undertaking work to develop a Strategic Alliance for the East Midlands (involving County and City Councils), and to develop a unitary structure for local government in Leicestershire. I understand that similar proposals have also been made in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Following the announcement to the press on 29 June I issued the following statement:

'The proposals for a single unitary Council for Leicestershire by Leicestershire County Councillors are a County Council view of how to improve local government. This proposal will however be of concern to HBBC employees as well as residents of Hinckley and Bosworth and I believe this is the wrong option for our area. HBBC employs local people, providing local services to their own communities, and they take pride in what they do. If we lose that local interest then we also lose that commitment to better services.

Councillors are also proud to work with their local communities and know that they can try to resolve residents' issues with a small and dedicated team, who know their area and want to help. It will be a concern to some that this local provision of services could be lost.

As Leader at HBBC I have worked hard with all Councillors, officers and partner agencies to balance the needs of the community with the ability of the Council to deliver. We have done a fantastic job, improving services, investing in our communities, and reducing costs. We are planning thoughtfully for economic growth, for housing, and to support the most vulnerable in our communities.

Council Leaders across Leicestershire will have their own views on how best to improve local government, but for me a strong borough council should continue to be at the heart of delivering and improving the services we provide, and I will do my best to deliver that for local people.'

Leicestershire County Council Cabinet has produced a timetable for bringing forward their plans, including a time allocation for this authority, and others, to be consulted on their proposals. It is clear from their plans that LCC have a view that this Council, along with others, should be scrapped, and that we should not be included in any strategic alliance.

There have been statements pointing out that residents of this borough would not benefit from such a unitary authority, due to our current low level of council tax. Also having a county based unitary would make Leicestershire one of the largest unitary councils in the country and arguably even more remote from our communities.

Part of the proposal by LCC would be for Leicestershire's towns, including Hinckley, to have their own town councils, with parish councils taking on more responsibilities. This is a matter for our residents to decide, not for those at County Hall.

If, as is claimed, the system of local government is broken, then we do need to consider ways of how this potentially can be fixed. I do not believe that the County Council proposals will deliver the best for our residents and any work to develop a new model needs to build on the excellent collaborative arrangements already in place with districts and involve all councils and a wider discussion across the East Midlands about the options available.

These options could include:-

Forming a combined authority/strategic alliance including districts within the East Midlands

Stronger partnerships and collaborative arrangements between existing councils

Council mergers at district or county level

A range of possible unitary structures

Creating new town councils.

This Council therefore resolves to:-

- 1) Undertake a public consultation to determine if Hinckley residents, given the

facts, would be in favour of Leicestershire County Council's favoured proposal for a town council, and if so we commit to its introduction.

- 2) Seek to work with all other Leicestershire authorities to evaluate a range of options on how best to deliver local government services in Leicestershire, building on the excellent collaborative work that already exists between districts.
- 3) Work with all East Midlands councils to consider the options for a combined authority/strategic alliance that will include districts, and to determine what powers this would seek."