

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

**AGENDA FOR THE
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

TO BE HELD ON

TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

AT 6.30 PM

Fire Evacuation Procedures

- 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

At HBBC we are open and transparent about how we make decisions. We allow recording, filming and photography at all public meetings including Council, the Executive and Planning Committee as long as doing so does not disturb or disrupt the proceedings. There may occasionally be some reports that are discussed in private session where legislation requires this to happen, but this is infrequent.

We also allow the use of social media during meetings, which helps to bring the issues discussed to a wider audience.

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

Use of mobile phones

To minimise disturbance to others attending the meeting, please switch off your phone or other mobile device or turn it onto silent or vibrate mode.

Thank you



Date: 23 August 2024

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, 3 SEPTEMBER 2024 at 6.30 pm**

Yours faithfully

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

Miss RK Owen
Democratic Services Manager

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 1 - 4)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2024.

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 5 - 8)**

To receive for information only the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 25 July 2024.

10. **Housing revenue account investment strategy (Pages 9 - 32)**

To present the HRA investment strategy 2024 – 2028 and associated financial information for approval.

11. **Calendar of meetings 2024/25 and 2025/26 (Pages 33 - 34)**

To seek approval of the calendar of meetings for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year and for the 2025/26 year.

12. **Changes to membership of council bodies**

For information only: In accordance with part 2(f) paragraph 3.2 of the Council's constitution, the Chief Executive has authorised the following in-year changes to membership of council bodies:

- Councillor Bray to replace Councillor Hollick on Ethical Governance & Personnel Committee
- Councillor Cope to replace Councillor Weightman on Planning Committee.

13. **Motions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17**

(a) Motion from Councillor Pendlebury, seconded by Councillor Cartwright

The Borough Council notes:

- Reports from across the UK and in particular from local residents that Royal Mail is failing to deliver vital post, in a timely manner. Examples include missed medical appointments, late fines and important items from banks, solicitors as well as important personal letters and cards from family and friends
- Many people still rely on mail deliveries and do not have access to email and other forms of communication
- The hard work and long hours being undertaken by postal staff in an effort to deliver mail.

The Council further notes with concern:

- The recent increases in prices of postage rates – the fourth increase in two years

- Proposals being floated to reduce the frequency of postal deliveries.

Council resolves:

1. To express thanks to our hard-working postal staff for their continued efforts
2. To invite local Royal Mail managers to attend a meeting of the Council's Scrutiny Commission to hear concerns from members about postal deliveries in their area
3. To request the Chief Executive writes to the Chief Executive of Royal Mail to express the Council's concerns about Royal Mail deliveries across the borough.

- (b) Motion from Councillor M Mullaney, seconded by Councillor L Mullaney

Council notes the recent announcement by the Labour government to end universal winter fuel payments and restrict eligibility to only those in receipt of pension credits and other benefits.

Though many agree that universal winter fuel payments are not necessary, Council is deeply concerned that many pensioners on lower and middle incomes will now not receive the payments. Across England and Wales the number of people eligible for winter fuel payments will fall by 10 million (from 11.4 million to only 1.5 million).

In Hinckley & Bosworth the number of pensioners affected by the change in eligibility criteria is 22,431. That means 92.5% of pensioners currently eligible for winter fuel payments will no longer be able to claim the payment from this winter onwards.

Council believes that the Labour government has set the threshold at which pensioners do not qualify for winter fuel payments too low. Only those receiving a pension of less than £218.15 a week (or £332.95 a week for couples) are eligible for pension credits. This is significantly lower than the living wage rate.

Council is also concerned by the low take up of pension credit, with only 63% of those eligible nationwide receiving it – and over £880,000 pensioners not doing so. Council recognises the role we have to play to increase awareness of benefits such as pension credit to ensure people are aware of the support they are entitled to.

Council further notes that the energy price cap is due to rise by 10% in October, which combined with the removal of winter fuel payments will push thousands of local pensioners into fuel poverty.

Council resolves to:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the policy on linking winter fuel payments to

pension credit receipt to be immediately paused and introduce a new threshold to determine eligibility for winter fuel payments

2. Urgently commence a significant awareness campaign to maximise uptake of pension credits.