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**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

**AGENDA FOR THE
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

TO BE HELD ON

TUESDAY, 8 JULY 2025

AT 6.30 PM

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Thank you



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Date: 30 June 2025

Dear Member

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council in the Council Chamber at these offices on **TUESDAY, 8 JULY 2025 at 6.30 pm**

Yours sincerely

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 meetings (Pages 1 - 12)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February and 13 May 2025.

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 13 - 16)**

To receive for information only the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 13 March 2025.

10. **Care experience - protected characteristics (Pages 17 - 22)**

To consider adoption of care experience as a protected characteristic.

11. **Business case to purchase 20 units of accommodation for temporary accommodation requirements (Pages 23 - 30)**

To outline a business case and rationale to purchase 20 units of accommodation to meet homelessness demand.

12. **Disposal of two HRA land assets - Beckett Avenue, Market Bosworth and Thornfield Avenue, Stoke Golding (Pages 31 - 34)**

To seek approval for the disposal of two HRA land assets in the borough.

13. **Business rates write offs (Pages 35 - 38)**

To seek approval to write off business rates of £178,373.75.

14. **Community governance review (Pages 39 - 50)**

To seek approval of the terms of reference for the community governance review.

15. **Overview & Scrutiny annual report 2024/25 (Pages 51 - 66)**

To seek approval of the overview & scrutiny annual report 2024/25.

16. **Appointments to charitable bodies**

(a) Poors Platt Charity

To appoint one representative for a period of four years with immediate effect.

(b) JCC Foundation Trust Hinckley

To appoint one representative for a period of three years from July 2025.

17. **Appointment of independent Persons (Pages 67 - 72)**

To appoint a pool of independent persons.

Please note, the appendix to this report contains personal information about candidates so is not available to the public. Should members wish to discuss

the detail of the appendix, they will need to do so in private session.

18. Motions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17

Motion to be proposed by Councillor MT Mullaney and seconded by Councillor P Stead-Davis

“This Council notes that many people rely on good 5G mobile signal for access to services, work and leisure. However we note concern expressed by residents in a number of areas across the Borough including Burbage, Hinckley and elsewhere about the recent installations of new masts on County Council highway land within the Borough.

The Council further notes that the last Conservative Government changed the rules that mean that these masts are now deemed permitted development and no longer require full planning consent.

This Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy Prime Minister to request that these be once again subject to planning consent to allow local authorities to properly assess the proposals and consider if the sites are the most appropriate to balance the need for good 5G coverage and other material planning considerations such as impact on the streetscene.
2. Ask the Lead Member for Highways at Leicestershire County Council to consult the community and local councillors before undertaking any financial agreements with mobile operators for installing such masts on their land.”

19. Matters from which the public may be excluded

To consider the passing of a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 excluding the public from the undermentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 3 and 10 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act.

20. Senior management capacity review (Pages 73 - 80)

To seek approval of a senior management review.

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HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

20 February 2025 AT 6.30 pm

PRESENT: CLLR R WEBBER-JONES - MAYOR
CLLR REH FLEMMING – DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr CM Allen, Cllr RG Allen, Cllr MC Bools, Cllr SL Bray,
Cllr MB Cartwright, Cllr MA Cook, Cllr DS Cope, Cllr MJ Crooks,
Cllr WJ Crooks, Cllr C Gibbens, Cllr SM Gibbens,
Cllr DT Glenville, Cllr CE Green, Cllr C Harris, Cllr L Hodgkins,
Cllr C Lambert, Cllr KWP Lynch, Cllr J Moore, Cllr LJ Mullaney,
Cllr MT Mullaney, Cllr LJP O'Shea, Cllr A Pendlebury,
Cllr M Simmons, Cllr P Stead-Davis, Cllr BE Sutton,
Cllr BR Walker, Cllr A Weightman and Cllr P Williams

Officers in attendance: Bill Cullen, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

382. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Boothby, Hollick, Smith and Surtees.

383. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January be approved.

384. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Stead-Davis declared a registrable interest in the housing revenue account budget as a council tenant.

385. **Mayor's Communications**

The Mayor updated on events he and the Deputy Mayor had attended.

386. **Leader of the Council's Position Statement**

In presenting his position statement, the Leader referred to:

- The third anniversary of the war in Ukraine
- Devolution and local government reorganisation, announcing the joint Leicestershire districts and Rutland County Council position
- Hinckley town centre performance
- Hinckley Leisure Centre solar panel project
- Events
- Tourism success
- The successful sports awards.

387. Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission

The chair of the Scrutiny Commission presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January for information.

388. Pay policy statement 2025/26

Council received the pay policy statement for 2025/26. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bools and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The continuing positive reduction in the pay gap between the top and median average earner be noted;
- (ii) The slight increase in the gender pay gap be noted;
- (iii) The pay policy statement for 2025/26 be approved.

389. Budget 2025/26

Consideration was given to the medium term financial strategy, the general fund budget for 2025/26, the calculation of council tax for 2025/26, the housing revenue account budget for 2025/26, proposed fees and charges for 2025/26, the capital programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28 and capital strategy and the treasury management strategy and prudential indicators for 2024/25 to 2027/28.

During discussion, reference was made to the anticipated support for the increase in national insurance contributions, the business rates reset which had been awaited for several years, the likely financial impact of local government reorganisation and status of the crematorium.

It was moved by Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Bray that the budget reports be approved.

(a) Medium term financial strategy

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on this motion was recorded.

Councillors Bools, Bray, Cartwright, Cope, J Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, C Gibbens, S Gibbens, Glenville, Green, Hodgkins, Lambert, Lynch, Moore, Linda Mullaney, Michael Mullaney, Pendlebury, Stead-Davis, Walker, Webber-Jones, Weightman and Williams voted FOR the motion (23);

Councillors C Allen and R Allen voted AGAINST the motion (2);

Councillors Cook, Harris, O'Shea, Simmons and Sutton abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) The update to the medium term financial strategy for 2024/25 to 2027/28, in particular the level of savings and new income required between 202/27 and 2027/28, be noted;
- (ii) The use of earmarked reserves required over the life of the medium term financial strategy to support the general fund position be approved.

(b) General fund budget 2025/26

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on this motion was recorded.

Councillors Bools, Bray, Cartwright, Cope, J Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, C Gibbens, S Gibbens, Glenville, Green, Hodgkins, Lambert, Lynch, Moore, Linda Mullaney, Michael Mullaney, Pendlebury, Stead-Davis, Walker, Webber-Jones, Weightman and Williams voted FOR the motion (23);

Councillors C Allen and R Allen voted AGAINST the motion (2);

Councillors Cook, Harris, O'Shea, Simmons and Sutton abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) The general fund budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26 be approved;
- (ii) The special expenses area budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26 be approved;
- (iii) The proposed movement in general fund balances and earmarked reserves for 2024/25 and 2025/26 be approved;
- (iv) The supplementary budget for licence costs be approved.

(c) Calculation of council tax for 2025/26

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on this motion was recorded.

Councillors Bools, Bray, Cartwright, Cope, J Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, C Gibbens, S Gibbens, Glenville, Green, Hodgkins, Lambert, Lynch, Moore, Linda Mullaney, Michael Mullaney, Pendlebury, Stead-Davis, Walker, Webber-Jones, Weightman and Williams voted FOR the motion (23);

Councillors C Allen and R Allen voted AGAINST the motion (2);

Councillors Cook, Harris, O'Shea, Simmons and Sutton abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED – the following be approved for 2025/26 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (i) £65,944,419, being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act (gross expenditure on general fund services, special expenses and parish precepts);
- (ii) £56,482,610, being the aggregate amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (gross income including external financing and the use of reserves);
- (iii) £9,461,809, being the amount by which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year (amount to be funded from council tax, including special expenses and parish precepts);
- (iv) £159.87, being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (average local council tax, not including parish precepts);
- (v) A band D council tax for borough wide services excluding special expenses and parish council precepts of £140.50 (Section 34(2));
- (vi) An average band D council tax relating to borough wide services and an average of special expenses and parish council services of £235.77 (Section 31B);
- (vii) The council tax outlined at appendix B to the report being the council tax for the borough of Hinckley & Bosworth divided by the tax base, including amounts for Leicestershire County Council, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire & Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Fire Authority and for each area and valuation (council tax band charges for each parish and special expense area) (Section 34(3)).

(d) Housing revenue account budget 2025/26

RESOLVED –

- (i) The revised housing revenue and housing repairs account budgets for 2024/25 be approved;
- (ii) The housing revenue and housing repairs account budgets for 2025/26 be approved;
- (iii) The proposed movement in reserves be approved.

(e) Fees and charges 2025/26

RESOLVED – the fees and charges for 2025/26 be approved.

(f) Capital programme 2024/25 to 2027/28 and capital strategy

RESOLVED –

- (i) The capital strategy be approved;
- (ii) The proposed capital programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28 be approved;
- (iii) The growth bids detailed in the report be approved.

(g) Treasury management strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28 and prudential indicators 2024/25 to 2027/28

RESOLVED –

- (i) The prudential indicators and limits for 2024/25 to 2027/28, including the authorised limit prudential indicator, be approved;
- (ii) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement contained in the report which sets out the Council's policy on MRP be approved;
- (iii) The treasury management and prudential indicators 2024/25 to 2027/28 report be approved.

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

Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Cartwright, proposed the following motion:

"The proposal to close the sorting office at Groby and Ratby local post offices is a matter of grave concern for both the business owners and the wider community. Once implemented, this will have far-reaching detrimental effects that cannot be undone.

