

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

18 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr MR Lay - Chairman
Cllr C Ladkin and Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chairmen

Cllr MA Cook (for Cllr JMT Collett), Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr K Morrell, Cllr A Pendlebury, Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools and Cllr R Webber-Jones

Also in attendance: Councillor CM Allen, Councillor RG Allen, Councillor CW Boothby, Councillor MB Cartwright, Councillor DJ Findlay, Councillor KWP Lynch, Councillor LJP O'Shea JP and Councillor HG Williams

Officers in attendance: Matthew Bowers, Bill Cullen, Malcolm Evans, Edwina Grant, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Kirstie Rea, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

234 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Collett and Gibbens with the substitution of Councillor Cook for Councillor Collett authorised in accordance with council procedure rule 10.

235 MINUTES

Councillor Sheppard-Bools stated that he was recorded as having seconded the motion to move into private session whereas it should have read that Councillor Webber-Jones seconded the motion. It was moved by Councillor P Williams, seconded by Councillor Sheppard-Bools and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record subject to the abovementioned amendment.

236 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

237 VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Members were updated on the new arrangements for overseeing the borough's voluntary and community sector (VCS) partnership arrangements and supporting activities which would now be undertaken by the Rural Community Council (RCC) following Next Generation's decision not to continue in the role.

In response to members' questions, the following points were noted:

- All funding was documented and monitored and the relevant Executive member was kept updated
- The RCC had worked with the authority for many years and extended its support beyond rural areas in the borough
- Dial-a-ride had been able to continue providing a driving service throughout the pandemic thanks to its dedicated volunteers and a new paid driver post

which had enabled residents to attend GP and hospital appointments and for their vaccinations.

It was agreed that a briefing note with further detail about the grants paid, including itemising the amounts listed in appendix 1, would be prepared.

Members commended the work of the VCS partnership.

238 HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH LOCAL PLAN 2020 TO 2039 - SUBMISSION

The Scrutiny Commission was provided with an update on progress with the preparation of the emerging local plan and the housing and employment land allocations proposed for inclusion in the submission version of the local plan. During discussion and in response to members' questions, the following points were made:

- There would be no weight attached to the local plan until the submission version was signed off by Council
- Members had had the opportunity to view the developing plan at the Planning Policy Working Group but attendance had been poor
- Some members were disappointed with the site allocations and designation of key rural settlements
- The two sustainable urban extensions (SUEs) were still in the plan but would not be fully delivered within this local plan period
- The notion of a garden village could not be included in the plan as it would require a significant amount of detail but should a proposal come forward, it could be explored at a later date and could be included in a development plan document at that time
- The process undertaken in relation to the local plan was good practice and had support from the Planning Advisory Service and the government's Planning Inspectorate service.

Members were reminded that the report was an update and not a the full local plan document, which would be brought to members in due course. It was also suggested that members could arrange to discuss specific sites with an officer.

It was suggested that it would be helpful to include a map which showed where sites already had planning permission. In response it was agreed that this could be provided at a future working group meeting.

Councillors Boothby and Findlay left the meeting at 8.05pm.

239 MINUTES OF FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

The minutes of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny were received for information. The Planning frontline service review was highlighted and it was noted that the chairman had requested a more detailed review of the service which would be undertaken by a task and finish group.

240 MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Councillor Sheppard-Bools seconded by Councillor P Williams, it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt

information as defined in paragraphs 1, 3 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

Councillors Cartwright and O'Shea left the meeting at 8.08pm.

241 BUILDING CONTROL SERVICE

Members were advised of the outcome of work undertaken to consider a shared Building Control service which would formalise the partnership work already undertaken and would result in cost savings.

It was requested that reports on the authority's shared services be brought to the Scrutiny Commission or Finance & Performance Scrutiny annually.

Members emphasised the need to have a contact for the service in case queries arose in their ward. It was agreed that this would be included.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The business case be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to Council;
- (ii) The increase in fees be RECOMMENDED to Council as part of the budget process;
- (iii) An annual report on the authority's shared services be added to the work programme for the appropriate scrutiny body.

242 HINCKLEY CREMATORIUM UPDATE

Members received an update on the development of the crematorium.

Members requested a tour of the site and a further report when a new update was available.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report be noted;
- (ii) A further update be brought to the Scrutiny Commission in due course;
- (iii) A tour of the site for members be arranged.

(The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm)

CHAIRMAN