

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

9 MAY 2024 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr C Lambert - Chair
Cllr MJ Surtees and Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chair
Cllr RG Allen (for Cllr M Simmons), Cllr DS Cope, Cllr MJ Crooks,
Cllr C Gibbens, Cllr C Harris, Cllr J Moore, Cllr A Pendlebury and
Cllr A Weightman

Officers in attendance: Daniel Britton, Malcolm Evans, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Caroline Roffey, Paul Scragg, Madeline Shellard, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

354. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Simmons, with the substitution of Councillor R Allen authorised in accordance with council procedure rule 4.

355. **Minutes**

It was moved by Councillor Crooks, seconded by Councillor Williams and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March be confirmed as a correct record.

356. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Allen declared a non-pecuniary interest as chair of Earl Shilton Town Council which had applied to the Parish & Community Initiative Fund (item 8).

Councillor Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9 as he had been involved in the Environmental Improvement Programme as heritage champion and was a member of the heritage group mentioned in the report in relation to the schemes in Burbage.

357. **Scrutiny Commission Work Programme**

Members considered the work programme. In respect of the bus service review, it was reported that Leicestershire County Council had not yet received further information about the funding for public transport resulting from the cancelled HS2 project so the review could not be timetabled.

It was suggested that the housing association review should be brought forward given the concerns raised at the Housing task & finish group.

358. Scrutiny review: utility companies

Following a recent motion to Council in relation to future preparedness of utility companies and the subsequent agreement of the Scrutiny Commission to lead the review, National Grid's DSO Strategic Engagement Officer updated members on their work in relation to planning and forecasting.

359. Parish & Hinckley Community Initiative Fund allocation of grants 2023/24

Consideration was given to the proposed allocation of funding under the Parish & Community Initiative Fund (PCIF) and the Hinckley Community Initiative Fund (HCIF). A member suggested that parish councils be made aware that all who applied for the fund received a grant. It was noted that the new community equipment grant funded smaller items that were previously funded by the PCIF. It was moved by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Surtees and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The funding allocations of £91,892 be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to SLT;
- (ii) SLT be recommended to allow the seven previous years' schemes totalling £11,374.60 to be completed and to continue to be funded.

360. Environmental Improvement Programme 2024-25

The enhancement schemes for 2024/25 as part of the Environmental Improvement Programme were reported to the commission. In response to members' questions, it was agreed that information on work to Nutts Lane bridge and the location of the blue plaque for Margery Payne that was inside the former police station would be looked into and members would be informed.

RESOLVED – the enhancement schemes be noted.

361. Social Housing Regulation update - compliance and performance

Members were advised of changes to legislation following the implementation of the Social Housing Regulation Act 2023. During discussion, the following was noted:

- A lot of work was being undertaken to identify where damp and mould may be a problem
- Investment in IT systems was required
- Tenant satisfaction was high and stock was in good condition, with 100% meeting the government's decent homes standard
- Work towards a new tenant scrutiny panel was underway.

It was requested that a report on other tenant satisfaction measures not included in the report be brought to a future meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Crooks, seconded by Councillor Cope and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The new requirements of the Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 be noted;
- (ii) The progress in meeting new legislative requirements be noted;
- (iii) The revised Damp and Mould policy be endorsed;
- (iv) The new inspection regime introduced from 1 April be noted.

362. Minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny

The minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny held on 18 March were received for information.

363. Minutes of the Housing Task & Finish Group

The minutes of the Housing Task & Finish Group meeting on 14 March were received for information, and an update on the outcomes of the meeting on 8 May were provided.

364. Matters from which the public may be excluded

On the motion of Councillor R Allen seconded by Councillor Crooks, it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

365. Crematorium update

Members received an update on the crematorium site.

(The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm)

CHAIR