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**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

**AGENDA FOR THE
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

TO BE HELD ON

TUESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2025

AT 6.30 PM

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Thank you



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Date: 01 December 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, 9 DECEMBER 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 meeting (Pages 1 - 12)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 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 6 November 2025.

10. **Statement of Licensing Policy (Pages 17 - 62)**

To present the Statement of Licensing Policy for approval.

11. **Council Values Review (Pages 63 - 72)**

To inform Council of a refresh to the Council's corporate values.

12. **Council Tax - Local Discounts & Premiums (Pages 73 - 78)**

To seek approval for changes to the council tax discounts and premiums.

13. **Community governance review (Pages 79 - 124)**

To seek approval of draft recommendations for consultation and an amendment to the terms of reference of the review.

14. **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 3 and 10 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act.

15. **Crematorium site (Pages 125 - 130)**

To seek approval for a way forward in relation to the crematorium site.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

18 November 2025 AT 6.30 pm

PRESENT: CLLR REH FLEMMING – MAYOR
CLLR C GIBBENS – DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr RG Allen, Cllr MC Bools, Cllr SL Bray, Cllr MB Cartwright,
Cllr MA Cook, Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr WJ Crooks, 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 BE Sutton,
Cllr BR Walker and Cllr P Williams

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

239. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Allen, Boothby, Cope, S Gibbens, Surtees, Webber-Jones and Weightman.

240. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

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

241. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Pendlebury stated that she was on the board of Hinckley Homeless Group but this did not constitute an interest in the report on the supplementary income request for homeless demands and temporary accommodation.

242. **Mayor's Communications**

The Mayor presented long service awards to two members of staff, Ian Pinfold and Andy Upton who had completed 30 and 40 years of service respectively. He then went on to talk about events that he and the Deputy Mayor had attended recently.

243. **Questions**

(a) Question from Councillor Sutton to the Executive member for Planning

- (i) How long has the Council been in discussion with Nurton Developments with regard to the proposed development at Norton Heath?
- (ii) How many landowners have signed up to the proposed development?

- (iii) Can the Norton Heath development be removed from the Local Plan given the misinformation that is being circulated?

Response from Councillor Crooks:

- “(i) The Council is currently consulting on its Regulation 18 draft Local Plan consultation. As the name suggests, this is a draft document for consultation purposes and is at an early stage of the Local Plan process. The site was submitted to the Council for the first time as part of the 2024 Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). This is available to view on the Council’s website.

This site was presented to members in a planning policy meeting held via MS Teams earlier this year and the developer recently offered a presentation to all councillors on their proposals. It is a shame Cllr Sutton was unable to attend either of these.

As Cllr Sutton will be aware, the concept of delivering housing growth in the west of the borough is not new. Back in 2017 the administration he was part of proposed new “garden villages” as a way of providing the housing that the government required.

The Conservative leader at the time said “one option that is being considered to deliver this growth is the creation of garden villages. I personally believe this option to be of great value and if we can create more villages with an appropriate level of infrastructure we can deliver some fantastic new places to live, rather than destroying the ones that we already have.”

- (ii) The site has been submitted to the Council by Nurton Developments Ltd, not by any landowners. Any agreements between landowners and Nurton Developments are not a matter for the Council. The Council welcomes any correspondence from any landowners if they do not consider their land to be available for development. Any received will be investigated. Some of the site has previously been put forward to the Council for development through the SHELAA process prior to any involvement from Nurton Developments.
- (iii) No. The current consultation is for the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan only. The Council welcomes representations on the Local Plan. This site is one of many proposed sites at this Regulation 18 stage and is proposed in order to meet a nationally set housing target of over 15,000 dwellings to 2045. The Council will provide further statements and a further FAQ page on its website to provide a response to current misinformation circulating outside of the formal council statements.
I remind Cllr Sutton that the Conservative group voted in favour of proceeding with the Local Plan – with this site in it.

Should this site be removed at the next stage then I must remind Cllr Sutton and everyone else that the shortfall will need to be found elsewhere in the borough. I look forward to hearing from Cllr Sutton as to where he thinks these should go.”

(b) Question from Councillor C Allen to the Executive member for Climate Change

"I note with concern the stated position on climate change of Reform UK nationally, and more locally the comments of former deputy leader of Leicestershire County Council Joseph Boam who said "I think it is absolutely great to see Reform UK starting to scrap the wasteful net stupid zero agenda". Can the Executive member please advise if any current or future climate change projects of this Council have been or are anticipated to be adversely affected by the policies and actions of the Reform UK administration at Leicestershire County Council?"

Response from Councillor Cartwright:

"I also share grave concerns over the messages that were coming from the new Reform administration at County Hall and I hope that the sacking of Mr Boam will see a change of tone. To deny climate change is, in my view, pretty stupid when virtually all scientific experts agree that not only does it exist but it is having catastrophic consequences across the globe.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council primarily funds and delivers its own climate change projects at the borough level. We do, however, take part in some partnership initiatives with other Leicestershire authorities, for example the Green Living Leicestershire programme, where delivery or funding is shared.

At present, there has been no direct impact on Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's own climate projects or funding streams, and we do not anticipate any immediate adverse effects. Our commitments and progress towards our targets remain unchanged.

We will continue to monitor developments at the county level, particularly where they may affect partnership projects or shared funding arrangements, and will report any material changes to members.

I welcome Councillor Allen raising this and the fact she appears to be distancing herself from her own party leadership on this matter who appear to be following Reform down this dangerous path. I will remind Councillor Allen that only last month Kemi Badenoch vowed to scrap the 2008 Climate Act and the man out to try and unseat her, Robert Jenrick, has described carbon reduction plans as "something out of Putin's Russia".

I look forward to working with Councillor Allen and all other members on further ways we can reduce carbon emissions locally – including planting 1,000 more trees in the borough.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the successful launch of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Nature Recovery strategy.

Outside of Leicestershire County Council, my concern in relation to delivery of climate change and biodiversity initiatives go far wider right up to Westminster and the government of the day.

I would very much welcome talks with our elected members closest to the two MPs who have an impact upon Hinckley & Bosworth residents to learn and discover what they know about the future in this vial area from the top down. I am happy to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.”

(c) Question from Councillor R Allen to the Executive member for Planning

“In recent years there have been several instances where developers who have received planning permission have come back to Council to advise they cannot find a registered provider to take on the permitted affordable homes element of their development. This has often resulted in no affordable homes being delivered and the Council being offered a much reduced number of properties to add to the Council’s housing stock.

Can the Executive member confirm the details including developer, site, affordable homes promised, affordable or social housing units actually delivered and resultant shortfall of all such variations please?”

Response from Councillor W Crooks:

“For sites that have received planning permission and then had difficulty finding a registered provider to take on the affordable housing units, this equates to 11 sites in the borough in total. These 11 sites are in Burbage (x3), Thornton, Stanton Under Bardon, Higham, Hinckley, Markfield, Earl Shilton and Stoke Golding. Registered providers have not taken forward S106 contribution dwellings for a number of reasons and this is a national, not a local, issue, and has been raised with Homes England who oversee the role of registered providers and affordable housing. This has also been part of a recent scrutiny review which concluded earlier this year and with its findings reported back through the Scrutiny Commission.

Of the 11 sites where registered providers have not come forward, a range of solutions have been found. These include acceptance of a commuted sum in lieu of on site affordable provision with close to £2m received from two sites (both in Burbage). Elsewhere, gifted units have been accepted at sites at Higham and Twycross, the Council has acquired properties at two sites (Earl Shilton and Hinckley), affordable tenure units have been changed to rent plus properties at one site (Burbage) and on two sites (Stoke Golding and Stanton Under Bardon) the tenure mix has been changed to a discounted market housing product. Two sites (Thornton and Markfield) do not yet have a solution, with the Thornton site recently made available for sale following commencement on site and hope that a registered provider will take on the Markfield site.

Whilst the reduction in the number of registered providers taking on new sites is a national issue, the above solutions demonstrate that the Council is being proactive in finding alternative solutions that still deliver affordable housing, including a mix of tenures and a mix of housing products.

The reduction in the number of registered providers taking on new sites is a national issue. The above solutions demonstrate that this Council is being proactive in finding alternative solutions that still deliver affordable housing, including a mix of tenures and a mix of housing products.

Due to the concerns right across this chamber on this issue, it would be helpful if our local Member of Parliament could raise this in Parliament instead of his usual misinformation about the Council's planning department."

244. Leader of the Council's Position Statement

In his position statement, the Leader referred to Remembrance events, the Making a Difference awards, Hinckley area foodbank, partnership working, the free tree scheme, Peggs Close and the Christmas lights switch on events around the borough. He drew attention to the recent local plan consultation event in Twycross and the unacceptable abuse that staff had been subjected to and unhelpful false information being circulated on social media in relation to HMOs.

Councillor Hollick entered the meeting at 6.55pm.

245. Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission

The minutes of the Scrutiny Commission were received for information.

246. Local Government Reorganisation proposal

Council gave consideration to the draft local government reorganisation (LGR) proposal produced by the Leicestershire Districts and Rutland County Council. Members felt that there was no need for reorganisation of local government as the current system was successful in providing local services for local people, and it was the lack of government funding that was the issue. However, it was noted that change was being imposed by the government and the "North, City, South" proposal was the option that would best serve the residents of Hinckley and Bosworth, and across Leicestershire and Rutland more generally.

Members thanked officers for their work on the proposal and acknowledged the good collaborative working across several authorities to achieve such a comprehensive proposal.

It was moved by Councillor Bray and seconded by Councillor Bools that the report be endorsed.

Councillor Bray and a further seven members stood to request voting on the motion be recorded. The vote was taken as follows:

Councillors R Allen, Bools, Bray, Cartwright, Cook, M Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, Gibbens, Glenville, Green, Hodgkins, Hollick, Lambert, Lynch, L Mullaney, M Mullaney, Pendlebury, Simmons, Smith, Stead-Davis, Walker and Williams voted FOR the motion (23);

Councillors Harris, Moore, O'Shea and Walker abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) The final draft Local Government Reorganisation proposal for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to the Executive;
- (ii) The Executive be RECOMMENDED to delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader for any final changes to the proposal prior to submission.

247. Supplementary income request - Homelessness demands and temporary accommodation

Members received a supplementary income request in order to meet escalating demands in relation to homelessness and temporary accommodation. Concern was expressed that 27% of those seeking temporary accommodation were doing so as a result of domestic abuse, and officers were commended for their work to support them. The impact of changes to requirements for landlords which had resulted in many selling their properties was also highlighted. It was moved by Councillor M Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Lynch and unanimously

RESOLVED –

- (i) A supplementary income allocation of £900,000 be approved for 2025/26;
- (ii) The pressures facing local authorities locally and nationally in relation to homelessness and temporary accommodation be noted;
- (iii) The risk of longer stays in costly and unsuitable bed & breakfast accommodation should sufficient resources not be available be acknowledged;
- (iv) The work being progressed to prevent future reliance on costly accommodation such as bed & breakfast be noted.

248. Calendar of meetings 2026/27

Consideration was given to the calendar of meetings for 2026/27. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bools and unanimously

RESOLVED – the calendar of meetings for 2026/27 be approved.

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

(a) Motion on notice from Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor Lambert

“Council notes that:

- Construction and development projects in rural areas often bring significant heavy vehicle traffic through villages and countryside roads that were not designed to accommodate such usage
- Residents in rural parts of Hinckley & Bosworth have raised concerns about road safety, environmental damage, noise, disruption to daily life and damage to local infrastructure caused by construction traffic
- Current construction traffic management plans (CTMPs) often fail to sufficiently account for the unique characteristics and limitations of rural road networks.

Council believes that:

- Rural communities deserve the same level of consideration and protection from construction disruption as urban areas
- Strengthened CTMPs, developed in consultation with local parish councils and residents, can help mitigate adverse impacts and ensure more sustainable and respectful development.

Council resolves to:

1. An action review by the Scrutiny Commission at regular intervals (for example, quarterly)
2. Require that all future CTMPs for developments in rural Hinckley & Bosworth:
 - Include a clear assessment of narrow lanes, vulnerable road users and school zones
 - Mandate designated routes for construction vehicles, avoiding sensitive areas where possible
 - Include restrictions on hours of operation to protect residents' quality of life
 - Set out plans for regular road condition monitoring and reinstatement where necessary.
3. Advocate for early engagement with ward councillors during the preparation of CTMPs, in exceptional circumstances where construction traffic is expected to have a significant impact on the surrounding area – such as the recent application in Desford
4. Write to Leicestershire County Council's Highways department requesting collaboration on stronger enforcement of traffic routes and vehicle size restrictions in rural areas
5. Ensure planning enforcement officers have the resources and direction to monitor and address non-compliance with CTMPs.”

Whilst some members disagreed that the issue was greater in rural areas than urban, members supported the motion. It was moved by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Lambert and unanimously

RESOLVED –

- (i) An action review be undertaken by the Scrutiny Commission at regular intervals;
- (ii) All future construction traffic management plans for developments in rural Hinckley & Bosworth:
 - Include a clear assessment of narrow lanes, vulnerable road users and school zones
 - Mandate designated routes for construction vehicles, avoiding sensitive areas where possible
 - Include restrictions on hours of operation to protect residents' quality of life
 - Set out plans for regular road condition monitoring and reinstatement where necessary.
- (iii) Early engagement with ward councillors be required during the preparation of construction traffic management plans, in exceptional circumstances where construction traffic is expected to have a significant impact on the surrounding area;
- (iv) A request be sent to Leicestershire County Council highways department requesting collaboration on stronger enforcement of traffic routes and vehicle size restrictions in rural areas;
- (v) Planning enforcement officers be given the resources and direction to monitor and address non-compliance with construction traffic management plans.

- (b) Motion on notice from Councillor R Allen and seconded by Councillor Harris

“There are many young people in Hinckley & Bosworth who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to use traditional secure toddler swing seats or straight swing seats.

To address this there are specially designed accessible swing seats to provide such children with the simple joy of having a swing.

An accessible swing seat has already been installed by Barwell Parish Council in one of their parks, and has been so well received that the parish council hopes to introduce them to all of their parks.

Burbage Parish Council is also considering the installation of an accessible swing seat, hopefully by the end of this year.

This motion proposes that, as part of all future planning approvals for residential developments that include a formal play area, at least one accessible swing seat be provided as part of this provision by the developer.”

It was moved by Councillor R Allen, seconded by Councillor Harris and unanimously

RESOLVED – all future planning approvals for residential developments that include a formal play area require at least one accessible swing seat to be provided by the developer.

- (c) Motion on notice from Councillor Pendlebury and seconded by Councillor Williams

“HGV strikes at the A5 railway bridge cause economic losses and major delays on local and national roads, costing residents time and money.

In 2023 this authority reluctantly approved the proposed development on the adjoining area of Warwickshire for a massive warehouse development on the condition that the part of the development which lies within HBBC control (the bridge and access road and Dodwells roundabout) should be improved.

The bridge and roundabout frequently cause major delays and congestion. Resolving these problems was seen as crucial before approving large-scale development and was central to planning decisions.

When the developers presented their plans, work on the bridge was expected within six months. However, a senior representative of National Highways has stated that the A5 carriageway design has only just been completed and must still be thoroughly reviewed to ensure long-term safety and reliability. As the representative highlighted fundamental concerns, full approval is not yet in place.