The sorting office at Groby post office currently contributes a substantial 33% to the overall profitability of the business. The sorting office at Ratby post office contributes a substantial amount of money to their own profitability of the business. This significant portion of revenue is vital for the financial health and sustainability of the post office. The loss of such a considerable revenue stream could ultimately lead to the closure of the post office branch itself.

Beyond the financial implications for the business, the closure of the sorting office would have a profound impact on our local community. The post office is more than just a place for sending and receiving mail; it is a hub of activity and a cornerstone of community interaction for both Groby and Ratby. Groby and Ratby post offices are also the only remaining financial services / banking / cash handling providers in their respective villages. If they were to close or reduce the trading hours this would have a huge knock-on impact for the community and local businesses.

For many residents, especially the elderly and those without access to digital services, the post office provides essential services. It acts as a point of social contact and support, fostering a sense of community.

All the post men and women who sort and deliver the mail have been told is that they will have to collect their delivery rounds from Meridian Royal Mail offices from when the changes happen in any event by 1 June 2025.

With the uncertainty of the future of the post office and the staff who have given loyal service often over many, many years, we ask the Chief Executive to write to Royal Mail seeking a review of the changes about to happen and clarifying at the same time the impact of such changes on the post office employees that will be affected as well as the residents we represent who may well have to collect failed Royal Mail deliveries from Meridian rather than their local post office.”

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – the Chief Executive writes to Royal Mail seeking a review of the changes and clarifying the impact of such changes on the post office employees and residents.

(The Meeting closed at 7.42 pm)

MAYOR

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

13 May 2025 AT 6.30 pm

PRESENT: CLLR R WEBBER-JONES - MAYOR
 CLLR REH FLEMMING – DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr RG Allen, Cllr MC Bools, Cllr SL Bray, Cllr MB Cartwright,
Cllr MA Cook, Cllr DS Cope, Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr WJ Crooks,
Cllr C Gibbens, Cllr SM Gibbens, Cllr DT Glenville, Cllr CE Green,
Cllr C Harris, Cllr L Hodgkins, Cllr E Hollick, Cllr C Lambert,
Cllr KWP Lynch, Cllr J Moore, Cllr LJ Mullaney, Cllr MT Mullaney,
Cllr LJP O'Shea, Cllr A Pendlebury, Cllr M Simmons,
Cllr H Smith, Cllr P Stead-Davis, Cllr MJ Surtees, Cllr BE Sutton,
Cllr BR Walker and Cllr P Williams

Officers in attendance: Bill Cullen, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen and Sharon Stacey

1. Appointment of Mayor for the ensuing year

On the motion of Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Glenville, it was

RESOLVED – Councillor Flemming be appointed Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Flemming made the requisite declaration of acceptance of office and the retiring Mayor invested him with the chain of office.

The Mayor, Councillor Flemming, took the chair at this point.

The retiring consorts invested Jill Flemming with the consort's chain.

In addressing the meeting, Councillor Flemming introduced his chaplain and cadets and announced his charities for the year.

It was then moved by Councillor Bools, seconded by Councillor J Crooks and

RESOLVED – a vote of thanks be accorded to Councillor Webber-Jones for service during his term of office as Mayor.

Councillor Webber-Jones then addressed the meeting, thanking his chaplains, cadets and his consorts. The Mayor then presented Councillor Webber-Jones with the Past Mayor's medal.

Councillor Bray presented Leader's medals to Amelia and Clara Webber-Jones.

2. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year**

On the motion of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Pendlebury, it was

RESOLVED – Councillor Cathie Gibbens be appointed Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Gibbens then made the requisite declaration of acceptance of office and the Mayor invested her with the Deputy Mayor's chain of office and Councillor Scott Gibbens with the Deputy Consort's chain.

3. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Allen and Weightman.

4. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

5. **Presentation of long service award**

The Mayor presented a long service award to Tracey Fairgrieve who had served the borough for 25 years.

6. **Establishment of and appointment to council bodies**

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

RESOLVED – the political balance and allocation of seats remain unchanged from 2024/25 and appointments to council bodies be made as follows:

(i) Appeals Panel

Councillor REH Flemming (chair); Councillor BR Walker (vice-chair); Councillor CW Boothby, Councillor MB Cartwright; Councillor MJ Crooks, Councillor WJ Crooks; Councillor DT Glenville; Councillor C Harris; Councillor L Hodgkins; Councillor LJP O'Shea and Councillor M Simmons.

(ii) Audit Committee

Councillor DS Cope (chair); Councillor R Webber-Jones (vice-chair); Councillor CM Allen; Councillor REH Flemming; Councillor SM Gibbens; Councillor E Hollick; Councillor C Lambert; Councillor A Pendlebury; Councillor MJ Surtees; Councillor BE Sutton and Councillor P Williams.

(iii) Ethical Governance & Personnel Committee

Councillor CE Green (chair); Councillor A Pendlebury (vice-chair); Councillor SL Bray; Councillor MB Cartwright; Councillor M Cook; Councillor MJ Crooks; Councillor WJ Crooks; Councillor C Harris and Councillor KWP Lynch.

(iv) Finance & Performance Scrutiny

Councillor MJ Surtees (chair); Councillor P Williams (vice-chair); Councillor DS Cope; Councillor DT Glenville; Councillor LJ Mullaney; Councillor H Smith; Councillor P Stead-Davis; Councillor BE Sutton and Councillor A Weightman.

(v) Hinckley Area Committee

Councillor C Gibbens (chair); Councillor LJ Mullaney (vice-chair); Councillor SL Bray; Councillor DS Cope; Councillor SM Gibbens; Councillor L Hodgkins; Councillor KWP Lynch; Councillor JR Moore; Councillor MT Mullaney and Councillor A Pendlebury.

(vi) Licensing Committee

Councillor DT Glenville (chair); Councillor P Stead-Davis (vice-chair); Councillor RG Allen; Councillor MC Bools; Councillor MB Cartwright; Councillor WJ Crooks; Councillor CE Green; Councillor L Hodgkins; Councillor MT Mullaney; Councillor LJP O'Shea and Councillor BE Sutton.

(vi) Planning Committee

Councillor MJ Crooks (chair); Councillor JR Moore (vice-chair); Councillor CM Allen; Councillor RG Allen; Councillor SL Bray; Councillor M Cook; Councillor DS Cope; Councillor REH Flemming; Councillor C Gibbens; Councillor SM Gibbens; Councillor CE Green; Councillor KWP Lynch; Councillor LJ Mullaney; Councillor H Smith; Councillor BR Walker and Councillor R Webber-Jones (1 vacancy).

(vii) Scrutiny Commission

Councillor C Lambert (chair); Councillor MJ Surtees (vice-chair); Councillor P Williams (vice-chair); Councillor DS Cope; Councillor MJ Crooks; Councillor C Harris; Councillor JR Moore; Councillor A Pendlebury; Councillor M Simmons; Councillor R Webber-Jones and Councillor A Weightman.

7. **Appointment to working groups**

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

RESOLVED –

(i) The updated terms of reference for the Asset Strategy and Regeneration Group be approved, with an amendment that seven members be appointed to the group;

(ii) That appointments be made to working groups as follows:

a. Asset Strategy & Regeneration Group

Councillor KWP Lynch (chair); Councillor JR Moore (vice-chair); Councillor RG Allen; Councillor WJ Crooks; Councillor C Lambert; Councillor MJ Surtees and Councillor P Williams;

b. Member Development Group

Councillor SL Bray (chair); Councillor A Weightman (vice-chair); Councillor SM Gibbens; Councillor CE Green; Councillor A Pendlebury; Councillor BE Sutton and Councillor M Simmons.

8. **Appointment to Leicestershire Partnership Joint Committee**

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

RESOLVED – Councillors SL Bray and KWP Lynch be appointed to the Leicestershire Partnership Joint Committee.

9. **Appointment of representatives to outside bodies**

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

RESOLVED – the following appointments be made to outside bodies:

A5 partnership
Councillor WJ Crooks

Bradgate Landfill Liaison Committee (2)
Councillors MB Cartwright & E Hollick

Charnwood Forest Regional Park Board
Councillor MB Cartwright

Cliffe Hill Quarry Liaison Committee (2)
Councillors MB Cartwright & C Harris

Community Safety Partnership
Councillor MT Mullaney

Desford Brickworks Liaison Committee
Councillor R Webber-Jones

East Midlands Councils
Councillor SL Bray

Groby Quarry Liaison Committee
Councillor E Hollick

Health & Wellbeing Partnership
Councillor MC Bools

Hinckley & Bosworth Community Transport
Councillor LJ Mullaney

Hinckley & Bosworth Sports & Health Alliance
Councillor JR Moore

Hinckley & Bosworth Tourism Partnership
Councillor MC Bools

Hinckley Town Centre Partnership
Councillor DT Glenville

Horiba Mira Community Liaison Group
Councillor M Cook

Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland Police & Crime Panel
Councillor MT Mullaney

Leicestershire & Rutland Heritage Forum
Councillor P Williams

Local Government Association General Assembly (1 + named
substitute)
Councillor SL Bray (Councillor MC Bools substitute)

PATROL (Parking & Traffic Regulations outside London)
Adjudication Joint Committee
Councillor DS Cope

Voluntary & Community Sector Partnership Commissioning Board
(2)
Councillors MB Cartwright & MT Mullaney.

10. **Corporate Peer Challenge**

Council gave consideration to the outcomes of the Local Government Association (LGA) corporate peer challenge that had been undertaken in December 2024 including the draft action plan. Members welcomed the outstanding results set out in the report and commended officers and members for their hard work. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor M Mullaney and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The extremely positive outcomes from the peer challenge be endorsed;
- (ii) The action plan be approved;
- (iii) The positive report and outcomes be communicated to residents, partners and staff;
- (iv) Members, officers and partners be thanked for their positive engagement in the peer challenge process.

