

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

18 JUNE 2025 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr SL Bray - Chair
Cllr MC Bools – Vice-Chair
Cllr MB Cartwright, Cllr WJ Crooks, Cllr L Hodgkins and Cllr MT Mullaney

Also in attendance: Councillor P Williams

Officers in attendance: Rachel Burgess, Paul Grundy, Madeline Shellard, Sharon Stacey, Gary Upton, Rebecca Valentine-Wilkinson, Ashley Wilson, Julie Kenny, Lois Hodgkins, Jodine Legg, Steven Connor and Bill Cullen

43. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Lynch.

44. **Minutes**

It was moved by Councillor Cartwright, seconded by Councillor Bools and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March be approved as a correct record.

45. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared at this stage.

46. **Corporate Sundry Debtor Recovery Policy update**

Members received a report on the Corporate Debtor Recovery Policy and the processes used for recovery.

Comments were received from the Chair and Vice-Chair of Finance & Performance Scrutiny.

In response to comments made from members, officers confirmed that where the report specified no change, future reports would be clearer and state no significant change, where necessary.

It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Cartwright and

RESOLVED – that the updated Sundry Debtor Recovery Policy be approved.

47. **Business rates write offs**

Members received a report to write off business rates of £54,840.22 in accordance with approval procedures.

Comments were received from the Chair and Vice-Chair of Finance & Performance Scrutiny.

In response to a question from members in respect of limited companies, officers confirmed that they currently did not make representation to Companies House under their legislation but would look into this and report back to members.

It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bools and

RESOLVED – that £54,840.22 be approved and written off by the Council due to insolvency.

48. **Civil Penalty Policy for Private Sector Housing Offences**

Members received a report to seek approval to replace the existing Civil Penalty policy for certain Housing offences within the private rented sector due to case law and impending legislative changes.

In response to questions from members, officers confirmed that:

- In response to poor energy efficiency ratings and the re-housing of tenants, private landlords had insurance in place and were encouraged to use this to deal with this issue.
- Five penalties had been issued since the previous policy had been in place.

It was moved by Councillor Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Bools and

RESOLVED –

- (i) That members agreed to the replacement of the Council's existing Civil Penalty Policy with 'Justice for Tenants' Civil Penalty Policy in the wake of sweeping legislative changes affecting the private rented sector.
- (ii) That members agreed for delegated authority be given to the Director of Community Services in consultation with the Executive Lead for Housing should changes to the policy be required.

49. **Hinckley Town Centre Strategic Vision**

Members received a report on the Hinckley Town Centre strategic vision.

The vision for Hinckley Town centre over the next 10 years is "Destination Hinckley: A place where people wished to spend more time". To achieve the vision a set of objectives have been identified:

- Creating an attractive and active town centre
- Delivering arrange of attractions and events
- Providing a range of facilities and
- Allowing for easy town centre access and movement.

Members thanked officers for their excellent work on this report.

It was recognised that some of the work detailed in the Vision could be devolved to the Hinckley Town Council when it had been established.

It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bools and

RESOLVED – that members endorsed the Hinckley Town Centre strategic vision and the development and delivery of the actions be taken forward.

50. **Consumer Standards and Tenant Involvement Update**

Members were provided with the results and analysis of the second year of tenant satisfaction measures.

The report noted the positive results, with overall satisfaction of tenants in the housing service at 80.1% and that the majority of tenant satisfaction measures were above average when benchmarked against national and peer group results.

Members asked for all officers to be thanked within the housing team for these excellent results.

It was moved by Councillor Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Cartwright and

RESOLVED – that members noted the positive results of the tenant satisfaction measures and work underway responding to tenant feedback.

51. **Council Housing Repairs Decent Homes and Responsive Repairs Performance Update**

Members were provided with an update on compliance with the Decent Homes standard statutory safety regulations and the current position of the responsive repairs backlog.

The report noted the positive position regarding 100% decent homes compliance in the housing stock and that performance against key statutory compliance areas including gas, electrical safety, fire safety, asbestos, lifts and legionella was also to a consistently high standard.

Members commented that they were pleased to see the repairs backlog which had built up during Covid reduced to a normal level of outstanding repairs.

Members requested that their thanks be extended to all staff within the housing team for their appreciation of work carried out including the trade persons that carried out very skilled jobs with professionalism.

It was moved by Councillor Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Bools and

RESOLVED – that members noted and endorsed the current performance against key housing compliance indicators and the progress made in reducing the responsive repairs backlog.

52. Cost of Living update

Members received a report on the work undertaken by the welfare support team, including the key achievements, workstreams and performance trends in response to the cost of living crisis.

Members thanked officers for their work on this supporting hardship within the Borough.

It was moved by Councillor Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Bray and

RESOLVED –

- (i) That members acknowledged and endorsed the extensive work undertaken by the team supporting residents of the Borough affected by the cost of living crisis.
- (ii) That members acknowledged the increase in demand upon services due to the cost of living crisis.
- (iii) That members recognised the importance of the service to residents in any future Local Government reorganisation structure.

53. Domestic Abuse Outreach Service update

Members were updated on current trends, demand and work undertaken within the Council's Domestic Abuse Outreach Service.

Members confirmed they hugely supported the intervention of this work and thanked all officers for their work in supporting members of the Borough.

It was moved by Councillor Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Bools and

RESOLVED –

- (i) That members acknowledged and endorsed the contents of the report.
- (ii) That members acknowledged the demand for the Domestic Abuse Outreach Service and relevant service offers that provided support to residents of the Borough.
- (iii) That members recognised the importance of the service to residents in any future Local Government reorganisation structure.

54. Safeguarding update

Members were presented with this report advising on the work of the safeguarding team ensuring the council meets its statutory safeguarding duty as a local authority.

Members thanked all officers for the work undertaken on this.

It was moved by Councillor Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Cartwright and

RESOLVED –

- (i) That members acknowledged and endorsed the contents of the report.
- (ii) That members acknowledged the continued significant increase in the number of referrals being received by the safeguarding team.
- (iii) That members recognised the contribution of all the Designated Safeguarding Officers across the authority who have ensured that appropriate action has been taken to safeguard children and adults.

(The Meeting closed at 7.30 pm)

CHAIR