Despite the lack of progress in the design, validation and implementation of the necessary highways works, including lowering the carriageway, the warehouse development is close to completion with the obvious danger that pressure will be brought to bring the development into use prior to the very necessary highways improvements have been completed.

Accordingly, this authority resolves to write to the other parties involved including Rugby Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council, National Highways and the Department for Transport and stress that it is essential that all infrastructure listed in the planning conditions as to be delivered prior to the development first being brought into use, are delivered. This is particularly important for condition 13 – the scheme of works for lowering of the A5 carriageway under the railway bridge. These conditions remain an essential element for the safe operation of our local highways and should not be relaxed in any way.”

A member updated that at a recent multi-agency meeting it had been confirmed that the work would be undertaken in 2026. It was moved by Councillor Pendlebury, seconded by Councillor Sutton and unanimously

RESOLVED – a letter be sent to the other parties involved including Rugby Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council, National Highways and the Department for Transport to stress the importance that all infrastructure listed in the planning conditions as being required to be delivered prior to the development first being brought into use, are delivered

(d) Motion on notice from Councillor M Mullaney and seconded by Councillor Bools

“Council notes the recent announcement by Keir Starmer’s Labour government of plans to introduce a mandatory digital ID scheme for all UK residents.

Council further notes that the government’s plan:

- Could require every resident to obtain a digital ID to access public services and entitlements
- Could risk criminalising millions of people, particularly older people, those on lower incomes, or those without access to digital technology
- Raises significant privacy and civil liberty concerns
- Could result in billions of pounds of taxpayers’ money being wasted on a massive IT project, with no clear benefit or safeguards.

Council believes that Labour’s scheme:

- Represents an expensive measure that will undermine public trust
- Will do nothing to address the real priorities facing communities such as delivering more police on the streets, properly funding local schools and fixing broken roads and pavements
- Fails to protect our core British values of liberty, privacy and fairness.

Council welcomes the Liberal Democrats’ consistent national opposition to Labour’s ID cards, having previously defeated Labour’s original plans for ID cards in 2010, and opposes Labour’s renewed attempt to impose them in digital form.

Council resolves:

- To formally oppose the Labour government’s digital ID plans
- To request the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Minister for Digital Infrastructure expressing this Council’s firm opposition to Labour’s mandatory digital ID system and calling for the plans to be scrapped
- To work with local voluntary, digital inclusion and civil liberties groups to ensure that no resident in Hinckley & Bosworth is penalised or excluded as a result of any national identification scheme.”

Members expressed concern about the cost of implementing digital ID and the number of residents living in digital poverty who would not be able to comply. It was moved by Councillor M Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Bools and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The government's digital ID plans be opposed;
 - (ii) The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Minister for Digital Infrastructure expressing this Council's firm opposition to Labour's mandatory digital ID system and calling for the plans to be scrapped;
 - (iii) Work be undertaken with local voluntary, digital inclusion and civil liberties groups to ensure that no resident in Hinckley & Bosworth is penalised or excluded as a result of any national identification scheme.
- (e) Motion on notice from Councillor R Allen and seconded by Councillor Cook

This motion was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

(The Meeting closed at 8.27 pm)

MAYOR

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HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

6 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr C Lambert – Chair
Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chair
Cllr DS Cope, Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr C Harris and Cllr A Pendlebury

Officers in attendance: Chris Brown, Lesley Keal, Julie Kenny, Jacqueline Puffett, Rebecca Owen, Madeline Shellard, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

216. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Moore, Simmons, Surtees and Webber-Jones.

217. **Minutes**

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September be confirmed as a correct record.

218. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Pendlebury stated that she was on the board of Hinckley Homeless Group but this did not constitute an interest in the report on the supplementary income request for homelessness demands and temporary accommodation.

219. **Scrutiny Commission Work Programme**

The chair reported that he had been consulted on an urgent exempt report for the meeting of the Executive on 24 September in accordance with paragraph 16 of the access to information procedure rules to enable an exemption to contract procedure rules for works to the new depot and had supported the need for urgent decision.

The additional meeting to be held on 18 December was highlighted.

It was noted that the list of future items created at the workshop in July 2023 would be revisited and consideration would be given to extending the work programme beyond 2027 to provide a basis for the successor council's scrutiny activity.

A member asked whether outcomes from motions to Council could be reported to the Scrutiny Commission. In response it was noted that whilst these were available to members via SharePoint, consideration would be given to the Scrutiny Commission's role in the process.

The work programme was noted.

220. **Infrastructure funding statement**

Members received the infrastructure funding statement (IFS) for the 2024/25 financial year. In response to members' questions, the following points were noted:

- No monies had been clawed back during the period
- Affordable housing delivery against targets would be covered in the relevant annual report to the following meeting
- Commuted sums were considered where a developer was unable to engage a registered provider.

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

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

221. **Local Government Reorganisation proposal**

The Scrutiny Commission received a presentation on the draft local government reorganisation (LGR) proposal produced by the Leicestershire districts and Rutland County Council. The proposal recommended a three-unitary model which would build on positive work currently being undertaken in relation to partnership working, prevention and economic distinctiveness. The proposal would bring financial efficiencies and sustainability.

Members thanked officers for the work that had gone into the proposal and presentation and acknowledged the challenges in bringing the authorities together to create such a detailed piece of work. They were pleased to see the Strategic Mayoral Authority mentioned.

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

- The term of office of councillors appointed to the new authority would be four years
- Some charges such as council tax and the green waste service may increase due to harmonisation and HBBC currently having one of the lowest charges for these
- Future funding and the impact of achieving the predicted surplus on the funding level was unknown
- Whilst some rationalisation of office space may be required, local hubs to facilitate public access to services would be necessary
- Transformation and disaggregation costs had been modelled
- The proposed councillor to elector ratio followed boundary commission guidance and was similar to other authorities that had been through LGR.

Concern was expressed about the potential for loss of officer knowledge, increases in some charges, and the lack of need for reorganisation. Members were supportive of the prevention model and that the proposal kept a closeness with communities and residents.

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

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed and comments be reported to Council and the Executive.

222. Supplementary income request - Homelessness demands and temporary accommodation

Members were updated on significant pressures facing local authorities nationally and locally in relation to homelessness and temporary accommodation which had led to a supplementary budget request to meet escalating demands. In response to members' questions, the following points were noted:

- The rates of 27% in temporary accommodation due to domestic abuse was similar nationally and may have increased due to more work having been undertaken to encourage reporting
- There had been an increase in families needing temporary accommodation
- The budget and number of cases had increased disproportionately which was due to increased charges, people staying in temporary accommodation for longer periods, and the increase in families in temporary accommodation.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) The request for a supplementary income allocation of £900,000 for 2025/26 be supported;
- (ii) The significant pressures facing local authorities be noted;
- (iii) The work being progressed to prevent reliance on nightly-paid accommodation such as B&Bs be noted.

223. Scrutiny review: adoption of infrastructure associated with housing development - final report

The final report of the task & finish group's review of adoption of infrastructure associated with housing development was presented to the Scrutiny Commission.

Members discussed delays in the adoption process, constraints for parish councils in adopting open space and the need to work with developers at an early stage.

Officers were thanked for supporting the review and ensuring relevant external attendees engaged with the task & finish group.

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

RESOLVED – the report and its recommendations be presented to the Executive.

224. Forward plan of Executive and Council decisions

It was noted that the reports on the forward plan from the housing service would be brought to the Scrutiny Commission prior to decision.

225. Minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny

The minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny on 15 September were received for information.

(The Meeting closed at 7.53 pm)

CHAIR



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Licensing Committee	15 October 2025
Council	9 December 2025

Wards affected: All wards

Statement of Licensing Policy

Report Director Community Services (Interim)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The Licensing Act 2003 requires that the Council publish a 'Statement of Licensing Policy' that sets out the policies the Council will apply to the Act.
- 1.2 This report provides members with information on the Statement of Licensing Policy required under the Licensing Act 2003 which requires approval.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Licensing Policy be adopted by the Council.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to have a Statement of Licensing Policy. It is important that the Statement of Licensing Policy provides an open and transparent policy regarding the Council's functions under the Licensing Act 2003. The Statement of Licensing Policy forms an essential part of the decision-making process for licensing applications
- 3.2 The Act also requires that the Statement of Licensing Policy be kept under review and must be re-published at every five years. The current statement of Licensing Policy was published by the Licensing Authority on 15th December 2020.
- 3.3 The existing policy has been reviewed in regard to its application, suitability and effectiveness since the implementation of the Act in 2003. The current

policy has worked well and provided a basis for the consideration and determination of applications.

- 3.4 The policy should ensure that applicants have a clear understanding of the impacts of their licensed business or proposed activities on others and what they must do to enhance the positive and mitigate any detrimental impacts through their operating schedules and self-imposed licence conditions.
- 3.5 The policy will ensure licensees better understand the restrictions on their licences. It will aid residents affected by licensed premises activities to identify and report breaches and to allow for effective enforcement by the Licensing Authority to ensure promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 3.6 Three additional sections have been included within the policy under the Prevention of Crime and Disorder these are:
- Drink spiking
 - Ask Angela
 - Martyn's Law (Counter Terrorism).
- 3.7 The Licensing Authority has had regard to the latest statutory guidance issued on 27th November 2025 under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 by the Home Office. When making decisions, the licensing authority will consider the need to promote growth and deliver economic benefits.
- 3.8 While the licensing policy should not duplicate other statutory provisions, licensing authorities and licensees should be mindful of requirements and responsibilities placed on them by other legislation. This includes:
- The Gambling Act 2005
The Environmental Protection Act 1990, The Noise Act 1996
The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act 2005
The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
The Equality Act 2010
The Immigration Act 2016
Regulators' Code under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006
The Coronavirus Act 2020
The Business & Planning Act 2020

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

- 4.1 The report is to be taken in open session as the policy is a public document.

5. Financial implications [MT]

- 5.1 None.

6. Legal implications [ST]

6.1 None arising directly from this report.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 Will help improve public safety, protect children from harm and prevent public nuisance and crime and disorder within the Borough and thereby contribute towards the Council aims of People, Places and Prosperity.

8. Consultation

8.1 The following bodies have been consulted on this policy: -

- the Chief Officer of Police for the licensing authority's area,
- the Fire Authority for this area,
- the local authority's Director of Public Health (DPH)
- bodies representing local holders of premises licences,
- bodies representing local holders of club premises certificates,
- bodies representing local holders of personal licences,
- bodies representing businesses and residents in the area that the Licensing Authority considers appropriate

8.2 The consultation was also available for comment via the Council's website.

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 these report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Reputation, Legal, Regulatory	Procedures have been put in place to ensure that the Statement of Licensing Policy is reviewed and subsequently published	MB

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 The Licensing Act 2003 will have equal impact on all areas of the Borough.

10.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is available.

11. Climate implications

11.1 There is no impact as a result of this policy.

12. Corporate implications

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

- Community safety implications **[RB]**
A robust policy will support and have a positive impact on supporting the reduction of alcohol related crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Borough.
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Mark Brymer, ext. 5645

Executive member: Councillor M Cartwright



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

A Borough to be proud of

*Statement of
Licensing Policy*

**(As required by section 5 of the
Licensing Act 2003)**

**Adopted by the Council
9th December 2025**

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PART 1 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

1.0 Introduction

- 1.0.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council ("the Council") is the Licensing Authority, as defined by section 3(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 (for the Borough).
- 1.0.2 The aim of this policy is to promote the Licensing Objectives as set out in the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act). These are:
- 1 The Prevention of crime and disorder
 - 2 Public safety
 - 3 The Prevention of public nuisance
 - 4 The Protection of children from harm
- 1.0.3 When making decisions, the licensing authority will consider the need to promote growth and deliver economic benefits.

1.1 Overview of licensing

- 1.1.1 The Act makes provision for the licensing of individuals for the sale of alcohol (**personal licences**) and the licensable activities of the sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late-night refreshment (**premises licences**). The supply of alcohol and provision of regulated entertainment in clubs (**club premises certificates**) and the permitting of occasional licensable activities (**temporary event notices**).
- 1.1.2 The Council has responsibility under the Act for licensing any premises for licensable activities. Under this legislation there will be more local consultation and elected representatives (Councillors) will decide all applications where relevant representations are made, with rights of appeal for applicants and any party who feels aggrieved by the Licensing Authority's decision to the Magistrates Court.

1.2 Licensable activities

- 1.2.1 Any premises where the following activities are carried out will require a premises licence:
- the retail sale of alcohol
 - the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club, or to the order of a member of the club
 - The provision of late-night refreshment (hot food or drink between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.)
 - the provision of "regulated entertainment"
- 1.2.2 "Regulated entertainment" requires a licence when it takes place in the presence of an audience and is provided for the purpose of entertaining that audience and includes the following:
- a performance of a play;

- an exhibition of a film;
- an indoor sporting event;
- a boxing or wrestling entertainment;
- a contest, exhibition or display which combines boxing or wrestling with one or more martial arts (“combined fighting sports”);
- a performance of live music;
- any playing of recorded music;
- a performance of dance;
- entertainment of a similar description to a performance of live music, any playing of recorded music or a performance of dance.

1.2.3 Amendments made to the 2003 Act by the Live Music Act 2012 and the Licensing Act 2003 (Descriptions of Entertainment) (Amendment) Order 2013, Legislative Reform Order 2014 and the Deregulation Act 2015, means that a licence is not required for the following activities to the extent that take place between 08:00- 23:00 on any day:

- a performance of a play in the presence of any audience of no more than 500 people.
- an indoor sporting event in the presence of any audience of no more than 1,000 people, this includes Greco Roman or free style wrestling
- most performances of dance in the presence of any audience of no more than 500 people; and
- live music, where the live music comprises.
 - a performance of unamplified live music
 - a performance of live amplified music in a workplace with an audience of -no more than 500 people; or
 - performance of live or recorded music on licensed premises which takes -place in the presence of an audience of no more than 500 people, subject to certain conditions being met.
- Recorded music, where recorded music comprises.
 - Any playing of recorded music on licensed premises which takes place in the presence of an audience of no more than 500.
 - Any playing of recorded music in unlicensed premises, subject to certain conditions being met.
 - Dance – no licence is required for performances on any day provided that the audience does not exceed 500

1.2.4 Where de-regulated activities take place on licensed premises any licence conditions relating to ‘live’ music or entertainment will be suspended, but it is possible to impose new or reinstate existing conditions following a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate.

1.2.5 When considering whether an activity constitutes ‘the provision of regulated Entertainment’, each case will be treated on its own merits. There will inevitably be a degree of judgement as to whether a performance is live music or not, so organisers of events are encouraged to contact the Licensing Authority to discuss whether a licence will be required

1.3 Policy

- 1.3.1 The Act requires the Licensing Authority to publish a licensing policy statement after consultation with responsible authorities and other persons and to review the policy every five years.
- 1.3.2 The purpose of this document is to set out the policies the Licensing Authority will normally apply to meet the licensing objectives when making decisions on any licence application under the Act.
- 1.3.3 In general, unless otherwise stated, a reference in this policy to a licence will also include a club premises certificate and/or a temporary event notice. Unless the context clearly requires to the contrary, the term “licensee” means the holder of a premises licence, club premises certificate, provisional statement or interim authority. The term “applicant” should be similarly construed.
- 1.3.4 Any reference in this policy to guidance or regulations includes those where the Secretary of State has used his powers contained in the Act to make regulations (Sec. 5) and issue guidance (Sec. 182).
- 1.3.5 This policy must be read in conjunction with the Act; the various statutory instruments issued under the Act and the mandatory guidance issued under section 182. These other documents are not reproduced in full here and any summary of the law in this policy statement should not be taken as definitive.
- 1.3.6 While this policy will be used as a general local guide, any policy must allow for exceptions. All licensing decisions will be made on the merits of the individual case, having regard to this policy, statutory guidance, and the Act

1.4 Purpose of the policy

1.4.1 This policy deals with how the Licensing Authority will promote each of the four fundamental licensing objectives and how it will deal with the other key themes such as flexible licensing hours and the cumulative impact of a concentration of licensed premises in an area.