(The Meeting closed at 7.28 pm)

MAYOR

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

13 MARCH 2025 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr C Lambert - Chair
Cllr MJ Surtees and Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chair
Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr C Gibbens, Cllr J Moore, Cllr A Pendlebury, Cllr M Simmons and Cllr A Weightman

Also in attendance: Councillor MT Mullaney and Councillor R Webber-Jones

Officers in attendance: Rachel Burgess, Amie Carroll, Amy Casey, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Paul Scragg and Sharon Stacey

399. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cope and Harris.

400. **Minutes**

It was moved by Councillor Gibbens, seconded by Councillor Pendlebury and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January be confirmed as a correct record.

401. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Pendlebury declared a registrable interest in the cost of living update as owner of a property which would soon be for let within the private sector but as the content of the report did not directly relate to her disclosable pecuniary interest, she would remain in the meeting.

Councillor Crooks declared an other registrable interest in the parish & community initiative fund as a member of Newbold Verdon Parish Council which was an applicant for funding.

Councillor Surtees stated that she neighboured the site in Desford that was recommended for funding from the parish & community initiative fund.

402. **Cineworld Hinckley**

Having received apologies from the representative from Cineworld, this item was deferred.

403. **Voluntary and community sector partnership and commissioning update**

Members received an update on achievements arising from the voluntary and community sector partnership arrangements. A representative from the Pierce Perspective, a recipient of funding under the arrangements, attended to inform members of the work that had been achieved as a result of the funding.

Members suggested it would be helpful to hear how many hours of work had been put into the voluntary and community sector in comparison to the number of people who had benefitted from the work.

Councillor Webber-Jones entered the meeting at 6.45pm.

In response to a member's question, it was noted that the voluntary sector in Hinckley & Bosworth was thriving, but there were challenges such as obtaining funding, for which support was provided.

It was moved by Councillor Pendlebury, seconded by Councillor Gibbens and

RESOLVED – the impact, outcomes and contribution of the voluntary and community sector be acknowledged and endorsed.

404. Children & Young People update

The Scrutiny Commission was updated on work undertaken in relation to children and young people. During discussion, reference was made to safeguarding processes, therapeutic programmes, and the youth conference. Officers were thanked for their work with young people.

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

RESOLVED – the report and work undertaken be acknowledged and endorsed.

405. Cost of Living update

Members received a report on activities undertaken by the authority in response to the cost of living crisis. Discussion ensued on changes to the foodbank referral process to avoid duplication and relationships with supermarkets.

In response to a member's question about energy efficiency measures in council properties, it was noted that savings for tenants were being monitored but it was too early to quantify them, and tenants had mentioned that their homes were warmer whilst also contributing to the decarbonisation of housing stock.

Reasons for increased demand for housing were discussed and members were reminded of the work of the task and finish group which looked into housing and homelessness which found no issues with the council's processes but recommended lobbying government in relation to various matters which were national issues. The impact of the right to buy scheme was also highlighted.

It was suggested that the scope of the forthcoming review of housing associations could be revised to look at how housing associations could help alleviate current pressures.

In relation to the reference to the recent peer challenge within the recommendations, members were informed that the final report was awaited.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) The extensive work undertaken to support residents affected by the cost of living crisis be acknowledged and endorsed
- (ii) The increase in demand upon services due to the cost of living crisis be acknowledged.

406. Parish & Community Initiative Fund

Consideration was given to the recommended allocation of the parish and Hinckley community initiative fund and the community equipment grant along with proposed amendments to the grant scheme. It was noted that the amendments would provide greater flexibility. It was moved by Councillor Gibbens, seconded by Councillor Surtees and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The funding allocations of £82,990 as outlined in the report be endorsed;
- (ii) The proposed amendments to the community equipment grant be supported.

407. Scrutiny Commission Work Programme

In considering the work programme, the chair referred to the recent inquorate meeting of the task and finish group looking at adoption of infrastructure and asked that members respond to availability requests to maximise attendance.

The following changes to the work programme were agreed:

- The scoping report for the digital poverty review would be deferred to the September meeting due to the adoption of infrastructure review being delayed
- The final report of the adoption of infrastructure review be rescheduled for November
- The overview & scrutiny annual report be added to the September meeting
- The budget strategy be added to the November meeting.

In response to a member's question, it was suggested that an update on the crematorium project may be available later in the year. It was also agreed that confirmation would be sought from the Chief Executive on when an update on the local government reorganisation would be forthcoming.

408. Forward plan of Executive and Council decisions

The forward plan was noted.

(The Meeting closed at 7.42 pm)

CHAIR

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Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 8 July 2025

Wards affected: All Wards

Care Experience – Protected Characteristic

Report of Director (Community Services)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To propose the Council adopts care experience (i.e. those people who have been in the care system) as a protected characteristic to redress inequalities faced by care experienced young people.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Council notes the contents of the report and the disadvantaged position people with care experience can face when accessing services.
- 2.2 Council agrees to care experience being treated by the Council as a protected characteristic.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The independent review of children's social care led by Josh MacAllister, published a final report and recommendations in May 2022 that included:
- Government should make care experience a protected characteristic.
 - New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations.
 - Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perceptions of care experience centre on the idea that children are irredeemably damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made.
- 3.2 In the absence of government legislation, a growing number (over 100) local authorities and other public organisations have adopted care experience as a protected characteristic alongside other statutory protected characteristics.

- 3.3 As a council we already have corporate parenting responsibilities to care leavers and have signed up to the County Care Leavers Promise (Appendix A). The Care Leavers Promise supports care leavers in housing, council tax and access to sport, leisure and physical activity programmes. The council also work in partnership around areas such as housing and are signatories to the Care Leavers Housing Protocol.
- 3.4 Whilst the council supports care experienced young people as outlined above, it is recognised that those with care experience can often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system.
- 3.5 Some of the ways that care experienced young people face discrimination include:
- Lack of trust – care experienced young people may have a deep-rooted mistrust in systems or institutions born out of their experiences of the care system. This could result in hesitancy or difficulty in seeking out and accessing necessary services.
 - Social networks – these provide valuable information, resources and emotional support. Care experienced young people might lack these networks due to broken familial relationships or frequent relocations. This can make navigating systems more challenging and isolating.
 - Family guidance – individuals who have grown up in care often lack the family guidance that many take for granted. This could be advice on filling out forms, understanding services and options available or having the support of a family member when facing a difficult or intimidating process.
 - Social mobility – care experienced people can face significant challenges when it comes to social mobility. The hurdles they face in education, employment and housing can limit their ability to advance socially and economically.
- 3.6 The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to have due regard to unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics. It is for these reasons that it is proposed that the Council joins the increasing number of Local Authorities who have already done so and adopts the policy of treating care experienced individuals as a protected characteristic.
- 3.7 If adopted, the Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies made and adopted by the Council would be assessed in line with our Equalities Policy to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 4.1 To be taken in public session.

5. Financial implications (AW)

5.1 None directly from this report

6. Legal implications (JS)

6.1 The Equality Act 2010 is intended to eliminate discrimination and specifically references nine protected characteristics for that purpose, including (but not limited to) age, disability, race and religion.

6.2 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 addresses the corporate parent principles and the duties of the local authority, in addition to the related duties under The Children Act 1989. Acknowledging a personal characteristic, such as care experience, as being akin to a protected characteristic furthers the principles of the Equality Act in the absence of legislative change and the addition of a further protected characteristic.

6.3 The proposal contained in this report should be reviewed in the event that legislation is introduced to add care experience as a tenth protected characteristic to the Equality Act 2010.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 Contributes to the People priority in the Corporate Plan.

8. Consultation

8.1 None at this point. To engage with care experienced young people to embed this approach.

9. Risk implications

9.1 Management of significant (Net Red) risks

| Risk description | Mitigating actions | Owner |
|--|---|----------------|
| Officers don't consider care experience as a protected characteristic when considering changes to services/new policies. | Update Corporate Equalities Policy and training to reflect inclusion of care experience as a protected characteristic. | Julie Kenny |
| | Refresher Equalities training for all officers and staff to be informed of changes to equalities policy. | Julie Stay |
| | Inform staff of care experience being considered a protected characteristic via middle manager and Chief Exec all staff briefings | Rachel Burgess |

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 The report has taken into consideration the disadvantaged position of care experienced people and recommends adopting the protected characteristic as outlined in 2.2.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 No climate implications

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: Appendix A Care Leavers Promise

Contact officer: Sharon Stacey, Rachel Burgess
Executive member: Councillor S Bray

our promise

to children in care and care leavers



by Leicestershire County Council and Partners



We will support you

- Provide emotional support
- Whatever you do we will be there
- Ensure all your needs are met
- Provide advice, information, practical and financial support
- We will make sure that you know what your rights are
- Will not judge you if things go wrong. We all make mistakes!