1.4.2 This Statement of Licensing Policy is designed to provide guidance for everyone who is involved in or affected by the licensing of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late-night refreshment in the Licensing Authority's area. This includes:

- **applicants for all types of licence** (Premises/Personal/CPC//TEN) - to help applicants to understand the process, the considerations to be taken into account and what the Licensing Authority is trying to achieve.
- **applicants for premises licences** - to help applicants to draft an appropriate operating schedule with conditions and measures which the Licensing Authority is likely to find acceptable.
- **organisations or individuals planning events** - to indicate whether a licence is likely to be needed and how to go about obtaining one.

- **statutory agencies** (police, fire, relevant council departments etc.) - to indicate how the Licensing Authority and the other statutory agencies will co-operate to achieve their respective objectives in areas of common concern, particularly in the areas of prevention, monitoring and enforcement; to indicate which of the agencies will "lead" on each of the four fundamental licensing objectives.
- **residents and businesses in the neighbourhood** of premises which have an existing licence or require a licence, and their **representatives** (e.g. ward councillors) - to inform local people of their rights to be consulted, to make representations, to apply for reviews of existing licences; to indicate those types of representations which are likely to be relevant and those which are not; to explain how the Licensing Authority and the other relevant statutory agencies will work together on licensing issues for the benefit of the local community, and to outline the limits of the licensing regime.
- **licensing decision-makers** - to provide guidance to all the relevant Council officers dealing with applications and to the Licensing Committee and Licensing Sub Committees deciding contentious applications.

- 1.4.3 It should be noted that applications without operating schedules, or incomplete applications, will be returned to the applicant and the period for determination will not commence until a valid application has been submitted. A pragmatic approach will be taken wherever possible in respect of applications containing only minor errors.
- 1.4.4 The Licensing Authority encourages all applicants to contact the appropriate responsible authorities prior to submission of an application. This will ensure that the operating schedule is adequate to promote the four licensing objectives, which could prevent later negotiations, representations and hearings.
- 1.4.5 The Licensing Authority recognises the issues faced by the hospitality industry due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will apply this policy as flexibly as possible to support businesses during their recovery.
- 1.4.6 While the licensing policy should not duplicate other statutory provisions, licensing authorities and licensees should be mindful of requirements and responsibilities placed on them by other legislation. This includes:

The Gambling Act 2005
 The Environmental Protection Act 1990,
 The Noise Act 1996
 The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act 2005
 The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
 The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
 The Equality Act 2010
 The Immigration Act 2016
 Regulators' Code under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006
 The Business & Planning Act 2020

1.5 Consultation on this policy

1.5.1 The Licensing Authority is required by law to consult with the following organisations under section 5 (3) of the Act before adopting a Statement of Licensing Policy (and on any review of the policy):

- the Chief Officer of Police for the licensing authority's area,
- the Fire Authority for this area,
- the local authority's Director of Public Health (DPH)
- bodies representing local holders of premises licences,
- bodies representing local holders of club premises certificates,
- bodies representing local holders of personal licences,
- bodies representing businesses and residents in the area that the Licensing Authority considers appropriate

1.6

Revision & Review

1.6.1 The Statement of Licensing Policy is valid for a five-year period from 9th December 2025. During that period, the Licensing Authority will keep the policy under review and may make such changes, as it thinks appropriate.

PART 2 – LICENSING OBJECTIVES & KEY THEMES

2.0 The Prevention of Public Nuisance

- 2.1.1 There is no distinction between the meaning of public nuisance under the Licensing Act 2003 and its meaning in common law.
- 2.1.2 The Licensing Authority intends to interpret “loss of personal amenity” in its widest sense, including such issues as noise, light, odour, litter and anti-social behaviour. Where these matters impact on the community at large living, working or otherwise engaged in normal activity in the area. Where an application is opposed, or a review has been applied for the Licensing Authority may seek to attach conditions to licences and certificates where necessary in order to prevent it. Any such conditions imposed will be appropriate and proportionate and tailored to the style and characteristics of the premises and the type of activities expected to take place there.
- 2.1.3 The Licensing Authority will seek to protect the reasonable rights of residents and businesses in the vicinity of licensed premises from disturbance arising from licensable activities. In determining such applications, the Licensing Authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned. The Licensing Authority recognises that licensing law is not a mechanism for the general control of anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from the premises and therefore beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence.
- 2.1.4 The Licensing Authority considers that a noise assessment should be carried out by applicants for premises licences and club premises certificates to determine the potential effect on neighbouring premises. Advice and assistance in undertaking this task should be sought from The Council's Environmental Health Officers. Steps which may be appropriate to prevent public nuisance include:
- Limitation on hours of operation where necessary to prevent nuisance and disturbance
 - Measures to reduce noise and vibration emissions from premises
 - Measures to prevent noxious smells
 - Measures to reduce light pollution
 - Steps to prevent noise, disturbance and anti-social behaviour from people arriving at and leaving the premises
 - Stricter controls will be supported in areas in closer proximity to residential accommodation.
- 2.1.5 The Licensing Authority will need to be satisfied that the type of regulated entertainment provided will be suitable for the location in which the premises is situated.
- 2.1.6 Any change to the categories of entertainment to be provided at a premise will require a variation of the licence.

2.1.7 In considering an application, the Licensing Authority may take into account previous noise and nuisance complaints but will consider all applications on their own merits.

2.1.8 Where applicable, following a representation and hearing in order to control access to and egress from the premises, the Licensing Authority may attach a condition to the licence requiring the use of Door Supervisors, licensed by the Security Industry Authority or other national governing body.

Outdoor Music Events

2.1.9 The Licensing Authority and the relevant responsible authorities would normally expect licence holders to consider the following matters when compiling their operating schedules where events include outdoor music events in relation to the public nuisance objective:

1. Identify potential noise sources likely to arise from the event (e.g. Amplified music, noise from patrons etc).
2. Prepare a site layout plan detailing the location of speakers taking note of speaker orientation and any “reflective” walls etc. Speakers should point away from residential areas.
3. Monitoring points should be defined and should give an idea of how noise will break out to the nearest noise sensitive premises.
4. Identify noise control measures and procedures in place to minimise disturbance.
5. Prepare a plan if more than one band is to play to ensure finishing times are strictly adhered to.
6. Designate a responsible person to respond positively to complaints and to monitor noise levels throughout the event. This should include a system to log details of any complaints received in relation to the event and any action taken.
7. Consider how low frequency and bass beat noise will be dealt with.
8. Detail remedial actions that will be taken if noise levels are found to be causing complaints.
9. The timing of the event, considering the day of the week and finish time.
10. The size of the event and expected number of attendees.
11. The proximity of the event to residents.

3.0 PREVENTION OF CRIME & DISORDER

- 3.1.1 The Licensing Authority is committed to reducing crime and disorder across the Borough through its statutory duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 3.1.2 The Licensing Authority and Leicestershire Police through partnership working will monitor and review crime statistics within the Borough and their association with alcohol.
- 3.1.3 The Licensing Authority will work in partnership with any local Pubwatch Scheme and provide guidance where necessary. Officers will attend the local Pubwatch meeting when invited.

3.2 CCTV

- 3.2.1 The presence of CCTV cameras can be an important means of deterring and detecting crime at, and immediately outside, licensed premises. If a premises decides to install a CCTV system, it is recommended that the CCTV system is maintained in accordance with the Information Commissioner's CCTV Code of Practice and will operate at all times.
- 3.2.2 Where a system is installed it is recommended that the premises licence holder and designated premises supervisor will ensure that staff will be fully trained in the operation of the CCTV system with images from the system being retained for a minimum of 31 days and made available to Police and other responsible authorities upon request.

3.3 Irresponsible Drinks Promotions

- 3.3.1 The Licensing Authority will support an approach to the marketing of alcohol and the management of licensed premises that promotes responsibility in the consumption of alcohol.
- 3.3.2 An irresponsible promotion is one that fits one of the descriptions below (or is substantially similar), is carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises and carries a significant risk of leading or contributing to crime and disorder, prejudice to public safety, public nuisance or harm to children. The aim of the condition is to prohibit or restrict promotions which encourage people to drink more than they might ordinarily do and in a manner which does not promote the licensing objectives.
 - Drinking Games
 - Large quantities of alcohol for free or for a fixed price
 - Prizes and rewards
 - Discounted Prices in relation to a Sporting Event shown on a premises
 - Posters and Flyers which condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or refer to the effects of drunkenness a favourable manner.
 - Dispensing Alcohol directly into the mouth.

3.4 Spiking

- 3.4.1 Many licensed premises work incredibly hard to ensure that their customers can enjoy a night out safely and deter perpetrators.
- 3.4.2 To support licensed premises, the LGA have produced a useful guidance note on drink spiking prevention which includes recommendations and some resources for the hospitality sector on how to respond to and prevent spiking. The fact sheet can be found here: www.local.gov.uk/publications/lga-guidance-note-drink-spiking-prevention

3.5 Ask Angela

- 3.5.1 The Ask for Angela initiative aims to ensure that anyone who is feeling vulnerable or unsafe is able to get discreet support. This could be on a night out, on a date or meeting friends. The initiative works by training staff in vulnerability management and what to do when someone '[Asks for Angela](#)'.
- 3.5.2 The Council expects that when a trained member of staff hears the code-phrase they should understand that the person is in need of support and will be able to respond in an appropriate, discreet way. This could be offering them an alternative way out of the venue, calling them a taxi or in a more serious situation, altering venue security and/or the Police. More information can be found here: [www. https://violencereductionalliance.co.uk/ask-for-angela/](http://www.violencereductionalliance.co.uk/ask-for-angela/)

3.6 Counter Terrorism – Martyn’s Law

- 3.6.1 The licensing authority requires that applicants for premises licences and variation to those licences, to pay particular attention to possible terrorist threats in relation to security and health care provision at appropriate premises and events applying for a licence.
- 3.6.2 Existing licence holders should also carefully consider the information below and pay particular attention to possible terrorist threats as further legislation and guidance may be forthcoming.
- 3.6.3 Where appropriate applicants and existing licence holders should consider appropriate access for emergency services and vehicles such as ambulances; good communication with local authorities and emergency services, for example communications networks with the police and signing up for local incident alerts and ensuring the presence of sufficient trained first aiders on the premises and appropriate first aid kits.
- 3.6.4 Guidance on counter terrorism measure and information on further security planning and health care provision in the aftermath of a particular type of incident can be found in an annex at the rear of the S182 statutory guidance. This can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67b73b7b78dd6cacb71c6ac8/Revised_guidance_issued_under_section_182_of_the_Licensing_Act_2003_-_October+2024+_1_.pdf

3.6.5 Applicants for Premises licences and Variations to those licences should also consider:

- That certain members of staff must have completed the free of charge training www.protectuk.police.uk/ in order that the premises has sufficient member of staff who are trained and available to promptly identify and respond to a terrorist incident.
- Counter-terrorism awareness training session for their Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS). This will be separate to the training mentioned above and may be available through the Council and other providers.
- A documented security assessment, which incorporates counter terrorism measures for the premises.
- Within 28 days of the grant or variation of the licence, the premises licence holder shall evaluate any risks and take prompt steps to reduce the risk as far as is reasonably practicable.
- Whether the premises must have a documented security plan, which sets out counter measures to be implemented in response to a terrorist attack at or near your premises. This may be particularly relevant at high profile or large premises or events or where there are factors which may increase attractiveness to attacks, and in particular when in receipt of relevant advice from police counter terrorist staff. More information and support is available at: www.protectuk.police.uk/

3.6.6 A summary of what Martyn's Law does and how it will work [Martyn's Law Factsheet – Home Office in the media](#)

3.7 Other Steps to Promote the Prevention of Crime and Disorder

3.7.1 There is a wide range of other steps which may be appropriate in particular circumstances including:

- Requiring drinking vessels to be plastic or toughened glass.
- Requiring the provision mobile phones, walkie-talkie radio or social media Apps to connect premises supervisors in town centres to the police.
- Appropriate measures to prevent overcrowding in parts of the premises.
- The provision of staff to control admission and to control customers inside the premises.
- An age determination policy such as Challenge 21 or Challenge 25 to prevent underage sales.

4.0 PUBLIC SAFETY

- 4.1.1 Members of the public have the right to expect when visiting licensed premises that due consideration has been taken of needs with respect to public safety. Licensees, as providers of premises for the sale of alcohol or regulated entertainment, must be able to demonstrate that they have considered and put into effect measures to protect members of the public and the commercial interests of neighbouring premises.
- 4.1.2 The Licensing Authority is committed to ensuring public safety across the Borough, by working in close partnership with the local authority, Leicestershire Police, Fire and Rescue, Licensees, CCTV control centre and local pub-watch schemes. The Licensing Authority recommends membership of the pub-watch and/or retail radio schemes by licence holders
- 4.1.3 Where applicable, e.g., large-capacity premises remaining open after midnight, the Licensing Authority will consider the attachment of a condition to the licence requiring the use of Door Supervisors, licensed by the Security Industry Authority to control the access and egress from the premises during events to ensure public safety, following a relevant written representation and a licensing hearing.
- 4.1.4 Premises licensed for regulated entertainment, including cinemas and theatres, are subject to a range of legislative requirements and regulatory regimes such as the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and fire safety legislation, aimed at protecting public safety. The Licensing Authority does not intend to duplicate requirements of existing statutory provisions. However, premises will be expected to ensure a level of compliance that promotes public safety.
- 4.1.5 Premises providing regulated entertainment have particular safety issues associated with their ability to attract significant numbers of people to a venue. The Licensing Authority will support measures designed to promote public safety in this context. This will include:
- Setting of a capacity limit for all, or separate parts, of the premises.
 - The provision of staff to control admission and to control customers inside premises and at outdoor events.
- 4.1.6 The Licensing Authority will consider attaching conditions to licences and certificates to promote public safety. Any such conditions will be tailored to the style and characteristics of the premises and the type of activities expected to take place there.

5.0 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm. This includes not only protecting children from the harms associated with alcohol but also wider harms such as exposure to strong language and sexual expletives (for example, in the context of exposure to certain films or adult entertainment). "Children" for these purposes means individuals aged under 18.
- 5.1.2 Leicestershire Police are the lead authority for child protection issues acting as "gatekeeper" for Leicestershire's Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Consultees should not rely on other responsible authorities to put forward representations, if they have concerns. Unless a relevant representation is made, the Licensing Authority must grant the licence subject to conditions consistent with the operating schedule.
- 5.1.3 Licences will be sought for a wide variety of premises including theatres, cinemas, restaurants, concert halls, cafes, late night take-away, pubs, bars and nightclubs. It is not possible for a licensing policy to anticipate every situation where children are at risk. The licensing authority will not therefore impose general conditions that apply to all premises but will consider how the licensing objectives can be best promoted in each particular case.
- 5.1.4 Areas that may give rise to particular concern in respect of children include premises:
- (a) where there have been convictions of members of the current staff for serving alcohol to minors, with a reputation for underage drinking or where the Portman Group Code of Practice on Naming, Packaging and Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks is not being followed.
 - (b) with a known association with drug taking or dealing.
 - (c) where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises.
 - (d) where entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is commonly provided (e.g. topless bar staff, striptease, lap/table/pole dancing, strong and offensive language).
- 5.1.5 It is acknowledged that complete exclusion of children will be rare but the options to be considered by the Council for limiting access of children, where regarded as necessary for the prevention of harm to children, may include any of the following:
- (a) limitations on the hours when children may be present;
 - (b) limitations or exclusions when certain activities are taking place;
 - (c) restrictions or exclusions in respect of parts of premises;
 - (d) requirements for an accompanying adult;
 - (e) full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities of an adult nature are taking place.
- 5.1.6 The Council cannot impose conditions requiring the admission of children to any premises. Where no licensing restriction is necessary, this will remain a matter for the discretion of the individual licensee or club.

5.2 Licensing for Alcohol on the Premises and Unaccompanied Children on the Premises

- 5.2.1 It is an offence under section 145 of the Act to permit an unaccompanied child aged under 16 to be present on premises being used exclusively or primarily for the supply of alcohol for consumption on those premises. It is also an offence to permit the presence between midnight and 5 a.m. of children under 16 who are not accompanied by an adult at any premises open for the supply of alcohol for consumption there.

5.3 Children and Cinemas

- 5.3.1 The 2003 Act provides that, where a premises licence or club premises certificate authorises the exhibition of a film, it must include a condition requiring the admission of children to films to be restricted in accordance with recommendations given either by a body designated under section 4 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 specified in the licence (the British Board of Film Classification is currently the only body which has been so designated).
- 5.3.2 Licence holders will be expected to prevent children from viewing films that are unsuitable because of the age classification of the film.

5.4 Children and Regulated Entertainment

- 5.4.1 The Licensing Authority will expect that where a significant number of unaccompanied children will be present during a public entertainment event, the licence holder should have a Child Protection Policy in place to carry out suitable checks on volunteers and staff before they take up employment. In addition, they will ensure that an adequate number of adult staff is present to control the access, egress and safety in and around the premises.
- 5.4.2 The number of staff required should be assessed by the licence holder, taking into account the number of children to be present, the type of entertainment, the characteristics of the premises and any other relevant factor. Any premises which have Internet access facilities must have adequate control settings put in place so that web sites which are not suitable for use by children are permanently blocked.

5.5 Proof of Age Cards

- 5.5.1 The Licensing Authority supports the adoption of proof of age cards as a means of preventing underage drinking. Challenge 21 requires that any customer that looks under 21 is asked for proof of age to prove that they are 18 or over and old enough to buy alcohol. Staff should only accept accredited proof of age cards – Validate UK, ONEID4U, Citizen Card, Age Entitlement Card and Young Scot. Other than these, only a UK Passport, Military Identification Card or UK Photo driver licence (Full or Provisional) should be accepted. Student union cards should NOT be accepted.

The above ID cards must show a date of birth, a photograph and a hologram.

5.6 Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation (CSE / CCE)

- 5.6.1 The licensing authority is committed to protecting children from harm and views this as an important licensing objective. Intelligence sharing and the exchange of information developed by the Police and Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (Leicestershire & Rutland) ensure that the protection of children from harm remains key.
- 5.6.2 Alcohol is also often a factor in child sexual/criminal exploitation, where young people may be encouraged or coerced to drink, or alcohol may be a factor in risk taking behaviour by young people who drink irresponsibly and then get involved in activities that otherwise they would not. Nationally, evidence has been found of the sexual exploitation of children taking place on licensed premises, or licensed premises being used for the purposes of grooming and enticement.
- 5.6.3 The Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) works with the Police, the Licensing Authority and the licensed trade to promote risk management in relation to child sexual/Criminal exploitation. The LSCP can provide advice to assist licensees to identify risk, and report concerns at different types of licensed premises so that children remain safe and businesses operate responsibly.
- 5.6.4 The Licensing Authority encourages licence holders and operators of licensed premises:
- To ensure that they are fully aware of the signs of child sexual exploitation and to understand that the sexual exploitation of a child is sexual abuse and a crime
 - To raise the awareness of their staff about child sexual/Criminal exploitation and provide intelligence to the appropriate authorities about concerns and about perpetrators who may be operating in their areas.

Advice for Licensed Premises

- 5.6.5 Child sexual exploitation is broadly defined as Vulnerable Young people under 18 who are manipulated into a sexual relationship or situation by an adult. It is known for children as young as 11 to be subjected to this process known as 'Grooming'.
- It involves young people being offered something in return for performing sexual acts.
 - Alcohol, Cigarettes, Mobile Phones, Gifts, Money, Drugs, Love.

5.6.6 Potential Issues

Under the Protection of children from harm, and Health & Safety issues think about your booking policy (young unaccompanied guests)

- Negative media attention – reputation.
- We all have a moral responsibility to protect children.
- There may be legal implications for hotels if activity of CSAE/CCE is taking place on their premises and they are failing to act or do not have safeguards in place.

5.6.7 How to Protect Your Business

- Age verification checks
- Refusal records
- Incident logs
- Police reporting protocols
- Patrol records/CCTV checks
- Staff training records

5.6.8 Training Your Staff

- Checklist of what staff need to know
- Up-to-date records for individual employees
- Regular refresher sessions
- Incentivised schemes for employee training
- Training should include Age verification; CSE awareness;
- Premises monitoring.

The main thing to remember is **Say Something if you See Something.**

6.0 Adult Entertainment

- 6.1.1 The potential for the provision of adult entertainment to impact on the licensing objectives is recognised in the prescribed application form and all applicants are required by the prescribed form to indicate in their operating schedules whether they intend to provide any such entertainment which may give rise to concerns in respect of children.
- 6.1.2 The Policing and Crime Act 2009 provides an additional licensing requirement for operators who provide “sexual entertainment venues” to licence them as sex establishments under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. These are essentially premises which provide live entertainment or performances to a live audience which either involves nudity (such as lap or pole dancing establishments,) or which are for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council adopted these provisions in 2011 to give the Council more control including the power to refuse an application.
- 6.1.3 Where a business wishes to operate as a sexual entertainment venue it will still need to be licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 for the sale of alcohol and the provision of regulated entertainment. The provision of sexual entertainment will however be regulated under the terms of any sex establishment licence which may be granted under the 1982 Act. The Licensing Act 2003 licence will then continue to regulate any other licensable activities.
- 6.1.4 There is one exemption from SEV licensing where a premises can provide sexual entertainment on no more than 11 times a year. The exemption states:
- a) no relevant entertainment can be provided on more than 11 occasions within a 12-month period;
 - b) no such occasion has begun within a period of one month beginning with the end of the previous occasions; and
 - c) no such occasion has lasted longer than 24 hours.
- 6.1.5 The provision of adult entertainment on premises will mean that access to the premises by anyone under the age of 18 will not be permitted during periods when such entertainment is taking place. Where such entertainment is to be provided under the terms of a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate the Authority expects applicants in to include arrangements for protecting performers and restricting anyone under 18 from viewing any adult entertainment in their licence operating schedule.
- 6.1.6 The Authority expects licensees to ensure that any age restrictions for shows, or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature are properly complied with. In addition, it may be appropriate to impose age restrictions for persons working in the premises, and applicants are advised to also consider the wider crime and disorder issues which can be associated with such forms of entertainment such as issues relating to drugs and prostitution.

7.0 LICENSING HOURS

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 The government acknowledges that different licensing approaches may be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in different areas. The Act gives the Council the power to make decisions regarding licensed opening hours based on local knowledge and in consultation with other responsible authorities.
- 7.1.2 In some circumstances, staggered licensing hours with regards to the sale of alcohol are important to ensure that the concentration of customers leaving premises simultaneously is reduced. The intention behind this is to reduce the friction at late-night fast-food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport which currently lead to disorder and disturbance.
- 7.1.3 Under the Act there are no permitted hours for the sale of alcohol. Applicants are able to suggest in their operating schedule the hours they wish to open and to apply to vary their existing licences if they wish to open beyond their current permitted hours. However, there is no general presumption in favour of lengthening licensing hours and the four licensing objectives will be the paramount consideration at all times.
- 7.1.5 If relevant representations are made the council will only grant the hours of use proposed where the operating schedule and any risk assessment adequately demonstrates that the applicant has properly considered what is appropriate for the local area when considering: -
- what hours and activities to apply for.
 - the potential effect on the licensing objectives is not significant.
 - the agreed operating schedule demonstrates that the applicant is taking appropriate steps to minimise any adverse impact on local residents and businesses.
- 7.1.6 Restrictions may be made to the proposed hours of use where; after receiving relevant representations, the council considers it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives to do so. The council will take into account the existing pattern of licensed premises in an area when considering what is appropriate to promote the objectives. Applications which are significantly out of character for a locality will need to demonstrate that granting the hours sought will not impact on the licensing objectives, given the potential for neighbouring premises to seek the same additional hours to prevent rivals gaining a commercial advantage.
- 7.1.7 As a general rule shops, stores and supermarkets should normally be free to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any times when the retail outlet is open for shopping unless there are good reasons, based on the licensing objectives, for restricting those hours.

8.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACT

What is cumulative impact?

The words “Cumulative impact” are not mentioned specifically in the Act but means the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area.

Cumulative impact policies may relate to premises licensed to carry on any licensable activity, including the sale of alcohol for consumption on or off the premises, and the provision of late-night refreshment. This includes late-night fast-food outlets which are not licensed to sell alcohol.

8.1 Adopting a special saturation policy

- 8.1.1 In certain situations the number, type and density of premises selling alcohol or providing late night refreshment is strength, serious problems of nuisance and disorder may arise outside the premises or some distance from those premises. Where the impact on surrounding areas of customers taken together may be greater than the usual impact of customers from individual areas the licensing authority may consider that an area has become ‘saturated’. In these circumstances, where representations are made by a responsible authority such as the police or other person, such as local residents, the licensing authority may consider whether the grant of any further premises licences or club premises certificates containing the licensable activities mentioned above would undermine one or more of the licensing objectives. If this is the case it may adopt a special saturation policy, which would allow it to refuse new licences because the area in question is already saturated with licensed premises.
- 8.1.2 Queuing in itself may lead to conflict, disorder and anti-social behaviour. Moreover, large concentrations of people may also increase the incidence of other criminal activities such as drug dealing, pick pocketing and street robbery. Local services such as public transport services, public lavatory provision and street cleaning may not be able to meet the demand posed by such concentrations of drinkers leading to issues such as street fouling, littering, traffic and public nuisance caused by concentrations of people who cannot be effectively dispersed quickly.

8.2 Representations

- 8.2.1 The Licensing Authority has received a representation from the Leicestershire Police that the circumstances described above exist in relation to parts of Hinckley town centre, and that the grant of further alcohol licensed and late-night refreshment premises licences would undermine the crime prevention objective.

In response to this representation the Licensing Authority has:

- Considered evidence about the extent of the problem of crime and disorder;
- Considered evidence about the likely association of the problem with the number and density of licensed premises in the town centre;

- Consulted on the proposal for a special policy in relation to new licences and variations to existing ones within the town centre;
- Considered the outcome of that consultation; and
- Resolved to declare the special policy described in section 8.4.1

8.3 Other mechanisms available

8.3.1 The authority recognises that once away from licensed premises, there is always a risk that some people will behave badly and unlawfully. In these circumstances, there are other mechanisms available for addressing such issues, including:

- Planning controls.
- Creation of a safe, clean town centre environment in partnership with local businesses, transport operators and other departments of the local authority.
- The provision of CCTV surveillance in town centres, ample taxi ranks, provision of public conveniences open late at night, street cleaning and litter patrols.
- Powers of local authorities to designate parts of the local authority area as places where alcohol may not be consumed publicly.
- Police enforcement of the general law concerning disorder and anti-social behaviour, including the issuing of fixed penalty notices.
- The prosecution of any personal licence holder or member of staff at such premises who is selling alcohol to people who are drunk.
- Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space and gives the police a power to confiscate alcohol from adults and children in designated areas.
- Police powers to close down instantly for up to 24 hours (extendable to 48 hours) any licensed premises or temporary event on grounds of disorder, the likelihood of disorder or noise emanating from the premises causing a nuisance under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- The power of the police, other responsible authorities or a local resident or business to seek a review of the licence or certificate in question.
- Early Morning Restriction Orders (EMRO).
- Any other local initiative that similarly may address these problems.

8.4 Saturation Policy

- 8.4.1 The proposed area is shown on the following page and is described as the area being bounded by and includes the following roads or streets and all streets within in it.

Trinity Lane to its junction with Mansion St, Mansion St. King St, Stockwell Head to its junction with The Borough. The Borough, Market Place, Station Rd to its junction with Lancaster Rd. Lancaster Rd, Rugby Rd to its junction with Trinity Lane.

- 8.4.2 The area of the Saturation Policy is marked on the map attached (**Appendix A**).
- 8.4.3 The Licensing Authority recognises, however, that this policy cannot be absolute and it will continue to consider each application on its own merits. In the event of a relevant representation the application will be determined by the Licensing Sub-Committee.
- 8.4.4 Applicants are expected to include positive proposals in their application on how they will manage any potential risks. Where specific policies apply in the area (the cumulative impact policy), applicants are also expected to demonstrate an understanding of how the policy impacts on their application; any measures they will take to mitigate the impact; and why they consider the application should be an exception to the policy.
- 8.4.5 The authority acknowledges that the impact will be different for premises with different styles and characteristics e.g. a family friendly restaurant and recommends applicants discuss their proposals prior to submitting an application.
- 8.4.6 If there are no representations, the licensing authority must grant the application in terms that are consistent with the operating schedule submitted.
- 8.4.7 The authority will review the special policy at least every 3 years and if it considers that it needs to be amended will undertake appropriate consultation before any amendment is made.
- 8.4.8 The special policy will not be used to:
- remove a licence when representations are received about problems with an existing licensed premises; or to
 - justify the rejection of modifications to a licence except where those modifications are directly relevant to the special policy; or to
 - adopt quotas or set terminal hours in a particular area that pre-determine the individual merits of any application.

The CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY was reviewed by the Principal Licensing Officer in August 2025 and at that time no further changes to the policy were required.

9.0 DETERMINING APPLICATIONS

The following matters will be determined by a Licensing sub-committee:

- Application for a personal licence where there are relevant unspent convictions;
- The review of a premises licence or club premises certificate;
- Decision to object when the local authority is the consultee and not the relevant authority considering the application;
- Determination of an objection to a temporary event notice.