We believe in you

- We will value your strengths and talents
- Support you to overcome any stumbling blocks you face
- Support you to achieve your goals
- Embrace your individuality
- Encourage your aspirations
- Support you to succeed in life



We will respect your identity

- We will respect your unique identity
- Support you to develop your own personal beliefs and values
- Accept, respect and celebrate your identity, culture and heritage
- Value, respect and support important relationships
- Encourage you to express your identity positively



We will listen to you

- We will listen and respect you
- Strive to understand your point of view
- Place you at the heart of all decisions
- Support you to talk about your worries and happy times
- Support you to seek independent advocacy



We will support you to find a place you can call home

- We will do our best to find you a home near to people who are important to you
- Ensure you feel safe and secure
- As you grow we will support you to learn new skills to support your independence
- We are here to support if things go wrong



We will inform you

- Legal entitlements and services
- Up to date and accurate information
- Support you to access your care records
- Provide information throughout your journey
- We will support you if you need to make a complaint



We will be a lifelong champion

- Support you break down barriers to other agencies
- Work together with other services to better meet your needs
- Encourage and support you to make positive life choices
- Will make sure you know how to get support when you need it
- Trust and respect you

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Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 8 July 2025

Wards affected: All Wards

Business case to purchase 20 units of accommodation for temporary accommodation requirements

Report of [Director (Community Services)]

1. Purpose of report

- 1.2 To outline a business case and rationale to purchase 20 units of accommodation, 10 in the immediate term, and a further 10 after review and process implementation, to be used as temporary accommodation to help to reduce expenditure on nightly paid accommodation to meet homelessness demand.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Council approve the recommendation and delegate authority to the Director of Community Services and Head of Finance to proceed with the purchase of up to 20 properties, 10 initially, following the implementation of a working group.
- 2.1 Council approve the purchase of an up to an additional 20 properties, following a period of review, and delegate authority to the Director of Community Services and Head of Finances to proceed with this second stage.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The report presents a business case and supporting rationale for the purchase of 20 properties for temporary accommodation, to be held by the General Fund.
- 3.2 The Council has a legal obligation to provide temporary accommodation. The Housing Act 1996, Part VII (as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act

2017) imposes a statutory duty on local authorities to provide accommodation for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In meeting this duty, local authorities often rely on temporary accommodation, which is typically funded outside the HRA through the General Fund. Section 188 outlines the duty to provide interim accommodation, and local authorities may acquire or lease properties for this purpose.

- 3.3 This business case proposes that Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council purchase 20 properties to provide temporary accommodation for homelessness customers. The scheme will help to reduce reliance on costly paid nightly arrangements, fulfil statutory housing obligations, and generate potential savings in the longer term.
- 3.4 The Home Office Code of Guidance details that Housing Authorities should not utilise Bed and Breakfast placements for families needing temporary accommodation for over 6 weeks. This scheme will ensure compliance with both statutory obligations and best practice by providing good quality local accommodation for homelessness customers. Whilst the Council does rely on self-contained accommodation for families also, this accommodation type is often scarce and often of poor quality. The Council is also unable to control rent levels and often pays a premium for temporary accommodation outside of its own supply. The Council also uses its own hostels to provide accommodation for families; these remain at capacity. The Council currently has none of its own accommodation for singles households either.

3.5 Current position

Since the pandemic homelessness demand has continued and present a sustained financial burden to the Council.

Table A outlines the demand in homelessness and temporary accommodation over the last 5 years.

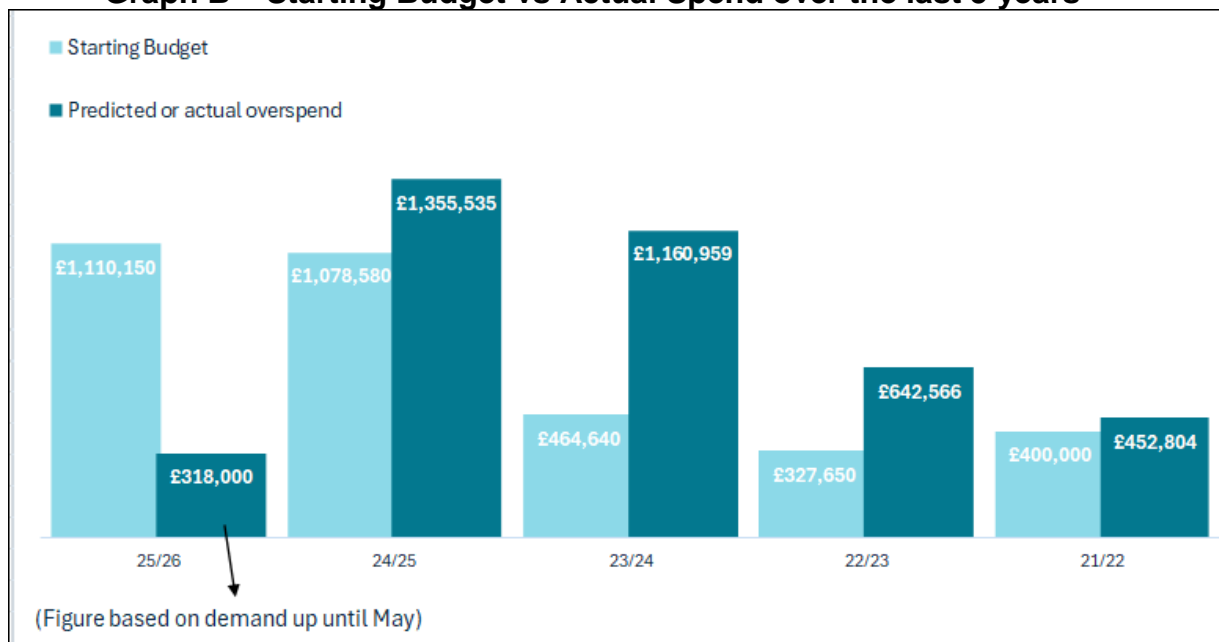
Table A- Number of households in temporary accommodation by category over the last 5 years.

| Year | Number of families in B&B/TA | Number of singles in B&B | Total cases in B&B | Numbers in hostel |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2020/2021 | 24 (12.12%) | 174 (87.88%) | 198 (Covid) | 49 |
| 2021/2022 | 26 (13.20%) | 171 (86.80%) | 197 (Covid) | 64 |
| 2022/2023 | 64 (30.77%) | 144 (69.23%) | 208 | 54 |
| 2023/2024 | 88 (43.14%) | 116 (56.86%) | 204 | 56 |
| 2024/2025 | 82 (33.34%) | 164 (66.66%) | 246 | 80 |
| 2025/2025-up to May | 27 (33.75%) | 53 (66.25%) | 80 | 28 |

3.6 Budget position

- 3.7 As stated, reliance on temporary accommodation continues to create a financial pressure to the general fund. Table B shows the budget and actual spend on temporary accommodation over the last 5 years.
- 3.8 The starting budget for temporary accommodation in 2025/26 is £1,150,000. As of the end of May, expenditure on TA was £223,356.90. Should demand continue at the same rate an overspend of circa £300,000 is anticipated in this financial year.

Graph B – Starting Budget vs Actual Spend over the last 5 years



3.9 Legal basis for acquisition

- 3.10 The legal basis for purchasing or leasing accommodation for temporary housing outside the HRA lies primarily in the Local Government Act 1972 (general acquisition powers), the Housing Act 1985 (which defines the scope of the HRA), and the Housing Act 1996 (which outlines homelessness duties). The Localism Act 2011 further grants local authorities' broad powers to meet their duties, allowing them flexibility in how they address housing needs, including using the General Fund.

3.11 Business case for the purchase of 20 properties for temporary accommodation

- 3.12 The proposal is for up to 20 two-bedroom units of accommodation to be purchased by the General Fund to be used to meet the council's duty to provide temporary accommodation in accordance with the Housing Act 1996, Part VII (as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017). A dedicated housing officer will manage the accommodation, and the financial

assumptions include this ongoing resource. Therefore all costs and income will go to the general fund, with the homes owned by the general fund.

3.13 Members have already agreed in principle a £15m capital budget as part of the council's Acquisition and Development Strategy programme, which specifically allows for delivering new housing opportunities and stays within the restrictions on guidance for the use of Government provided Debt, often referred to as PWLB loans.

3.14 The overall saving to the general fund is £106,516 for 10 units (20 units £213,032). Further details are contained in the financial implications section below. This ties in with the need to generate savings from new income sources as agreed in the MTFS approved in February 2025.

3.15 Next steps and Recommendations

3.16 Council support progression of the next steps. It is recommended that, following member approval, a working group be convened to progress the following elements of the project.

Table C- Next steps should the business case be supported

| Action | Resource |
|---|---|
| Development of project working group | Head of Housing |
| Identify and secure funding | Head of Finance/Strategic Housing Enabler |
| Identify suitable properties for purchase | Strategic Housing Enabler |
| Development of resource to oversee scheme | Head of Housing |

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 To be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [AW]

5.1 The proposal is for up to 20 two-bedroom units of accommodation to be purchased by the General

5.2 Members have already agreed in principle a £15m capital budget as part of the council's Acquisition and Development Strategy programme, which specifically allows for delivering new housing opportunities to be considered.

5.2 The overall saving to the general fund is £106,516 for 10 units (20 units £213,032) and based on the costs and income included in the table below. This assumes the properties will be fully utilised for temporary accommodation costs, for 52 weeks of the year. If in future years the demand falls for temporary accommodations, the level of return will fall. If they were

not needed for temporary accommodation the project is loss making at this level of rent, which is 9-0% of the LHA rate of £149.59 as most will be on benefit, and DWP only pay 90% of this rate.

- 5.3 The savings of £2,800 per month on temporary accommodation is based on an average saving provided by housing services. It would have to fall to £1,915 per month for the position to move into a loss making position.

Table C- Financial assumptions for proposal

| Description | Cost per unit | Total 10 units | Total 20 units |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cost of Units | £250,000 | £2,500,000 | £5,000,000 |
| Capital Works (Avoidable if purchasing new build) | £10,000 | £100,000 | £200,000 |
| Legal Fees | £7,500 | £75,000 | £150,000 |
| Total Capital Costs | | £2,675,000 | £5,350,000 |
| Income | | | |
| LHA Rent (Weekly) | £134.63 | £70,008 | £140,016 |
| Saving on TA costs (Average) | £2,800 | £336,000 | £672,000 |
| Total income & savings | | £406,008 | £812,016 |
| MRP - Minimum Revenue Provision (45 year life) | | -£59,444 | -£118,889 |
| Interest | 6.17% | -£165,048 | -£330,095 |
| Other annual running costs | £3,000 | -£30,000 | -£60,000 |
| Staff Costs | £4,500 | -£45,000 | -£90,000 |
| Total running costs | | -£299,492 | -£598,984 |
| Net benefit/Cost | | £106,516 | £213,032 |

- 5.4 The interest rate of 6.17% used is based on 45 year PWLB rates currently (27/5/2025) in place. These rates are high based on historical comparisons.
- 5.5 The estimated payback term is 25.1 years, but it makes a positive contribution to the general fund in year (First 12 months in place, which may be split over two financial years), with a return on investment of 4%.
- 5.6 Future proofing- unfortunately, the housing crisis is such that long term temporary accommodation requirements are likely for homeless customers. By owning 20 assets, the council can look to use the accommodation more flexibly should demand reduce, for example the accommodation could be let at market rent. The council could also look to dispose of these assets in the future and obtain a capital receipt.

6. Legal implications [SK]

- 6.1 Set out in the report

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The objectives of the report align to the following corporate plan objectives

People- Helping people to stay safe, healthy, active and in employment.

8. Consultation

8.1 None

9. Risk implications

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks

| Risk description | Mitigating actions | Owner |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Service demands exceed allocated budget | Exploration of schemes to meet demand | Head of Housing |
| Failure to meet Homelessness duties | Robust management of homelessness cases | Housing Options Manager |

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 The objectives of the report are to support some of the most vulnerable members of the borough.

11. Climate implications

11.1 The Housing Services strives to deliver its services to compliment climate change objectives.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications

- Asset management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data protection implications
 - Voluntary sector
-

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Maddy Shellard/Ashley Wilson

Executive member: Cllr M Mullaney/ Cllr Lynch

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Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward Timetable of Consultation and Decision Making

Asset Strategy & Regeneration Group 6 March 2025
Council 8 July 2025

WARDS AFFECTED: ☐ Ambien
Cadeby, Carlton & Market Bosworth with Shackerstone

DISPOSAL OF TWO HRA LAND ASSETS - BECKETT AVENUE, MARKET BOSWORTH AND THORNFIELD AVENUE STOKE GOLDING

Report of Director (Community Services)

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval for the disposal of two HRA land assets in the borough.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Council approves the sale of the following HRA land assets:

- Land adjacent to 13 Beckett Avenue, Market Bosworth at the valuation of £120,000
- Land adjacent to 1 Thornfield Avenue, Stoke Golding at the valuation of £115,000.

2.2 The capital receipt is used to support the HRA capital programme.

3. Background to the report

3.1 The council have received requests to purchase two pieces of land owned within the HRA:

- **Land Beckett Avenue, Market Bosworth** - Currently an open space being leased and previously used by the Market Bosworth Scouts group. Currently being leased and a request has been received from the leaseholder to purchase.
- **Land at Thornfield Avenue, Stoke Golding** - This land previously formed part of the garden of 2 Thornfield Avenue, a council owned property, and

was relinquished by a former tenant as it was too large to maintain. Subsequently the plot has been fenced off and the council has carried out periodic clearances of overgrowth and fly tipped rubbish.

- 3.2 Following these requests land surveys have been sought, Table 1 shows the valuations provided:

Table 1- Land valuations for sites proposed for sale

| Site | Valuation |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| | |
| Beckett Ave, Mkt Bosworth | £120,000 |
| Thornfield Ave, Stoke Golding | £115,000 |
| Total | £235,000 |

- 3.3 In addition to the payment for the land, purchasers are also required to pay all the councils' valuation and legal fees required to complete the transaction.
- 3.4 Disposal of these sites has been considered by the HRA Delivery Group and other options including development by the Council for additional social housing have been considered but due to the limited size of these sites, neither are considered to be viable sites.
- 3.6 The size of the two sites suggest they are suitable for the development of single dwellings, this has been reflected in the valuation surveys and will hopefully provide additional homes in these rural areas.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 4.1 The report is to be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [AW]

- 5.1 The receipts will be capital receipts to the HRA.

6. Legal implications [SK]

- 6.1 The Council under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, have power to dispose of property in any manner they wish, the Council further have a duty not to sell land for a consideration less than best consideration reasonably obtained.
- 6.2 All land titles have been reviewed and reports provided. No restrictions on disposal on the freehold titles.

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 Provide quality services, good value for money and make the best use of our assets.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Ward Member views have been sought, and they are supportive of the recommendations set out in the report.

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 Management of significant (Net Red) risks

| Risk description | Mitigating actions | Owner |
|------------------|--------------------|-------|
| None | | |

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 All of the sites are in rural areas, the two sites referenced in 3.6 of the report will provide additional homes in these areas.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 Climate implications have been considered.

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Clive Taylor, Housing Assets & Support Teams Manager:
01455 255890

Executive member: Councillor M Mullaney

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Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Finance and Performance Scrutiny 9 June 2025
Council 8 July 2025

Wards affected: All

Business Rates Write off

Report of Head of Finance

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval of members to write off business rates of £178,373.75 in accordance with approval procedures.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the following amounts in the table below are approved for write off by the Council due to insolvency:

| Description | Liabe Period | Amount | Comments |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---|
| Limited Company | 2023/24-2024/25 | £69,872.59 | All available enforcement and recovery options have been exhausted, and the business was struck off Companies House and dissolved 12th November 2024. |
| Limited Company | 2021/22-2023/24 | £108,501.16 | All available enforcement and recovery options have been exhausted, and the business was struck off Companies House and dissolved 25 July 2023. |

3. Background

- 3.1 The Business rates of £178,373.75 noted in the table at 2.1 above are no longer recoverable and need to be written off. These amounts have already been accounted for in the financial statements and budget, with provisions made for 2023/24 and 2024/25, so will not change the current budgeted

position. Our share of the write off is £71,349.50. In all cases legal action was taken in an attempt to collect the amount outstanding, and recovery procedures have been exhausted. The Constitution requires Council to approve the write off of debts over £50,000.

4 Implications

- 4.1 For the 2023/24 and 2024/25 year the budget had allowed for business rates growth of £3.7m and £4.35m respectively, mainly due to expectation of businesses becoming occupied and increases in Section 31 grant. This means that the loss to us of £71,349.50 will reduce the expected growth, but due to use of the provisions it has been possible to prevent the impact of the lost rates falling on the general fund. If the provision is at any time exhausted, then equalization reserve would have been used to offset the impact on the general fund. In the past members have agreed to keep this reserve at a minimum of £1,250,000.

5. Financial implications [IB]

- 5.1 Contained in the body of the report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 Section 25 of the Local Government Act (2003) requires the Section 151 officer to report on the robustness of the estimates made within the budget and the adequacy of the financial reserves.

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 A robust General Fund Budget is required to ensure that resources are effectively allocated to ensure delivery of all of the aims, outcomes and targets included in the Council's Corporate Plan.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 None

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all the risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

No significant risks are associated with this report.

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

11. Climate implications

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. However financial planning is a key tool for delivering the corporate priorities of the Council. Included in those priorities are the Climate change considerations for services. The budget decisions made by members in relation to issues such as Council tax, fees and charges, and in the longer-term asset investment directly affect the council's abilities to invest in climate change priorities.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Ashley Wilson

Executive member: Cllr K Lynch

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Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 8 July 2025

Wards affected: All wards

Community Governance Review

Report of the Director of Corporate & Streetscene Services

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek Council approval of the terms of reference for the Community Governance Review.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Council approves the Community Governance Review and the associated terms of reference for publication and consultation.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 In accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, each local authority is required to periodically undertake a Community Governance Review of its local authority area. This is an exercise where the parish electoral arrangements across the whole area are reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate and relevant.
- 3.2 The Council last undertook such a review of the whole local authority area in 2022. However, since then there the Government's Devolution White Paper was issued with wide ranging implications for local government and its reorganisation. As a consequence, there is a desire to review local arrangements – specifically the current unparished area of Hinckley. This desire has already been expressed publicly at recent Council meetings.
- 3.4 Whilst the terms of reference for the review is currently focussed solely on the unparished area of Hinckley, this could be revisited if appropriate representations are made from other areas during the consultation.

3.5 The attached terms of reference will form the basis upon which the review is undertaken. They outline the scope of the review and include guidelines and considerations upon which any decisions will be made.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 To be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications (IB)

5.1 None at this stage.

6. Legal implications (ST)

6.1 Set out in the report.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The Community Governance Review supports all objectives within the corporate plan by ensuring community governance is appropriate.

8. Consultation

8.1 Public consultation will take place and the views of parish councils, borough councillors and the voluntary sector via the Rural Community Council will be invited.

9. Risk implications

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

| Management of significant (Net Red) risks | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Risk description | Mitigating actions | Owner |
| Electorate dissatisfaction with revised arrangements | Maximise public awareness to ensure the electorate are aware of the consultation and how to submit a response. Council to give due consideration to all responses received | Chief Executive |
| Non-compliance with government policy | Council to be mindful of government guidelines and policy | Monitoring Officer |
| Potential for judicial review | Council to ensure that decision making processes are followed and decisions are supported by clear reasons | Democratic Services Manager |

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 The review will invite communities to input into the governance arrangements that affect them.
- 10.3 The consultation process will be accessible to all residents.
- 10.4 An equality impact assessment will be undertaken when the final proposals are drafted.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 Consultation methods will be carefully considered to avoid paper consultation where possible, although this will still be available to those who require it.