The following matters will be determined by the Licensing sub-committee where a relevant representation has been made:

- Application for a personal licence
- Application for a premises licence or club premises certificate (CPC)
- Application to vary a designated premises supervisor
- Determination of a temporary event notice (TEN)
- Disapplication Of Certain Mandatory Conditions for Community Premises
- Application for transfer of a premises licence

9.1 Personal Licences

- 9.1.1 Individuals applying for a personal licence must be entitled to work in the UK. The Immigration Act 2016 amended the Licensing Act 2003; this came into effect in April 2017.
- 9.1.2 Applications made on or after this date by someone who is not entitled to work in the UK will be rejected.
- 9.1.3 Licences must not be issued to people who are illegally present in the UK, who are not permitted to work, or who are permitted to work but are subject to a condition that prohibits them from doing work relating to the carrying on of a licensable activity.
- 9.1.4 In order to carry out this duty, licensing authorities must be satisfied that an applicant has the right to work in the UK. They require applicants to submit an identification document, to show that they have permission to be in the UK and to undertake work in a licensable activity.
- 9.1.5 Where the licensing authority has granted a personal licence and becomes aware that a licence holder has been convicted of a relevant offence or foreign offence or been required to pay an immigration penalty, the licensing authority may revoke the licence or suspend it for a period of up to six months.
- 9.1.6 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 gives licensing authorities the power to revoke or suspend personal licences.
- 9.1.7 Every sale of alcohol at licensed premises is required to be authorised by a personal licence holder. Because of the importance of their role, the Licensing Authority considers it to be good practice for personal licence

holders to have significant operational involvement in the sale of alcohol rather than to undertake a remote, periodic authorisation of other staff. In practical terms this would mean authorisation on at least a daily basis, and to be available on the premises throughout most of the day to deal with circumstances requiring their expertise and authority.

- 9.1.8 When applying for a personal licence, the Licensing Authority will expect applicants to produce an up-to-date Disclosure Barring Service certificate. All applicants would also be expected to make a clear statement as to whether or not they have been convicted outside England and Wales of a relevant offence or an equivalent foreign offence.
- 9.1.9 In accordance with the Secretary of State's advice the Licensing Authority will normally refuse applications where the police have issued an objection notice unless there are, in the opinion of the Licensing Authority, exceptional and compelling reasons which justify granting the application.

9.2 Representations the Power to have your Say

- 9.2.1 Having your say in licensing terms is called 'making a representation' but not everyone has the right to have their say in respect of all applications/notifications. There is a prescribed period from the time the Licensing Authority receive the application for representations to be received. This is usually 28 consecutive days but varies depending on the type of application under consideration. Representations can include positive / supportive representations as well as "objections".
- 9.2.2 "Responsible Authorities" (A Statutory Body designated under the Act) and other persons, can make a representation when the Licensing Authority receives an application.
- 9.2.3 'Other Persons' - As well as responsible authorities, any other person can play a role in a number of licensing processes under the 2003 Act. This includes any individual, body or business entitled to make representations to licensing authorities in relation to applications for the grant, variation, or review of premises licences and club premises certificates, regardless of their geographic proximity to the premises. In addition, 'other persons' may themselves seek a review of a premises licence. Any representations made by these persons must be 'relevant', in that the representation relates to one or more of the licensing objectives.
- 9.2.4 Whilst any of these persons may act in their own right, they may also request that a representative makes the representation to the licensing authority on their behalf. A representative may include a legal representative, a friend, a Member of Parliament, or a local ward or parish councillor who can all act in such a capacity.
- 9.2.5 'Relevant representations' are representations:
 - a) About the likely effect of the licence or certificate on the promotion of the licensing objectives;

- b) Made by an 'other person' or a responsible Authority, have not been withdrawn and, in the case of representations made by another person are not in the Licensing Authority's opinion frivolous or vexatious

Frivolous, Vexatious and Repetitious Requests

- 9.2.6 A representation is "relevant" if it relates to the likely effect of the grant of the licence on the promotion of at least one of the licensing objectives. For example, a representation from a local businessperson about the commercial damage caused by competition from new licensed premises would not be relevant. On the other hand, a representation by a businessperson that nuisance caused by new premises would deter customers from entering the local area, and the steps proposed by the applicant to prevent that nuisance were inadequate, would be relevant. In other words, representations should relate to the impact of licensable activities carried on from premises on the objectives. For representations in relation to variations to be relevant, they should be confined to the subject matter of the variation. There is no requirement for a responsible authority or other person to produce a recorded history of problems at premises to support their representations, and in fact this would not be possible for new premises.
- 9.2.7 It is for the licensing authority to determine whether a representation (other than a representation from responsible authority) is frivolous or vexatious on the basis of what might ordinarily be considered to be vexatious or frivolous. A representation may be considered to be vexatious if it appears to be intended to cause aggravation or annoyance, whether to a competitor or other person, without reasonable cause or justification. Vexatious circumstances may arise because of disputes between rival businesses and local knowledge will therefore be invaluable in considering such matters. Licensing authorities can consider the main effect of the representation, and whether any inconvenience or expense caused by it could reasonably be considered to be proportionate.

9.3 Temporary Event Notices

- 9.3.1 Part 5 of the Licensing Act allows licensing activities to be carried out in specified circumstances on a temporary basis, subject to a temporary event notice being served on the Licensing Authority, with a copy to the chief officer of police and Environmental Health services for the area no less than ten working days before the event. The chief officer of police or Environmental Health services may object to the event if satisfied that any of the four licensing objectives would be undermined.
- 9.3.2 "Late" TENs are intended to assist premises users who are required for reasons outside their control to, for example, change the venue for an event at short notice. Late TENS can be given at any time as long as the limits specified, within guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, are not exceeded. Late TENs can be given up to five working days but no earlier than nine working days before the event is due to take place and, unless electronically given to the licensing authority, must also be sent by the premises user to the police and Environmental Health Services. A late TEN given less than five days before the date of the event to which it relates will be returned as void and the activities to which it relates will not be authorised.

9.3.3 The Licensing Authority considers that it is important that the police and Environmental Health services have sufficient time to properly evaluate the likely impact of a temporary event. Where insufficient notice of the event is given, this may lead to objections being made that may have been unnecessary if a fuller evaluation had been possible. Equally, if notice of an event is given too far in advance it may be difficult to evaluate because of future uncertainty.

9.3.4 The Licensing Authority suggests as best practice that temporary event notices are served one or two months ahead of the event taking place.

9.5 Transfer of a Premises Licence

9.6.1 The 2003 Act provides for any person who may apply for a premises licence, which includes a business, to apply for a premises licence to be transferred to them. Where the application is made, the applicant must give notice of the application to the chief officer of police. Where it is made electronically via the licensing authority's electronic facility, the licensing authority must notify the police no later than the first working day after the application is given. However, the responsibility to notify the DPS remains with the applicant.

9.6.2 In the vast majority of cases, it is expected that a transfer will be a very simple administrative process. Section 43 of the 2003 Act provides a mechanism which allows the transfer to come into immediate effect as soon as the licensing authority receives it, until it is formally determined or withdrawn. This is to ensure that there should be no interruption to normal business at the premises.

9.6.3 In exceptional circumstances where the chief officer of police believes the transfer may undermine the crime prevention objective, the police may object to the transfer. Such objections are expected to be rare and arise because the police have evidence that the business or individuals seeking to hold the licence or business or individuals linked to such persons are involved in crime (or disorder). Such objections (and therefore such hearings) should only arise in truly exceptional circumstances.

9.7 Licence Review

9.7.1 At any stage following the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate a Responsible Authority or other person may apply for a review. Evidence will however be required to show that a specific concern exists relating to one or more of the Licensing Objectives.

9.7.2 Where a review hearing is held the Licensing Authority has several options that it may take ranging from taking no action at all, to varying conditions or suspending or revoking the licence. The Guidance reminds the Authority that the powers of review are to be used in the interests of the wider community and not that of the individual licence/certificate holder. Whilst the financial circumstances of the licence/certificate holder will be a consideration for the Licensing Authority the promotion of the Licensing Objectives will be the Authority's primary concern.

Reviews Arising in Connection with Crime

- 9.7.3 Reviews may arise in connection with crime that is not directly connected with licensable activities. For example, reviews may arise because of drugs problems at the premises; money laundering by criminal gangs, the sale of contraband or stolen goods, the sale of firearms, or the sexual exploitation of children. Licensing authorities do not have the power to judge the criminality or otherwise of any issue. This is a matter for the courts. The licensing authority's role when determining such a review is not therefore to establish the guilt or innocence of any individual but to ensure the promotion of the crime prevention objective.
- 9.7.4 Where the licensing authority is conducting a review on the grounds that the premises have been used for criminal purposes, its role is solely to determine what steps should be taken in connection with the premises licence, for the promotion of the crime prevention objective. It is important to recognise that certain criminal activity or associated problems may be taking place or have taken place despite the best efforts of the licence holder and the staff working at the premises and despite full compliance with the conditions attached to the licence. In such circumstances, the licensing authority is still empowered to take any appropriate steps to remedy the problems. The licensing authority's duty is to take steps with a view to the promotion of the licensing objectives in the interests of the wider community and not those of the individual licence holder.
- 9.7.5 There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. These are the use of the licensed premises:
- for the sale and distribution of drugs and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crime.
 - for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms.
 - for the evasion of copyright in respect of pirated or unlicensed films and music.
 - for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography.
 - by organised groups of paedophiles to groom children.
 - as the base for the organisation of criminal activity, particularly by gangs.
 - for the organisation of racist activity or the promotion of racist attacks.
 - for knowingly employing a person who is unlawfully in the UK.
 - for unlawful gambling; and
 - for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol.
- 9.7.6 It is envisaged that licensing authorities, the police and other law enforcement agencies, which are responsible authorities, will use the review procedures effectively to deter such activities and crime. Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.

- 9.7.7 The Licensing Authority can, of its own motion, instigate the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate, but will rely on the responsible authorities such as the Police and Environment Health to be proactive in seeking a review where they consider it appropriate. Requests by responsible authorities will not be treated as vexatious or frivolous.
- 9.7.8 The Licensing Act 2003 requires Licensing Authorities to suspend a premises licence or club premises certificate if the annual fee is not paid when it is due unless an administrative error or dispute has been notified to the Licensing Authority. In such cases there will be a grace period of 21 days to allow the matter to be resolved. If the matter is not resolved within grace period, the licence must be suspended.
- 9.7.9 Where such a suspension takes place the Licensing Authority must give a minimum of two days' notice and may inform the police and other responsible authorities of the suspension. All licensable activities must cease when the suspension takes effect. The suspension will only cease on payment of the outstanding fee irrespective of any transfer or hearing which may take place.

9.9 Appeals against Licensing Sub-Committee Decisions

- 9.9.1 Following the hearing of an application by a Licensing Sub Committee the applicant or any objector has the right to appeal against the decision to the Magistrates Court within 21 days.
- 9.9.2 Where the appeal is brought by an applicant it will be the Licensing Authority's usual policy to defend the Sub Committee's decision. This is because the applicant is asking the Court to grant more than the Council deemed appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 9.9.3 Where an appeal is lodged by an objector following a Sub Committee hearing, the Licensing Authority will always be a "respondent" along with the licence holder. In such cases the Licensing Authority may choose not to be legally represented at the hearing of the appeal at the Magistrates Court. The licence holder as co-respondent may appoint legal representation.
- 9.9.4 Where an appeal to the Magistrates Court is not brought by an objector following a Licensing Sub Committee decision and problems relating to the promotion of the Licensing Objectives do subsequently arise residents can seek a formal Review of the licence. Anyone who wishes to consider this is advised to contact the Licensing service for further advice

9.10 Disapplication of Certain Mandatory Conditions for Community Premises

- 9.10.1 Where an application has been made by the management committee of a community premises (Church Hall, Village Hall etc) and the Chief Officer of Police issues a notice seeking the refusal of the application to include the alternative licence condition, the Licensing Authority must hold a hearing in order to reach a decision on whether to grant the application.

9.11 Variation of Licence to add a new Premises Supervisor

- 9.11.1 Every premises licence that authorises the sale of alcohol must specify a DPS. This will normally be the person who has been given day to day responsibility for running the premises by the premises licence holder. The only exception is for community premises which have successfully made an application to remove the usual mandatory conditions set out in the 2003 Act.
- 9.11.2 Only one DPS may be specified in a single premises licence, but a DPS may supervise two or more premises if the DPS is able to ensure that the licensing objectives are properly promoted and that each premises complies with licensing law and licence conditions.
- 9.11.3 The police may object to the designation of a new DPS where, in exceptional circumstances, they believe that the appointment would undermine the crime prevention objective.
- 9.11.4 Where the police do object, the licensing authority must arrange for a hearing at which the issue can be considered and both parties can put forward their arguments. The 2003 Act provides that the applicant may apply for the individual to take up post as DPS immediately and, in such cases, the issue would be whether the individual should be removed from this post. The licensing authority considering the matter must restrict its consideration to the issue of crime and disorder and give comprehensive reasons for its decision.

9.12 Immigration Act 2016

- 9.12.1 Section 36 of and Schedule 4 to the Immigration Act 2016 (the 2016 Act) amends the 2003 Act and introduces immigration safeguards in respect of licensing applications made in England or Wales on or after 6 April 2017. The intention is to prevent illegal working in premises licensed for the sale of alcohol or late-night refreshment.
- 9.12.2 The statutory prevention of crime objective in the 2003 Act includes the prevention of immigration crime and the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises. Licensing authorities should work with the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) as well as the police, in respect of these matters.
- 9.12.3 The Home Secretary (in practice Home Office (Immigration Enforcement)) is added to the list of responsible authorities in the licensing regime, which requires Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) to receive premises licence applications (except regulated entertainment only licences), and in some limited circumstances personal licence applications, and permits Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) to make appropriate representations and objections to the grant of a licence.
- 9.12.4 Immigration officers are permitted to enter premises which they have reason to believe are being used to sell alcohol or provide late night refreshment, to investigate whether immigration offences are being committed in connection with the licensable activity.

Entitlement to Work

- 9.12.5 Individuals applying for a premises licence for the sale of alcohol or late-night refreshment must be entitled to work in the UK. This includes applications made by more than one individual applicant. An application made by an individual without the entitlement to work in the UK must be rejected. This applies to applications which include the sale of alcohol and the provisions of late-night refreshment but does not include applications which apply to regulated entertainment only.
- 9.12.6 Applicants must provide copies of Identification documents to verify their entitlement to right to work within the UK. The documents, which may be relied on in support of an application demonstrating an entitlement to work in the UK, are the same for the personal.

10.0 PART 3 COMBINED SPORTS & BOXING

10.1 Conditions relating to combined fighting sports and Boxing

10.1.1 In 2013 an Order amended the existing descriptions of regulated entertainment to make clear that both an indoor boxing or wrestling entertainment cannot also be an indoor sporting event, and that any contest, exhibition or display combining boxing or wrestling with one or more martial arts ('combined fighting sports') is – whether indoors or not – a boxing or wrestling entertainment.

10.2. Bare Knuckle Fighting (Boxing)

10.2.1 Bare knuckle boxing ("BKB") can be considered as "boxing or wrestling entertainment" under the Licensing Act 2003. Boxing is regulated entertainment under the Licensing Act, both indoors and outdoors. So, whether an event can go ahead, or not, is primarily a licensing question.

10.2.2 A licensing authority would need to consider the licensing objectives in determining whether to grant a Premises Licence for a BKB event. However, Hansard at the time of the Licensing Act shows that the Government did not consider the health of the participants to be a factor for a licensing authority to consider when ensuring public safety is promoted. In other words, it is not the job of a licensing authority to make boxing safer for the boxers. However, the degree of potential violence and the likelihood of serious injury to the boxers could still be factors for a licensing authority to consider in assessing an application.