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
 - Community safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data protection implications
 - Voluntary sector

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Julie Kenny, tel 01455 255985
Becky Owen, tel 01455 255879
Mollie Brooks-Crowley, tel 01455 255835

Executive member: Councillor S Bray



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of part of the Hinckley and Bosworth local authority area in accordance with part 4, chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 1.2 The council is required to have regard to the guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered when drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a Community Governance Review?

- 2.1 A Community Governance Review provides an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. It can take place for the whole or part of the borough to consider one or more of the following:
 - a) creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
 - b) the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
 - c) the electoral arrangements for parishes including:
 - the ordinary year of election
 - council size
 - the number of councillors to be elected to the council
 - the warding (if any) of the parish.
 - d) grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

- 2.2 The council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:
- a) reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area
 - b) effective and convenient.
- 2.3 In doing so, the Community Governance Review is required to take into account:
- a) The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
 - b) The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

3. Why is the council undertaking the Review?

- 3.1 The council continues to believe that parish and town councils play an important role in community empowerment and wants to ensure that parish governance in our borough continues to be robust, representative and able to meet the challenges that lie before it.
- 3.2 The council is undertaking a review at this time because since the last review (2022), the government has launched its devolution white paper which has wide ranging implications for local government and its reorganisation. It is an opportune time to review the arrangements again specifically for currently unparished areas.

4. Who will undertake the Review?

- 4.1 As the relevant principal authority, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is responsible for conducting any Community Governance Review in its electoral area. The council will oversee the review and produce draft and final recommendations. Council will approve the recommendations before a Community Governance Order is made.

5. Areas under review

- 5.1 The unparished area of Hinckley is the only area under review. The Review will not automatically mean there will be changes but it will see if there is a case for change. The council is not seeking a particular solution at this stage. It wishes to test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue for the area. Whilst Hinckley is the only area currently under review, this may be revisited if representations are made by appropriate parties.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The council is required to take account of the views of local people and legislation requires the council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest

in the review, and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

6.2 The council will comply with the statutory consultative requirements by:

- a) Consulting local government electors for the area under review
- b) Consulting any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the council to have an interest in the review
- c) Notifying and consulting Leicestershire County Council
- d) Taking into account any representations received in connection with the review.

6.3 The council will publicise the review by:

- a) Displaying a notice at Hinckley Hub
- b) Publishing a notice on the council's website at www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
- c) Writing to all town and parish councils or any other community or resident groups of which the council is aware (including neighbourhood planning groups)
- d) Writing to the Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils
- e) Consulting borough councillors, the relevant county councillors and members of parliament
- f) Consulting the voluntary and community sector via the Rural Community council.

6.4 Information about each stage of the review will be published on the council's website. Key documents will be available for inspection at Hinckley Hub, Rugby Road, Hinckley, LE10 0FR on arrangement.

6.5 Notification of the outcome of the review will be carried out by publishing them on the council's website, through general press releases and making the documents available for inspection at Hinckley Hub on appointment.

7. Timetable for the Community Governance Review

7.1 Publication of the terms of reference formally begins the Review, which must be completed within 12 months of that date. The timetable is below:

| Action | Date |
|--|---------------------------|
| Council approval of TOR | 8 July 2025 |
| Commencement of review – TOR published | 14 July 2025 |
| Stage 1 consultation stage | 14 July – 10 October 2025 |

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Consider Stage 1 submissions received and prepare draft recommendations | 13 October – 12 December 2025 |
| Draft recommendations to Council | 19 February 2026 |
| Draft recommendations published | 23 February 2026 |
| Consultation on draft recommendations | 23 February – 22 May 2026 |
| Consider submissions received on draft recommendations and prepare final recommendations | 25 May – 24 July 2026 |
| Final recommendations and draft reorganisation order put to Council | September 2026 |
| Reorganisation Order (s) made | By 1 April 2027 |
| Order comes into force | 1 April 2027 |
| Appointments made under new arrangements | May 2027 |

- 7.2 Any Community Governance Order made following a review should, for administrative and financial reasons (for example setting up a new parish council and arranging for its first precept) take effect on 1 April following the date on which the Order is made. Electoral arrangements will come into force at the elections to any new parish council following the making of the Order.

8. Electoral forecasts

- 8.1 The December 2024 register (last updated on 2 June 2025) has been used to produce existing ward electorate figures, which are set out in annexe 1.
- 8.2 When the council considers electoral arrangements for the area, it is required to consider any change in the number or distribution of electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning the date the review starts.
- 8.3 Electorate forecasts have been prepared using information contained in the emerging local plan to produce five-year forecasts, details of which are set out in annexe 1.

9. The present structure of the area under review

- 9.1 In addition to electorate information, annexe 1 includes information regarding the following:
- a) District wards
 - b) Polling districts
 - c) County divisions
 - d) Parliamentary constituency

- 9.2 Whilst the Hinckley borough wards are not represented by parish/town councils, there is currently a Hinckley Area Committee in place which provides the community representation for this area. This committee is made up of the borough councillors elected for the relevant wards in the area.
- 9.3 The Council is required by law to consider other forms of community governance as alternatives to establishing parish councils. The Council will be mindful of such other forms of community governance in consideration of whether parish governance is most appropriate in certain areas. However, The Council also notes that what sets parish councils apart from other kinds of governance is the fact that they are a democratically elected tier of local government with directly elected representative, independent of other council tiers and budgets, and possessing specific powers for which they are democratically accountable.
- 9.4 The Council is anxious to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identity and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.
- 9.5 The Council is also anxious to ensure that parishes should be viable and should possess a precept that enables them to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and contribute to the real provision of services in their area in an economic and efficient manner.

10. Consequential matters

- 10.1 When the required consultation has been undertaken and the review completed, the council may make an Order to bring into effect any decision that it may make. If the council decides to take no action then it will not be necessary to make an order.
- 10.2 If an Order is made, it may be necessary to cover certain consequential matters in that Order. These may include:
- a) The transfer and management or custody of any property
 - b) The setting of a precept (council tax levy) for the new town council
 - c) Provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities
 - d) Provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters.

- 10.3 The council will also take into account the requirements of the Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 when calculating the budget requirement of any new town council when setting the council tax levy to be charged.

11. Representations

- 11.1 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council welcomes representations during the specified consultation stages as set out in the timetable from any person or body who may wish to comment or make proposals on any aspect of the matters included within the review.

- 11.2 Representations may be made in the following ways:

- Online using the form at xxx
- By email to democraticsupport@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
- By post to
Democratic Services
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Hinckley Hub
Rugby Road
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 0FR.

Unparished Areas by Borough Ward

| Hinckley Castle | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Polling District | County Division | Parliamentary Constituency | Electorate (Dec 2019) | Electorate (Jun 2025) | Projected electorate* (Dec 2030) |
| DAA | St Marys | Hinckley and Bosworth | 1530 | 2743 | 2756 |
| DAB | St Marys | Hinckley and Bosworth | 1198 | 1913 | 2039 |
| DAC | St Marys | Hinckley and Bosworth | 1845 | 650 | 637 |
| DAD | St Marys | Hinckley and Bosworth | 664 | N/A | N/A |
| | | | 5237 | 5306 | 5432 |

| Hinckley Clarendon | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Polling District | County Division | Parliamentary Constituency | Electorate (Dec 2019) | Electorate (Jun 2025) | Projected electorate* (Dec 2030) |
| EAA | St Marys | Hinckley and Bosworth | 544 | 550 | 541 |
| EAB | Hollycroft | Hinckley and Bosworth | 2216 | 2648 | 2684 |
| EAC | Hollycroft | Hinckley and Bosworth | 2244 | 1720 | 1723 |
| EAD | Hollycroft | Hinckley and Bosworth | 2201 | 2296 | 2287 |
| EAE | Hollycroft | Hinckley and Bosworth | N/A | 279 | 987 |
| | | | 7205 | 7493 | 8222 |

| Hinckley De Montfort | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Polling District | County Division | Parliamentary Constituency | Electorate (Dec 2019) | Electorate (Jun 2025) | Projected electorate* (Dec 2030) |
| ABA | De Montfort | Hinckley and Bosworth | 3069 | 1890 | 1909 |
| ABB | De Montfort | Hinckley and Bosworth | 782 | 835 | 908 |
| ABC | De Montfort | Hinckley and Bosworth | 4524 | 3135 | 3157 |
| ABD | De Montfort | Hinckley and Bosworth | N/A | 2446 | 2566 |
| | | | 8375 | 8306 | 8540 |

| Hinckley Trinity | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Polling District | County Division | Parliamentary Constituency | Electorate (Dec 2019) | Electorate (Jun 2025) | Projected electorate* (Dec 2030) |
| ACA | De Montfort | Hinckley and Bosworth | 443 | 1896 | 1894 |
| ACB | De Montfort | Hinckley and Bosworth | 1511 | 1558 | 1584 |
| ACC | Hollycroft | Hinckley and Bosworth | 3670 | 2075 | 2651 |
| | | | 5624 | 5529 | 6129 |

| Total electorate for unparished areas | Electorate (Dec 2019) | Electorate (Jun 2025) | Projected electorate* (Dec 2030) |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | 26441 | 25479 | 28323 |

*This projection was calculated by extrapolating the number of properties on the register database from data for the previous 11 years, accounting for the locations of major planning applications (those above 10 dwellings) that are permitted and due to commence or be fully developed within five years. An average of 1.69 electors per property has been used to forecast the electorate, as is the average for the area.

The focus on properties for forecasting, rather than electorate statistics, takes into consideration the effect of “event-led” voter registration, where electors are more likely to register in the run up to an election than when they change address. This can lead to short-term fluctuations in electorate that are not representative of the long-term trend.