10.2.3 More relevant are the licensing objectives in relation to preventing disorder and public nuisance. The crowds at boxing events have generally been considered more of a threat to these objectives than performances of other martial arts, which is why indoors, and outdoors boxing has historically been licensed. Licence conditions could be imposed to minimise the risk to the licensing objectives, including restrictions on the sale and consumption of alcohol, timing of the event and the provision of medical facilities.

10.2.4 Professional boxing in the UK is licensed by the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC). The term 'unlicensed fight' often therefore refers to fights involving fighters of bouts not licensed or otherwise approved by the BBBC. Licensed fights must follow the guidelines set out by the BBBC (such as allowing knocked-down fighters time to get up, and the provision of medical services for injured boxers). Such fights have generally been deemed legal boxing contests; however, it does not necessarily follow that all boxing events must be licensed by the BBBC to be legal. The BBBC is a national governing body for a sport. The BBBC does not condone or support Bare Knuckle Boxing.

10.2.5 In terms of the criminal law, the legality of boxing contests has grown out of the historical treatment of contests by case law. 'Prize fighting', akin to BKB, was considered illegal under public policy grounds in a 19th century case. However, the covering of the knuckles by cloth, and properly ordered rules, referees and medical staff arguably makes modern contests (such as Ultimate Fighting Championship) potentially legal.

However much depends on the circumstances of the fight and whether the degree of violence and injuries inflicted is excessive to the extent that the Police should put a stop to it and arrest the participants. Evidently, it is difficult for the Police to assess whether the degree of violence involved is criminal in advance. This is why bare-knuckle boxing remains a legally grey area and why Responsible Authorities do not permit it.

10.2.6 In terms of an authorisation under the Licensing Act 2003, it is a matter for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council as the Licensing Authority.

10.2.7 **Policy decision** to promote the four licensing objectives under the licensable activity of boxing.

- No Bare-Knuckle Boxing event will be permitted.
- No Bare-Knuckle Combined Fighting Sport will be permitted.
- No event advertised or promoted as Bare-Knuckle Boxing or Bare-Knuckle Fighting will be permitted.
- Any person who has had any involvement in or has taken part in any contest, event or exhibition of a bare-knuckle boxing or bare-knuckle fighting will not be permitted to promote any boxing, fighting or sporting contest in this Borough.

10.3 Travelling Circuses

10.6.1 Travelling circuses will be exempt from entertainment licensing in respect of all descriptions of entertainment, except an exhibition of a film or a boxing or wrestling entertainment, where the entertainment or sport takes place between 08:00-23:00 on the same day, with no audience limit.

PART 4 – INTEGRATING STRATEGIES

11.0 OTHER MEASURES

11.1.1 Community Safety - The Council recognises its responsibility to address issues relating to crime and disorder and is committed to working together, with other partners, to make Hinckley & Bosworth Borough a safe and attractive area in which to live, work, study and socialise.

11.1.2 The Council has a duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and to do all it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in the borough.

11.2 Planning

11.2.1 Licensing and Planning are discrete regulatory systems. There are several key differences between licensing and planning control, and their respective approaches to applications. It could be said that the consideration of a planning application involves looking into how land or buildings are to be used, whereas licensing considers the behaviour of people in terms of the proposed use of the buildings or land and the impact on the licensing objectives.

11.2.2 There are circumstances when as a condition of planning permission; a terminal hour has been set for the use of premises for commercial purposes. Where these hours are different to the licensing hours, the applicant must observe the earlier closing time. Premises operating in breach of their planning permission would be liable to prosecution under planning law.

11.3 Cultural Strategy

11.3.1 The strategy encourages partnerships to work together towards common goals, maximising the impact of resources and activities.

11.3.2 For this vision to be achieved, it is important that there are a set of guiding themes underpinning the strategy. Therefore, a set of 5 key themes have been identified, which are as follows:

1. Increase and celebrate the Arts and creative Offer within the Borough.
2. Increasing economic spend via a thriving events programme.
3. To value and promote Tourism, our Heritage and Museums.
4. Developing Sports opportunities for all.
5. Increase physical activity levels and improve health and wellbeing.

11.3.3 This Strategy will assist in supporting the emerging Local Plan for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough and will support the council's Corporate Plan. In addition, this Strategy complements wider local strategies such as:

- Rural Strategy 2024 – 2028
- Tourism Strategy 2024 - 2028
- Climate & Biodiversity Strategy 2024 - 2026
- Community Safety Strategy 2023 - 2026

- Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021 – 2025
- H&B Health and Well-Being Community Plan 2023

11.3.4 There are huge benefits that underpin these themes. Participation in cultural activities is shown to have positive social impacts, such as helping establish social connectedness, a sense of belonging and breaking down cultural barriers. It can reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, can support people into employment, and we can contribute to the economic prosperity of our proud Borough.

11.4 Promotion of Equality

11.4.1 The Licensing Authority recognises that the Equality Act 2010 places a legal obligation on the Council to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relations, between persons with different protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

11.4.2 The Licensing Authority also recognises that this policy should promote equality in a wider sense and has therefore assessed the potential impact on a variety of groups. It has considered and consulted with this in mind.

11.4.3 The Licensing Authority will implement the following actions, which have been identified as being necessary to promote equality, and within the scope of the Act and supporting guidance:

- The licensing policy and associated documents will be available on the internet, and in other formats upon request.
- Multi-language sections may be included in all leaflets upon request.
- The licensing objective of protecting children from harm will be promoted.
- Support may be offered to licence applicants, licence holders and potential objectors who feel socially excluded.
- Action will be taken to endeavour to ensure the safety of vulnerable people in licensed premises.

11.4.4 The Licensing Authority is aware that there may be particular sensitivities of certain buildings, for example religious buildings, to certain licensable activities taking place in close proximity. Where the impact does not affect the promotion of the licensing objectives, there may be other control mechanisms, such as the planning system, that could be applicable.

11.5 Access for Disabled People

11.5.1 The guidance supporting the Act advises that conditions relating to disabled access should not be attached to licences, as this would duplicate existing statutory requirements. The Licensing Authority therefore takes this opportunity to remind operators of premises of their duties under the Equality

Act 2010. The law provides that any person providing facilities, goods or services to the public must make reasonable adjustments to enable disabled people to access the service.

11.6 Tourism & Local Economy

- 11.6.1 The Licensing Committee will receive copies of reports concerning the local tourist economy and the cultural strategy for the Borough whenever the relevant executive portfolio holder presents them to the Licensing Committee. The Licensing Authority will ensure that when it considers applications for licences for entertainment involving live music, dancing, cinema, and street arts it will act so as to promote the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance.
- 11.6.2 The Licensing Authority recognises that there is a need to encourage and promote a broad range of entertainment, particularly those activities identified above, because of the wider cultural benefits to communities. The potential for limited disturbance will therefore be balanced against these wider benefits. The Council as landowner (not as Licensing Authority) holds premises licences in its own name for appropriate community facilities in its ownership, to reduce the burden on others who wish to make use of community facilities for licensable events. The Council has encouraged other public and voluntary sector landowners of community facilities (e.g. parish councils, the County Council) to adopt a similar approach.
- 11.6.3 As per paragraph 11.6.2 this could include, green spaces, parks, town centre etc. Performers and entertainers would require permission from the Council, as the premises licence holder, to use these spaces for regulated entertainment.

11.7 Transport

- 11.7.1 Transport Strategy is set out in the Local Transport Plan (LTP) under Leicestershire County Council procedures; local highway authorities prepare their plans integrating strategies that links all modes of urban and rural transport and currently runs until 2026. It is proposed to monitor the plans through annual progress reports to ensure they deliver the aims and objectives of regional planning guidance and Leicestershire's structure plan.
- 11.7.2 The LTP policies seek to ensure that alternatives to the use of the private car are available; these alternatives include walking, cycling and public transport (bus, rail and taxi). They are operated in conjunction with land use policies to seek to ensure that development takes place in locations where these alternatives can be best provided; the Town Centre is naturally one of these locations, particularly with regard to public transport.

11.7.3 Taxis provide a key role in transporting people, particularly at times when bus services are not well provided. Taxi ranks are provided where demand is identified, and include both 24-hour ranks and ranks, which operate only at night.

11.8 Health and Safety

11.8.1 All premises in the Borough fall to either the Council's Environmental Health Officers or the Health and Safety Executive Inspectors for the enforcement of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act which places a range of general and specific duties on employees, employers, operators of venues and members of the public. Matters arising out of the Act and associated Regulations will not be the subject of conditions unless they are necessary for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.

11.9 Fire Safety

11.9.1 Each licensed premises is required by law to provide a written fire safety risk assessment of their premises to comply with The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, this risk assessment should include safe occupancy limits. Leicestershire Fire Service is the Responsible Authority for this area, further information can be found via this link <https://leics-fire.gov.uk/your-safety/at-work/licenced-premises/>

11.10 Food Hygiene

11.10.1 Premises selling alcohol and/or premises engaged in a food business will be registered with the Council and subject to risk-based food hygiene inspections at regular intervals. No further licensing consideration will apply.

11.11 Public Health

11.11.1 The Licensing Authority recognises the role of the Director of Public Health acting in its role as a Responsible Authority. Public Health can make representations in response to either a full licence application or an application for a variation in the conditions of an existing licence. They can also call for the review of a licence if they feel it breaches a licensing objective. Any representation must relate specifically to the premises in question and cannot be a general objection.

11.12 Noise

11.12.1 Statutory and public nuisances are dealt with by Environmental Health under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and associated legislation. In addition, there is also provision in the Environmental Protection Act for an individual to take a private action against noise nuisance. Public order matters such as noise from people in streets, open spaces, traffic matters etc. are dealt with by the police.

12.0 Enforcement

12.1.1 We will support businesses to help them comply with the law but view offences and breaches of licence conditions seriously.

12.1.2 The Licensing Authority will make arrangements to monitor premises and take appropriate enforcement action to ensure this. The Licensing Authority works closely with the Police and has established protocols to ensure efficient deployment of officers engaged in enforcing licensing law and inspecting licensed premises.

The enforcement action will be:

- Targeted toward those premises presenting the highest risk
- Proportional, to the nature and seriousness of the risk those premises present
- Consistent, so that we take similar approaches in similar situations
- Transparent, so those who are subject to enforcement action know what to expect
- Accountable, so that we take responsibility for our actions.

12.1.3 Licensing officers will investigate all complaints alleging breaches of the Act or licence conditions and act on all sources of reliable intelligence (including local residents and businesses) with a view to establishing if offences have been committed.

12.1.4 Such matters may include:

- Unauthorised licensable activities or breach of licence conditions
- Allowing disorderly conduct on licensed premises
- Sale of alcohol to children and the consumption of alcohol by children
- Sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk
- Child protection issues

12.1.5 Where licensing officers have such evidence; they have a range of enforcement options including:

- Offering advice /guidance (verbal or written)
- Informal written warnings
- Formal cautions
- Prosecution
- Review of Premises Licences
- Closure Notice

The Licensing Authority encourages a graduated approach to enforcement as set out in the Environmental Health enforcement policy however in the cases of offences relating to: -

1. The deliberate and persistent provision of unlicensed activities.
2. Persistent underage sales.
3. The use of licensed premises in connection with criminal activity.
4. Allowing disorderly conduct on licensed premises.

5. Delivering alcohol to children.
6. Allowing the sale of alcohol to children.

It is the expectation that Formal Action (including Fixed Penalty Notices, Formal Cautions, Reviews and or Prosecution) will be the preferred approach.

Where Members of a Licensing sub-committee hear an application to 'Review' a licence they will give appropriate consideration and weight to the relevant representations and evidence as well as the decision of the High Court in *Bassetlaw District Council v Worksop Magistrates Court* 5008 EWHC 3530 (Admin), that deterrence is an appropriate consideration when dealing with Reviews where that has been activity in connection with criminal activity.

13.0 Early Morning Restriction Orders (EMRO)

The power conferred on licensing authorities to make, vary or revoke an EMRO (or propose to take any of these steps) is set out in sections 172A to 172E of the Licensing Act 2003.

This power enables a licensing authority to prohibit the sale of alcohol for a specified time period between the hours of 12am and 6am in the whole or part of its area, if it is satisfied that this would be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

EMROs are designed to address recurring problems such as high levels of alcohol related crime and disorder in specific areas at specific times; serious public nuisance and other instances of alcohol related anti-social behaviour which is not directly attributable to specific premises.

An EMRO:

- Applies to the supply of alcohol authorised by premises licences, club premises certificate and temporary event notices;
- Applies for any period beginning at or after 12am and ending at or before 6am.
- It does not have to apply on every day of the week and can apply for different time periods on different days of the week;
- Applies for a limited or unlimited period (for example, an EMRO could be introduced for a few weeks to apply to a specific event);
- Applies to the whole or any part of the licensing authority's area
- Will not apply to any premises on New Year's Eve (defined as 12am to 6am on 1 January every year);
- Will not apply to the supply of alcohol to residents by accommodation providers between 12am and 6am, provided the alcohol is sold through mini bars/room service; and
- Will not apply to a relaxation of licensing hours by virtue of an order made under section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Before a licensing authority determines to recommend that the full council make a proposed EMRO, it should be satisfied that it has sufficient evidence to demonstrate that making the EMRO would be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The licensing authority should consider evidence from partners, including responsible authorities and local Community Safety Partnerships, alongside its own evidence, to determine whether an EMRO would be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

An EMRO is a tool which will prevent licensed premises in the area to which the EMRO relates from supplying alcohol during the time at which the EMRO applies. The licensing authority should consider whether other measures may address the problems that they have identified as the basis for introducing an EMRO.

These measures might include:

- Introducing a cumulative impact policy;
- Reviewing licences of specific problem premises;
- Encouraging the creation of business-led best practice schemes in the area.

It is the intention of the licensing authority to support businesses, whilst ensuring the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, where this has deemed to fail then an EMRO could be considered as a possible solution.

14.0 Late Night Levy

The legislative provisions relating to the late-night levy are not part of the Licensing Act 2003 but are contained in Sections 125 to 139 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Late-Night Levy is a power, conferred on Licensing Authorities by provision in Part 2 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. This enables licensing authorities to charge a levy to persons who are licensed to sell alcohol late at night in the Authority's area, as a means of raising a contribution towards the costs of policing the late-night economy.

The Levy is a power, and the Government has recognised that some licensing authorities will not consider that it is appropriate to exercise it.

The decision to introduce the levy is for the Licensing Authority to make. However, the Licensing Authority will keep the need for a levy under review in consultation with the Chief Officer of Police and Police and Crime Commissioner ("PCC") for the police area.

When considering whether to introduce a levy the Licensing Authority notes that any financial risk (for example lower than expected revenue) rests at a local level and this will be fully considered prior to making any decision about local implementation.

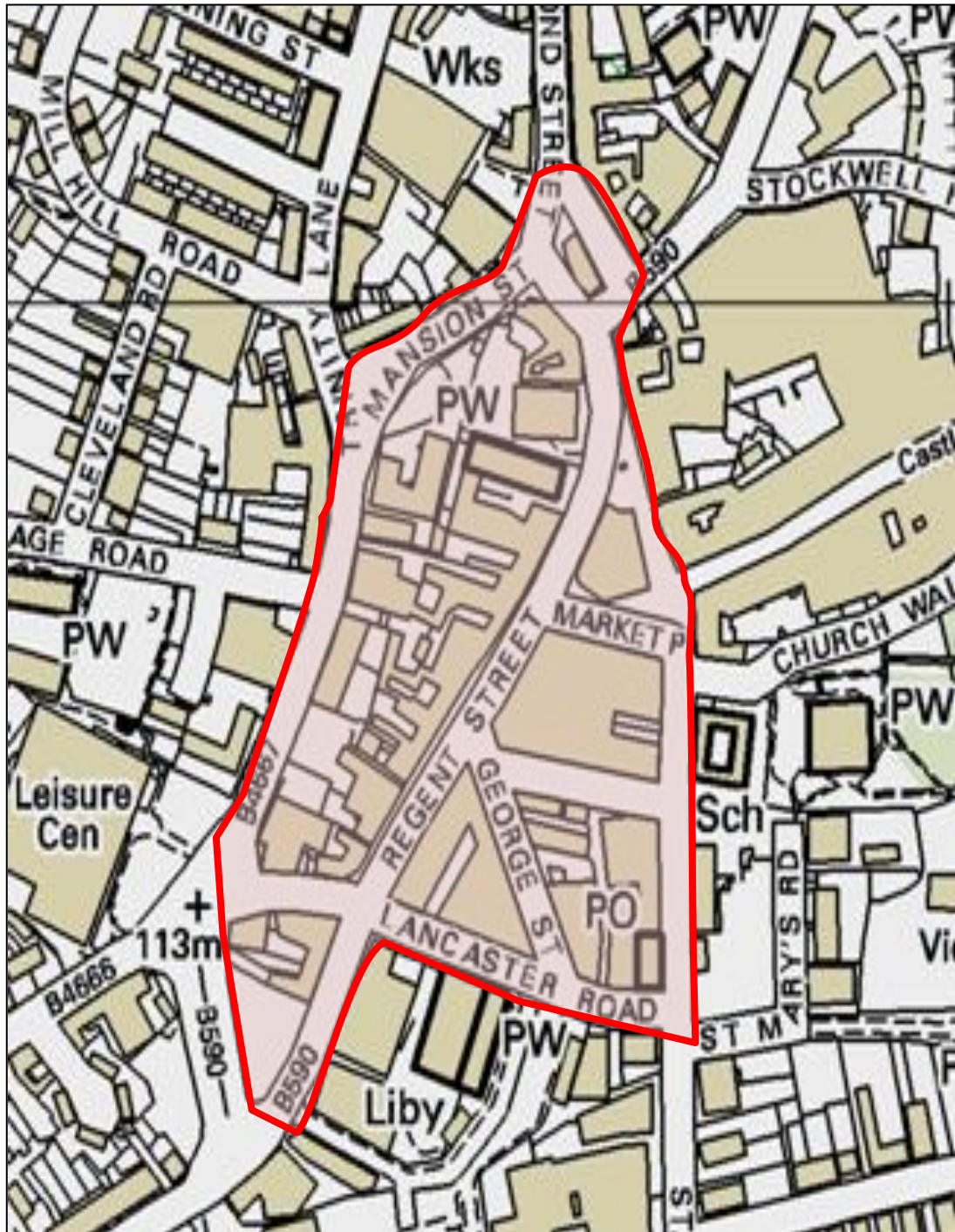
If the Licensing Authority decides to give further consideration to the introduction of a levy in the future, it will do so in accordance with the relevant regulations and with reference to any relevant guidance issued by the Home Office.

Any decision to introduce, vary or end the requirement for the levy will be made by the Full Council. Other decisions in relation to the introduction and administration of the levy would be delegated to the Licensing Committee.

APPENDIX A

The proposed area is shown below and is described as the area being bounded by and includes the following roads or streets and all streets within in it.

Trinity Lane to its junction with Mansion St, Mansion St. King St, Stockwell Head to its junction with The Borough. The Borough, Market Place, Station Rd to its junction with Lancaster Rd. Lancaster Rd, Rugby Rd to its junction with Trinity Lane.



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Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 9 December 2025

Wards affected: all wards

Council Values review

Report of Deputy Chief Executive

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To inform Members of a refresh to the Council's corporate values.

2. Recommendation

2.1 For members to note the report and endorse the revised values.

3. Background to the report

3.1 The Council's values set out who we are. They help to guide the behaviours, actions and decision making of everyone at the council. They set out the expected behaviours and culture we should all uphold when working together and with others.

3.2 The council's values have been reviewed and refreshed to respond to and build upon the positive feedback received in the Peer review and to reflect the aspirations and views of employees.

3.2 In summary, the Peer Review recommendations relating to organisational culture were to:

- i. Celebrate organisational culture and ethos by recognising the passion, commitment, loyalty and belief in place of staff and members,
- ii. Celebrate and communicate community leadership work; and
- iii. Clearly define the council's roles as a deliverer, facilitator, and influencer.

- 3.3 Alongside this, 70% of HBBC employees participated in the biennial staff survey earlier this year. Employees indicated they are keen to see the council continue to foster a culture of openness, honesty, and the sharing of important information consistently across all teams, building on the legacy and culture of HBBC as we move towards LGR.
- 3.4 The values have now been updated to reflect the Peer review feedback and employee comments to ensure they continue to meet the needs and aspirations of residents and of our employees.
- 3.5 The refreshed values will be communicated and shared with internal and external audiences including the web and sharepoint pages, recruitment materials, new starter packs, recognising training achievements and a staff recognition scheme. The staff recognition scheme will be a recognition programme that rewards employees who consistently demonstrate the corporate values. Nominations can be made externally by members of the public or internally on a peer to peer basis. This is to ensure that both customer facing and non-customer facing employees are able to be recognised.
- 4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules**
- 4.1 This is a public document and as such will be debated in public session.
- 5. Financial implications**
- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report
- 6. Legal implications**
- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.
- 7. Corporate Plan implications**
- 7.1 The Corporate Plan will be updated to include the revised values.
- 8. Consultation**
- 8.1 This update has been informed by Peer Challenge feedback and the employee survey 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 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
Not having an up to date Corporate Plan for the organisation will result in a lack of focus and priority over the delivery of services to our communities.	To bring accountability to progress made against the CorporatePlan.	Strategic Leadership Team

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 The Corporate Plan vision and objectives and key values are focussed on the whole Borough and highlight the importance of engaging our rural and more remote communities.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 The Corporate Plan key values and actions are focussed on the corporate priority of tackling climate change and supporting the actions set out as a result of the council' declaration of a Climate Change emergency and underpins the council's Climate Change Strategy.

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: Summary of Achievements against the Corporate Plan

Contact officer: Sharon Stacey

Executive member: Stuart Bray

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Our **VALUES & BEHAVIOURS FRAMEWORK**

Supporting Our Corporate Plan 2024-2028



WHO WE ARE

At Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, we're passionate about delivering outstanding services to our community—and our people are at the heart of this mission. Every resident and customer deserves the highest standards of professionalism from our teams, and together, we're dedicated to making life better for everyone in Hinckley & Bosworth by providing top-quality services.

We've crafted a clear set of values and behaviours that define what matters most to us as a Council. These values have been reviewed and refreshed to respond to and build upon the positive feedback received in the Peer review 2024 and to reflect the aspirations and views of employees.

These values drive everything we do, guiding us to make the right choices in the right way. Our behaviours are designed to bring these values to life, ensuring they're woven into our daily actions.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council are one team, united in our commitment to quality and integrity and driven to deliver excellence for our community, making the most of our resources and living our values every day.

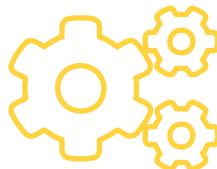
Our values are who we are.



WE ARE
POSITIVE



WE ARE
AMBITIOUS



WE ARE
COLLABORATIVE



WE ARE
**CUSTOMER
FOCUSED**

OUR VALUES

WHO WE ARE

WE ARE POSITIVE

We are energetic and
passionate, proud of and
dedicated to our area.



OUR VALUES

WHO WE ARE

WE ARE **AMBITIOUS**

We strive for excellence.

We learn, innovate,
challenge, seek out
opportunities and
embrace new ideas.

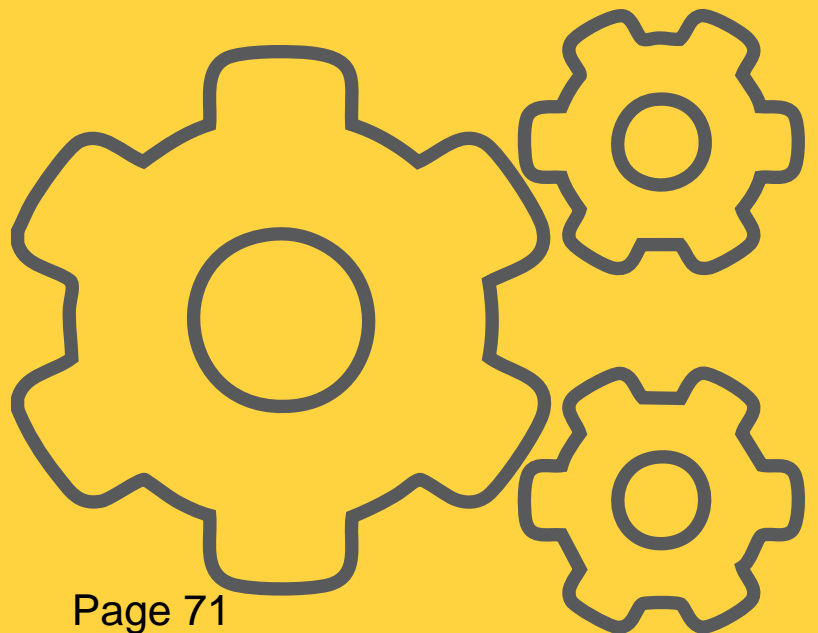


OUR VALUES

WHO WE ARE

WE ARE **COLLABORATIVE**

We trust, respect and are honest. We listen to each other, to our communities and to our partners and work with them supportively to get things done.



OUR VALUES

WHO WE ARE

WE ARE CUSTOMER FOCUSSED

We put the needs of our customers first. We care about being the best we can be and take responsibility for our actions.





Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Finance and Performance Scrutiny	10 November 2025
Council	18 December 2025

Wards Affected: All wards

COUNCIL TAX – LOCAL DISCOUNTS AND PREMIUMS

Report of Assistant Director Finance & Audit (S151 Officer)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval for changes to the council tax discounts and premiums in operation at the Council,

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council members approve the increased premium charge for
- Empty, unoccupied and unfurnished discount
 - Major repairs, and
 - Second homes premium

3. Background to Report

- 3.1 In 2019 the Council introduced changes to discounts and premiums for Council Tax in respect of empty properties. At the same time there was the introduction of a new local Council Tax Reduction Scheme that replaced the national council tax benefit scheme. The main aim of this is to help councils is to bring empty properties back into occupation.
- 3.2 Nationally long term empty properties are shutting local families and young people out of the housing market as they are being denied the opportunity to rent or buy in their own community. Additionally, the levels of empty properties are recognised as having a serious impact on the viability of communities. This has led government to make further changes to when premiums can be levied on Council Tax payers who own empty properties.

- 3.3 The number of empty properties within the Hinckley and Bosworth area is relatively low. The Table below gives properties classed as empty as at the beginning of October 2025. As can be seen long term properties remaining empty for more than one year is extremely low. Which suggests current actions are moving empty properties back into use within the year.

Long term empty	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Number of Dwellings	52,070	51,749	50,815	50,815	50,279	49,885
Empty over six months	791	798	812	749	729	802
Long term empty over 1 year	90	82	66	78	88	156
As a percentage of all dwellings						
Empty over six months	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%
Long term empty over 1 year	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%

- 3.4 It is very difficult to estimate what impact these changes would have on the number of empty properties brought back into use. However, based on the observations in the table above, the change in numbers implies that the last time premiums were increased in 2020/21, the number of long term empty properties fell from 156 to 88 (43%), while the “up to six months” category fell by 73 (9%). This does not guarantee a similar fall for the proposals suggested in this report, as the ratio of empty properties to total dwelling has remained relatively stable since 2020/21 despite the increased premium being in place.
- 3.5 Further changes have been made to legislation to allow further amendments, and our Revenue and Benefit partnership are trying to unify, where possible, the approach across the partners subject to member approve. It is hoped these changes will help bring empty properties back into use at a quicker rate. The information has been updated since Finance and Performance Scrutiny to be based on 2025/26 council tax data.

1. Empty, unoccupied and unfurnished discount:

This only affects properties that are empty and unfurnished

Current position	Proposed position	Estimated volume affected	Estimated decrease in discount awarded
100% discount for 1 month	No discount	371	£71,000.00, of which HBBC share would be about £5,000

2. Major repairs:

Major repairs that make the house uninhabitable will not be covered by this, where the property is taken out of the valuation listing.

Current position	Proposed position	Estimated volume affected	Estimated decrease in discount awarded
50% discount for 6 months	No discount	45	£ 52,000.00, of which HBBC share would be about £4,000

3. Second homes premium

A second home has a particular definition of a furnished property that does not have anyone living in as their main home. Landlords are unlikely to be captured by this definition

Current position	Proposed position	Estimated volume affected	Estimated value of premium applied
No premium applied	100% premium applied from day one.	163	£375,000, of which HBBC share would be about £26,000

- 3.6 The proposals above were subject to consultation which is detailed in section 8 below. In general the public were not supportive of the changes for those that answered the survey. There were 719 respondents between December 2024 and January 2025. There were 50,749 chargeable dwellings (October 2024) in HBBC at that time. The respondents represent potentially 1.42% of the chargeable dwelling tax payers.

5. Financial implications (AW)

- 5.1 Contained in the body of the report.

6. Legal implications (ST)

- 6.1 Under section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("LGFA 1992") the council has a general discretionary power to reduce liability for council tax in relation to individual cases or class(es) of cases that it may determine.
- 6.2 Councils in England derive their power to charge a council tax premium on second homes from the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by subsequent legislation: Section 11C of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 Introduced via the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, this section allows councils to apply a discretionary premium of up to 100% (i.e. double the standard rate) on second homes—defined as dwellings that are substantially furnished but not anyone's sole or main residence. Under Section 11C as above, council's must provide a minimum of a year's notice before the start of the financial year.

7 Corporate Plan implications

7.1 To ensure the Council's governance arrangements are robust.

8. Consultation

8.1 The Consultation below was taken between Dec 2024 and January 2025. The survey attracted 719 responses, but not all questions were answered by all respondents. A summary of the main responses is given below.

Key Statistics:

Category indicates of those that responded the number that owned property that directly affected	Responses
Own second home	68
Own unoccupied unfurnished property	20
Own unoccupied furnished property	13
Property undergoing major repairs	6

Public Support for Proposals:

Proposal	Support	Disagree	Neither	Total
Remove 100% discount on empty, unfurnished properties for one month	269 (39%)	354 (52%)	63 (9%)	686 (100%)
Remove 50% discount on major repairs for twelve months	238 (35%)	353 (52%)	86 (13%)	677 (100%)
Apply 100% premium on Second property (double council tax) on second homes from April 2026*	308 (46%)	315 (47%)	50 (7%)	673 (100%)

* Due to the timing of this report, this would now be introduced from April 2027

8.2 There were also over 300 open ended responses, with a range of views, which have been summarised in the table below.

Handling of empty properties – open ended responses
Various approaches to handling empty properties were suggested:
1. Opposition to Increased Taxes: Many respondents oppose increasing council tax on empty properties, arguing that it penalizes owners who may be renovating or trying to sell the property. They believe that empty properties do not use council services and thus should not be subject to higher taxes.
2. Support for Higher Taxes: Some respondents support higher taxes on long-term empty properties to incentivize owners to

Handling of empty properties – open ended responses

bring them back into use. Suggestions include doubling the council tax or implementing a sliding scale where the tax increases the longer the property remains empty.