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Scrutiny Commission | 26 June 2025 |
| Council | 8 July 2025 |

Wards affected: All wards

Overview & Scrutiny annual report 2024-25

Report of the chair of the Scrutiny Commission

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present the annual report outlining the work of the overview & scrutiny function in 2024/25.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The overview & scrutiny annual report for 2024-25 be approved.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 Part 2e of the council's constitution requires an annual to be prepared by the overview & scrutiny function and presented to Council.
- 3.2 Annual reports provide assurance to Council that the work of overview & scrutiny is effective and impactful by outlining work undertaken and the outcomes of that work.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny Commission considered the report at its meeting on 26 June and endorsed it for approval by Council.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 4.1 To be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications (IB)

5.1 None.

6. Legal implications

6.1 None.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 This report supports all objectives as the Scrutiny Commission's work covers all areas of the council.

8. Consultation

8.1 The chair and vice-chairs of the Scrutiny Commission have been involved in drafting the report. The Scrutiny Commission endorsed the report at its meeting on 26 June 2025.

9. Risk implications

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 No significant risks associated with this report were identified from this assessment

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 This report does not impact any community or group, however the work of the overview & scrutiny function aims to encourage public participation and review those matters that are important to the community.

11. Climate implications

11.1 There are no implications for climate change within the report.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications

- ICT implications
 - Asset management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data protection implications
 - Voluntary sector
-

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Becky Owen, Democratic Services Manager
Executive member: Councillor SL Bray

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Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Overview & Scrutiny annual report 2024-25

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Introduction

Welcome to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Overview & Scrutiny annual report for 2024-25.

In 2024-25, the overview & scrutiny function benefitted from stability within the lead triumvirate due to the continuation of the chair and vice-chairs in their roles. Having been appointed following the elections in May 2023 – two of them new to the positions, the function has gone from strength to strength and has some valuable work.

The overview & scrutiny function consists of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny. The function is led by a minority group member who chairs the Scrutiny Commission. Two vice-chairs are appointed from the majority group and the largest opposition group. This arrangement helps to ensure that scrutiny's work is free from party politics and able to effectively scrutinise the Executive. One of the vice-chairs is chair of Finance & Performance Scrutiny.

We have continued to work positively as a triumvirate and to shape the function to meet future challenges by:

- raising the profile of scrutiny amongst councillors, officers and the public
- strengthening the role of overview & scrutiny in policy development
- working more closely with the Executive whilst acting as a critical friend
- considering matters which are of most importance to the public.

In July 2023, the work of the new overview & scrutiny function began with a training event and workshop for all non-Executive members which considered matters of importance to the public, members and officers which were then prioritised in order to inform the work programme for 2023 to 2027. Creation of a work programme to cover the four-year term of office is a new concept and has assisted in planning future reviews to spread workload. We have continued to focus on matters raised at the workshop to inform our agenda in 2025-26.

This report aims to measure progress against the work programme, set out the achievements of the overview & scrutiny function and consider how the function will need to adapt to meet future challenges.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank fellow overview & scrutiny councillors for their hard work and commitment, Executive members for their support and attendance and officers for supporting the overview & scrutiny function. We look forward to continuing to work together to build on our successes in the coming year.

Councillors Chris Lambert, Miriam Surtees and Paul Williams
Chair and Vice-chairs of the Scrutiny Commission



Councillor Chris Lambert
Chair of the Scrutiny
Commission



Councillor Miriam Surtees
Vice-chair of the Scrutiny
Commission and Chair of
Finance & Performance
Scrutiny



Councillor Paul Williams
Vice-chair of the Scrutiny
Commission

The role of overview & scrutiny

The terms of reference for overview & scrutiny are set out in part 2e of the council's constitution.

1.1 Within their terms of reference and with the aim of improving services to the public and on their behalf, the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny will:

- Review and / or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions, as an internal 'critical friend'
- Make reports and/or recommendations to Council and/or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions
- Exercise the right to call-in for decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive, or executive decisions delegated to individual Executive members or officers
- Approve an annual work programme
- Put in place a system to ensure that referrals to the Executive, either by way of report or for reconsideration, are managed efficiently within the terms of the constitution
- Appoint, where appropriate, a group to review a specific topic on a task and finish basis

2.1 The specific responsibilities of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny are:

- Assisting Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in depth analysis of policy issues
- Conducting research and consultation on analysis of policy issues and possible options
- Considering and implementing mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options
- Questioning members of the Executive, committees and the senior leadership team about their views and professional opinions on issues and proposals affecting the area
- Reviewing and scrutinising the decisions made by and the performance of the Executive and officers both in relation to individual decisions and over a period of time
- Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas and monitoring the eventual effectiveness of decisions taken and comparing to original forecasts
- Ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies
- Ensuring effective scrutiny of the risk management processes of the council including corporate and service risks
- Making recommendations to Council, the Executive or appropriate committee as an outcome of the scrutiny process
- Liaising with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
- Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of other public bodies operating in the area and inviting reports from them
- Questioning and gathering evidence from any person, with their consent
- Co-opting non-council members to assist in the scrutiny of specific issues on which they might have expert knowledge
- Considering "Councillor Calls for Action" and petitions as referred under the petitions scheme
- Preparing and presenting an annual report to Council.

Scrutiny Commission

The Scrutiny Commission covers a varied range of work in either items requested by members or those brought by officers to seek support, showcase positive work or provide information. The Scrutiny Commission's work in 2024-25 included:

- Attendance of **Severn Trent Water and National Grid** to support the review of utility companies pursuant to a motion of Council
- A review of work undertaken to fulfill the aims of the **Economic Regeneration Strategy**
- Commenting on **the annual infrastructure funding statement** to inform members of developer contributions and provide a basis for the scrutiny review into adoption of infrastructure
- An update on **tenant involvement and scrutiny** as part of the Transparency, Influence and Accountability Housing Customer Standard as required by the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023
- Scrutiny of the annual position in relation to **affordable housing delivery**
- Scrutiny of the **budget strategy** and budget proposals for 2025/26 before consideration by Council
- Receiving an update on **key achievements arising from** the borough's voluntary & community sector (**VCS**) **partnership arrangements**
- Updates on the **Hinckley Crematorium** project following requests from members for information on progress of this key capital project
- Information on the negotiations which resulted in **Cineworld** in Hinckley remaining open despite the closure of five other branches nationally
- Receipt and review of initial feedback and recommendations from the **corporate peer challenge**
- An update on work undertaken in relation **to children and young people**
- Understanding the work undertaken by the authority in response to the **cost of living crisis** to raise awareness and enable members to signpost residents to services
- Consideration of recommended allocations of the parish and Hinckley community initiative fund and the community equipment grant, along with proposed amendments to the scheme
- Agreeing the scope for the forthcoming scrutiny review **into digital poverty and the cashless society.**

Pre-decision Scrutiny

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council has traditionally favoured pre-decision scrutiny of items due for decision by the Executive. Providing comments and recommendations on reports before a decision is taken by the Executive reduces the need for call-in of decisions and ensures that decisions can be implemented expediently after the Executive has made its decision. The Scrutiny Commission also considers reports that are due for consideration by Council to allow for debate in a less formal forum and to enable comments to be considered and incorporated at an earlier stage. The following pre-decision scrutiny has taken place during 2024-25:

- Voluntary and community sector partnership update and commissioning outcomes 2023/24
- Cost of living update
- Children and young people update
- HRA investment strategy
- Cultural strategy
- Rural strategy
- Sustainable procurement policy
- People Strategy
- Lease of a new depot site
- Medium term financial strategy
- Budget reports
- Pay policy statement.

Finance & Performance Scrutiny

Finance & Performance Scrutiny's key roles are monitoring performance of services and financial performance. It receives reports from frontline services annually, as well as quarterly performance and financial monitoring reports. In 2024-25, Finance & Performance Scrutiny considered:

- The performance management framework along with quarterly and annual performance and risk management updates
- Quarterly financial outturn reports
- Treasury management quarterly reports
- Quarterly business rates and pooling updates
- Quarterly sundry debt reports
- Fly tipping data
- Management of void housing properties
- Performance of the corporate property portfolio
- Frontline service reviews for:
 - Housing
 - Planning
 - Street Scene Services
 - Environmental Services
 - Hinckley Leisure Centre.

Reviews

The Scrutiny Commission may undertake reviews into matters that are of interest to the community or support the council in achieving its objectives. During 2024-25, four reviews were scoped or underway:

- Review of adoptions on new developments
- Review of housing matters with a view to reduce homelessness
- Preparedness of utility companies for future growth
- Digital poverty and cashless society.

In addition, a review into healthcare took place at a single meeting in February in which representatives of the health sector provided a presentation on local primary care networks and GPs, NHS dental services, the new community diagnostic centre in Hinckley and the future of Hinckley Hospital.

The Scrutiny Commission can establish scrutiny working groups, task & finish groups or panels in order to undertake reviews on specific topics. These groups are provided with an agreed scope and are designed to undertake a time-limited review including undertaking research as appropriate. It had been agreed that the housing review and the review of adoptions on new developments would be undertaken by task & finish groups and the review of utility companies' preparedness for future growth would be undertaken by the full Scrutiny Commission. The format of the Digital poverty review has not yet been agreed.

Housing Task & Finish Group

At its meeting in December 2023, the Scrutiny Commission agreed the scope of a review into housing matters due to concern about the shortage of social housing and the levels of homelessness. The scope was agreed as:

- Understand the pathways that people use to access housing and the barriers
- Develop a strategy to increase the availability of private rented accommodation
- Lobby government for more funding for affordable housing, in particular making it easier for councils to increase their own housing stock
- Consideration of how empty homes can help with the housing shortage.

Meetings of the task & finish group commenced during the 2023-24 year and continued into 2024-25. A final report was presented to the Scrutiny Commission on 12 December 2024 with the following resolution arising from the report:

(i) Officers be recommended to:

- a) Share information between the revenues and the housing services including a list of empty properties, the size of the properties and any second homes where the own also lived in the borough;*
- b) Continue dialogue with local landlords and their representatives with a view to seeking to work together to relieve pressure on the homelessness service;*

(ii) The Executive be recommended to:

- Consider providing additional staffing to investigate empty properties and bring them back into use;
- Consider increasing capacity and expertise within the relevant team to benefit from opportunities to acquire S106 properties;
- Lobby government in relation to:
 - a) Section 106 sites: relating to affordable housing, engagement with registered providers, community infrastructure and viability
 - b) Right to buy: restricting the sale of council properties to support the council in retaining its housing stock
 - c) Empty properties: funding to assist with bringing empty properties back into use
 - d) Officer capacity and funding: funding for staffing to progress housing initiatives and requesting additional financial support for developing and acquiring council housing
 - e) General: promoting a more coordinated approach to housing-related policies across government departments

(iii) A review of the action undertaken following the consideration of the recommendations be added to the overview & scrutiny work programme for 2025/26.

The Executive considered the relevant recommendations at its meeting on 8 January 2025. The Executive supported the principle of additional staffing to investigate empty properties and bring them back into use, subject to consideration during the budget setting process. In relation to the recommendation to increase capacity and expertise to benefit from opportunities to acquire S106 properties, it was requested that officers consider utilising existing expertise. The Executive agreed to lobby government as recommended by the Scrutiny Commission.

Adoption of infrastructure Task & Finish Group

In October 2023, the Scrutiny Commission agreed the scope of a review which would cover adoption of open space, adoption of roads and the role of management companies in relation to new developments. Meetings of the task & finish group took place on 20 January, 3 March and 10 April. Further meetings are planned and it is anticipated that the work will conclude by winter 2025.

Review into preparedness of utility companies for future growth

At the meeting of Council on 30 January 2024, the following motion was approved:

“The main service suppliers for water / sewage, electricity and gas be called upon to provide assurance that they have the resources and infrastructure in place to provide for existing households and business premises and future housing, warehousing and business developments”.

The Scrutiny Commission subsequently agreed to take responsibility for the review, inviting Cadent Gas, National Grid and Severn Trent Water to a meeting of the Scrutiny Commission. A representative of National Grid attended the Scrutiny Commission meeting on 9 May and representatives of Severn Trent Water attended on 29 August 2024 where they informed members of their work to prepare for future demand. Contact has been made with Cadent Gas, however a date for attendance is yet to be agreed with Cadent.

Digital poverty and cashless society

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission on 25 July 2025, a proposed scope for the digital poverty review was agreed:

- Access to council services
- Scrutinising provision of external services including other tiers of local and national government, and banking
- Access to healthcare
- Economic opportunities
- The move to a cashless society.

Members indicated that the review should be undertaken by the full Scrutiny Commission, rather than by way of task & finish group.

Finalising the scope of the review was delegated to the chair, taking into account the capacity of members given the other ongoing and forthcoming reviews.

Previous reviews

The above programme builds on successful thematic reviews of recent years including reviews of the in-house refuse collection service, healthcare provision in Hinckley, reconfiguration of health services across Leicestershire, the garden waste service, NHS dental services within the borough and a review of the council's planning service which was instrumental in identifying weaknesses and making significant improvements in the service. The Scrutiny Commission will be reviewing progress following the planning service review during 2025-26.

Scrutiny of the budget

Scrutiny of the annual budget prior to decision by Council is an important part of overview & scrutiny. This work is undertaken at a joint meeting of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny and involves consideration of the following reports:

- General fund budget
- Housing revenue account budget
- Fees & charges
- Capital programme
- Treasury management strategy and prudential indicators.

Scrutiny of the 2025/26 budget took place at a joint meeting on 30 January 2025

Community Safety Partnership

Since the Blaby District and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Community Safety Partnerships joined together formally in 2016/17, a Joint Community Safety Partnership Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting has taken place annually. Membership consists of the Scrutiny Commissions of both authorities and the venue and chairing alternates between Blaby District Council and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. The meetings receive annual crime figures and updates on prevention work and are well attended by the local police.

The 2024/25 meeting took place on 19 February 2025, hosted by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

Looking to the future

Having planned a four-year work programme in 2023, the overview & scrutiny function has plenty of work planned! The work programme is, however, a living document which is reviewed at each meeting and updated, with requests for reports and reviews added regularly. The chair and vice chairs meeting regularly to reprioritise items and manage available officer and member capacity to address any emerging issues, such as local government reorganization.

Reviews

During 2024-25 the adoption of infrastructure review will be concluded, with recommendations being submitted to the Executive or Council as appropriate. The digital poverty and cashless society review will commence and the review into preparedness of the utility companies for future growth will come to a conclusion. In addition, the following reviews are planned:

- Bus services / public transport
- Housing associations.

The Scrutiny Commission will maximise opportunities to use task & finish groups in order to undertake deep dives into specific topics to support decision making and constructive challenge to decision makers. This will build on successes of previous reviews undertaken by way of a task and finish group.

Audit Committee self-assessment

As part of the Audit Committee self-assessment, work is being undertaken to ensure the audit and the overview & scrutiny functions complement each other. To this end, the chair of the Scrutiny Commission has been a member of the Audit Committee since its inception, but we are looking at ways of strengthening the link. Another aspect of the work involves reviewing the risk management functions of Finance & Performance Scrutiny to ensure it supports the Audit Committee's responsibilities in relation to risk management but avoids duplication. This work will be concluded during 2025-26.

Corporate peer challenge

The Local Government Association corporate peer challenge took place in December 2024. It involved a team of senior local government councillors and officers undertaking a comprehensive review of key financial, performance and governance information gathered from meetings with staff, councillors, partners and stakeholders. The feedback received from the peer challenge was extremely positive and reference was made to the overview & scrutiny function, along with some suggestions for building on the work of the scrutiny bodies:

- Continue to use different mechanisms such as task and finish groups to build on previous successful reviews and support decision making
- Clearly and publicly redefine the roles of the Executive, scrutiny and audit
- Make clear and publicly available the role of the overview & scrutiny function in the call-in process and broader scrutiny work.

An action plan has been agreed which addresses all recommendations made by the review team, including the recommendations and broader suggestions in relation to overview & scrutiny.

More information

If you would like to suggest a topic for the Scrutiny Commission to review, would like more information about the overview & scrutiny function or require this document in a different format, please contact:

Democratic Services

Email: democraticsupport@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Tel: 01455 255879.





Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 8 July 2025

Wards affected: All wards

Appointment of Independent Persons

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek agreement for the appointment of a pool of Independent Persons to support the code of conduct complaints process and statutory officer employment processes.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Appointment of the candidates listed in appendix 1 be approved for a four-year term.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The role of Independent Person was introduced under the Localism Act 2011. In June 2012, May 2016 and again in 2021, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council appointed a pool of Independent Persons following a joint recruitment exercise with the other district councils in Leicestershire.
- 3.2 In addition to the role of Independent Persons in relation to code of conduct complaints, as a result of changes introduced by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, at least 2 Independent Persons must be appointed to a panel where an authority is considering the dismissal of a statutory officer. For this purpose, the pool of Independent Persons is the same as that appointed under the Localism Act 2011.

3.3 In early 2025, Monitoring Officers from district councils in Leicestershire along with Rutland CC again agreed to a joint recruitment exercise to select a pool of Independent Persons. Following this recruitment process, the following seven candidates are recommended for appointment:

- Michael Gibson
- Gordon Grimes
- Richard Gough
- Laurence Faulkner
- Mark Shaw
- Matthew Johnson
- Michael Chad Smith.

A brief background to each candidate is included at appendix 1 but this is exempt due to containing personal information so cannot be discussed in the open part of the meeting.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 To be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications (FMc)

5.1 The Independent Persons will be able to claim expenses for things such as mileage and parking but these costs will be minimal.

6. Legal implications (ST)

6.1 For the purposes of section 28 Localism Act 2011, (dealing with Codes of Conduct and their enforcement) HBBC must include in its arrangements provision for the appointment of one at least one independent person.

6.2 A person is not an Independent Person if

- a) A member, co-opted member or officer of the Council,
- b) A member, co-opted member or officer of a parish council within HBBC's area, or
- c) A relative or close friend of anyone in a or b above.

6.3 A person may not be appointed as an Independent Person if at any time during the 5 years ending with the appointment, the person was

- a) A member, co-opted member or officer of the Council,
- b) A member, co-opted member or officer of a parish council within HBBC's area.

6.4 A person may not be appointed as an Independent Person unless

- a) The vacancy has been advertised

- b) The person has submitted an application to fill the vacancy, and
- c) The person appointed has been approved by a majority of the members of the Council.

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 This report supports all corporate aims in ensuring support for the code of conducts complaints process, thereby ensuring good governance.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 None.

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

| Management of significant (Net Red) risks | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| Risk description | Mitigating actions | Owner |
| Failure to appoint Independent Persons would be in breach of the Localism Act 2011 and would have a detrimental impact on the code of conduct complaints process. | Ensure Independent Persons are appointed in a timely manner and the relevant training and support is provided. | Julie Kenny |

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 The actions recommended in this report will have no direct impact on any community group or any particular parishes within the borough.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 This report has no direct implications on climate change.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Julie Kenny, tel 01455 255985

Executive member: Councillor S Bray

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 3, 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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