3. Exemptions and Grace Periods: Several respondents propose exemptions or grace periods for properties that are empty due to inheritance, probate, or major renovations. They suggest allowing a certain period (e.g., 6-12 months) before imposing higher taxes to give owners time to sell or renovate the property.

4. Encouraging Renovations: There is a strong sentiment that properties undergoing major repairs should receive tax discounts to encourage renovations and improve housing stock. Some suggest reducing the discount period rather than eliminating it entirely.

5. Compulsory Purchase: A few respondents advocate for the council to exercise compulsory purchase of long-term empty properties, renovate them, and use them for social housing.

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 these report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
None		

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

Various reliefs are available for council tax under national and local regulations.

11. **Corporate implications**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account: Asset Management implications

Background Papers:	Revenues and Benefits Monitoring Reports Detailed Survey results
Author:	Ashley Wilson, Head of Finance Ext 5609
Executive Member:	Cllr K Lynch



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council

9 December 2025

Wards affected:

Hinckley Castle; Hinckley Clarendon,
Hinckley De Montfort, Hinckley Trinity

Community Governance Review – draft recommendations

Report of the Director (Resources & Streetscene Services)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To advise members of the outcome of the first stage consultation of the Community Governance Review and to present the draft recommendations of the Community Governance Review Working Group.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The recommendations contained within paragraphs 3.3.1 to 3.3.5 be published for consultation for a period of eight weeks from 2 January 2026 to 27 February 2026.
- 2.2 The amended timeline outlined at paragraph 3.5 be approved as an amendment to the terms of reference.
- 2.3 The working group and its membership be retained until the end of the review.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 As a consequence of the desire to review local governance arrangements in light of the government's Devolution White Paper, Council on 8 July 2025 agreed to undertake a community governance review of the unparished area of Hinckley and agreed the terms of reference for the review. Community governance reviews are undertaken in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

- 3.2 Following approval of the terms of reference, a period of public consultation took place from 14 July to 10 October 2025. Consultation took place in a variety of ways. These are outlined in paragraph 8.
- 3.3 The responses have been collated and are attached at appendix 2 and analysed by the Community Governance Review Working Group. The working group (Councillor Bray, Councillor R Allen & Councillor Lambert) makes the following recommendations for change:
- 3.3.1 A parish for the unparished area of Hinckley as outlined in appendix 1 be created.
- 3.3.2 A parish council be created with the styling of “Hinckley Town Council”.
- 3.3.3 The ordinary year of elections for Hinckley Town Council be set as 2027.
- 3.3.4 The council size for Hinckley Town Council be set at 20 councillors.
- 3.3.5 The parish be divided into four wards with the boundaries as defined in appendix 1.
- 3.3.6 The name of each ward and number of councillors elected for each ward be set at:
- Castle 4 Councillors
 - Clarendon 6 Councillors
 - De Montfort 6 Councillors
 - Trinity 4 Councillors
- 3.4 Based on the evidence available, the working group considers that the above recommendations would:
- Help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community
 - Help to secure more effective and convenient governance of the area.
- 3.5 The working group considered alternative styles of governance including community, neighbourhood and village councils but felt that a parish council best reflected the local community and that the recommendation should reflect this style.
- 3.5 Since agreement and publication of the terms of reference, members have requested that the review be expedited and the timeline be recalculated. It is therefore also recommended that the terms of reference for the review be amended to include the following revised timeline:

Action	Original Date	Revised Date
Council approval of TOR	8 July 2025	-

Action	Original Date	Revised Date
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	Member Working Group arranged for 13 November.
Draft recommendations to Council	19 February 2026	9 December 2025
Draft recommendations published	23 February 2026	December 2025
Consultation on draft recommendations	23 February – 22 May 2026	January – February 2026
Consider submissions received on draft recommendations and prepare final recommendations	25 May – 24 July 2026	March – April 2026. Member Working Group May 2026
Final recommendations and draft reorganisation order put to Council	September 2026	May / June 2026
Reorganisation Order (s) made	By 1 April 2027	May / June 2026
Order comes into force	1 April 2027	June 2026. The new council is created, and assets transferred under the order. The Council should also then be able to make temporary appointments to the new council pending the elections to the new council in May 2027.
Appointments made under new arrangements	May 2027	-

- 3.5 Public consultation on these draft recommendations will take place from 2 January 2026 to 27 February 2026. Consultation will take place in accordance with the terms of reference for the review.
- 3.6 If the review determines that a Hinckley Town Council should be established, it would be for HBBC and the Town Council to consider what assets and / or services, currently owned or leased by HBBC, it might wish to negotiate the transfer of.
- 3.7 Work is underway to identify those potential assets and services and the implications for Hinckley residents should they transfer.
- 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 Work is currently being undertaken to assess the impact on Council budgets. Any changes to existing budgets will require approval in accordance with financial procedure rules.
- 5.2 If a Town Council is formed all earmarked reserves and balances currently held on behalf of Hinckley Area Committee will be forwarded to the Town Council.
- 6. Legal implications [ST]**
- 6.1 None.
- 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 The initial consultation took place between 14 July and 10 October 2025. The following methods of consultation were undertaken:
- Open consultation on the council's website
 - Social media posts
 - Email to borough councillors inviting them to respond to the consultation online or by email / letter
 - Email to a database of voluntary & community sector bodies
 - Email to a database of businesses in the Hinckley area
 - Email to Leicestershire County Council inviting them as a body and county councillors to respond to the review
 - Display at Snapdragon and Burbage Common Open Day
 - Posters in the Hinckley Hub customer reception.

- 8.2 79 consultation responses were received from borough councillors, residents and businesses. These responses are contained within appendix A.
- 8.3 The Community Governance Review Working Group met on 13 November 2025 to consider the responses to the consultation and to make recommendations to Council. Their considerations and recommendations are contained within this report. A further consultation period will take place on the recommendations once agreed by Council.

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 of the consultation and 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.	Monitoring Officer

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

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

11. Climate implications

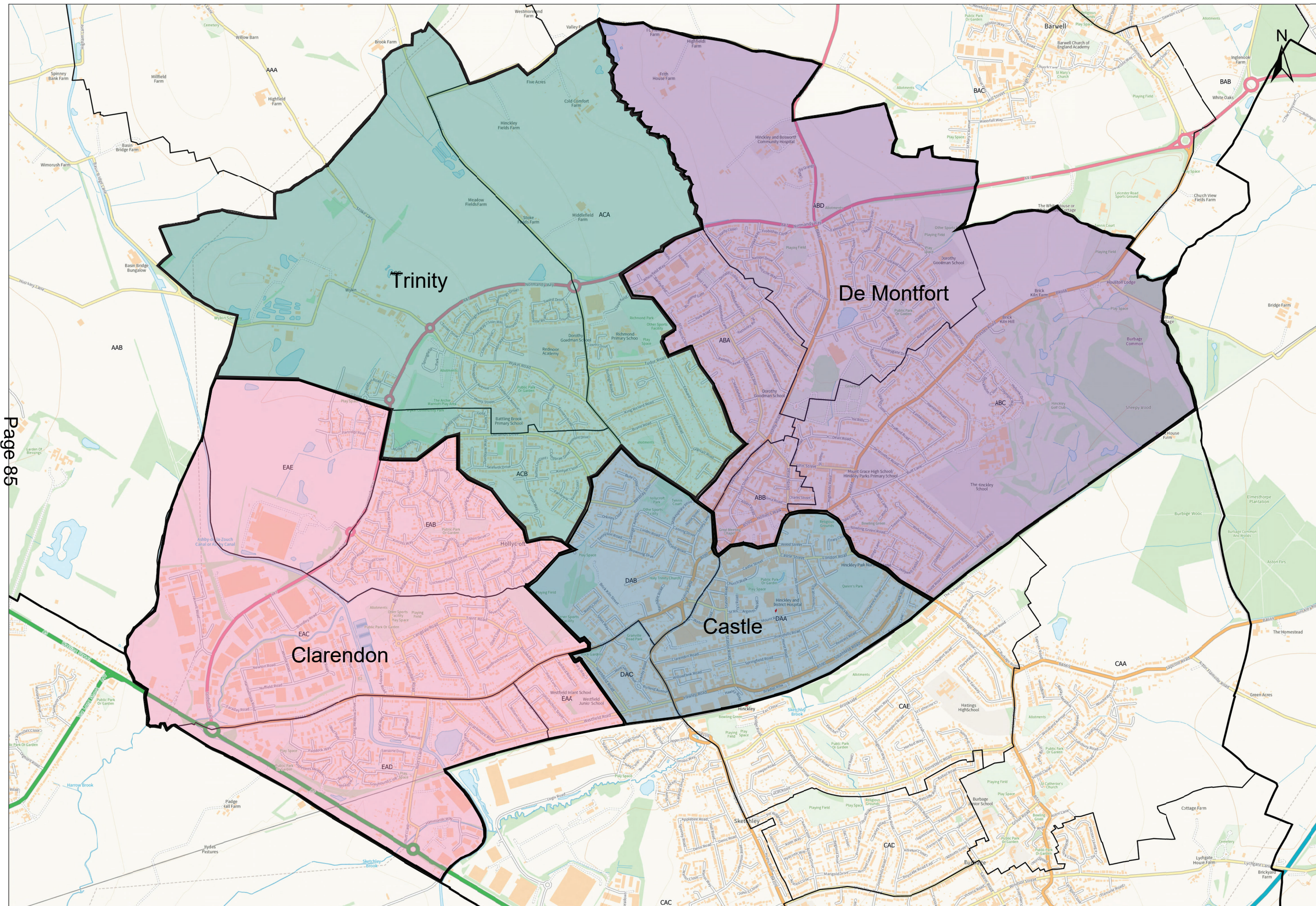
- 11.1 Consultation has taken place online where possible to reduce paper usage.
- 11.2 The recommendations within this report will not have direct climate implications.

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: Report to Council, 8 July 2025

Contact officer: Julie Kenny / Rebecca Owen / Mollie Brooks-Crowley
Executive member: Councillor S Bray



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Community Governance Review Consultation Responses – Stage One

Responses from respondents are organised by respondent type.

Please note that responses are presented as entered by survey respondents, including spelling, grammatical and punctuation errors. Views expressed are not those of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

Responses from residents of Hinckley	1
Responses from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough councillors	20
Responses on behalf of parish or town councils	23
Responses on behalf of a local business	24
Other	28

Responses from residents of Hinckley

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	Excellent Services
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	Excellent parks and other services
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	With local government reorganisation Hinckley will need to have its services delivered at a more local level by a town council
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	<i>Relevant extracts taken from response SUR737646332</i> “The existing governance framework in Hinckley and Bosworth fails to capture and champion the distinct identities, priorities, and interests of its urban and rural communities. While the town centre’s concerns often dominate council agendas, the needs of outlying villages and hamlets frequently is overlooked” “...urban areas enjoy tighter boundaries and more councillors per head of population [...] Funding for infrastructure, public transport, and digital

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
Page 88			connectivity is concentrated on Hinckley town, leaving many rural parishes with substandard [services]"
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	Relevant extracts taken from response SUR737646332 "The current tiered system of decision-making in Hinckley and Bosworth frequently fails to deliver an effective and convenient local government. Residents face delays navigating multiple bodies - from parish to borough to county councils where when seeking effective communication to resolve issues, whether fixing potholes at one end to school placements and planning advice at the other with many other factors that could be easily listed. This complexity erodes public trust, stifles community engagement, and prevents timely, locally-tailored solutions."
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Relevant extracts taken from response SUR737646332 "Hinckley & Bosworth's population rose by 8.1% between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, reaching approximately 106,300 residents. This growth has intensified demand for local services and highlighted the absence of a town or parish council in the unparished area of Hinckley, leaving nearly a third of borough inhabitants without the most local tier of representation." "Establishing a town council for Hinckley's unparished area would bring decision-making to street level. Powers could include allotment management, open space maintenance, public events and neighbourhood planning. Funding through a modest precept ensures direct reinvestment in localised specific services."
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Unsure / don't know	Unsure really.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Unsure / don't know	Unsure really
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Local government needs to be reorganised that's a fact. Years of mismanagement and budget cuts have led us to this However by potentially creating a new "town council" this could be better than a single unitary or being part of a three council split for Leicestershire. BIG question though will be along the lines of how much extra would we the residents of Hinckley and Bosworth pay for this new council and it's included services on top of our council tax? It's got to be justified or in my eyes what's the point and we may as well just be part of a bigger unitary and be forgotten about (which lets face

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
			it, as a bigger concern places like Hinckley and it's surroundings will be push to oneside). I could be wrong but that's my take on this
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	I feel Hinckley council knows it's community well.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Neither agree nor disagree	Things need to change However opting for a new parish/town council would be most welcome.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	A new parish/town council in my opinion would strengthen its existing community reach and help keep Hinckley's identity "Local". I would welcome the change as it works extremely well for the likes of Barwell, Earl Shilton and Burbage so why not Hinckley? It's got to be better than becoming a bigger unitary where I feel Hinckley would be lost and not represented by "Local" councilors instead by councilors from other districts which don't know our needs and live in Hinckley. Keeping the local in local government is key and by setting up a new parish/town council would be the answer and I'd be willing to pay for the precept. We have nice well maintained parks and open spaces, we are represented well and we the people of Hinckley don't want to loose that sense of identity and proudness of living in such a nice town. Let's go for a new parish/town council and build a better diverse community that we all can be proud of together.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is an excellent council representing, helping and standing up for all local communities within the town. It provides services above and beyond what they are required to do to enable a clean, safe, pleasant environment where everyone can gain the assistance they require.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Residents are strongly represented by local Councillors within HBBC and the council responsibly converts requests to action if needed and necessary. The council is run efficiently and conveniently being on hand for all when needed
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	The only way to maintain the excellent service for Hinckley that HBBC provides following its disappearance after April 2028 is to create a Hinckley Town Council. This will enable the excellent representation and assistance to local people to be maintained, which will not happen when a Unitary Authority covering a much larger area is created. Wherever that is based I fear Hinckley will be unrepresented and forgotten without local community governance. Locally we would not have a say on the funding of facilities, or

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
			any influence in desired or undesired planning applications. We would not have any influence in parks, countryside, cemeteries or car parks which are essential for the recreation and economic needs of the town. As it is we see outside influence in Government decisions on planning and infrastructure made from London or Bristol, with no knowledge of Hinckley. The creation of a Town Council be a voice for Hinckley. It will ensure the maintenance of our area locally, for local people and businesses who will gain a prosperous future.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	We are represented by councillors who are local to the area and know their patch.
	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	The councillors are approachable and willing to help and the services are generally of a good standard.
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	No change	A change to governance usually means people are doing more with less. It isn't broken as it is so there's no need to mess around with it
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	There is always so much for families to be involved with and support local businesses
	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley provide an effective and convenient local government?	Neither agree nor disagree	Some buildings that are no longer fit for purpose should be sorted to make the town look better. Be in conjunction with owners of buildings and work together to open more places/ lower rent
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change.	No change	Focus on making Hinckley a better place
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly disagree	The local councillors give scant consideration of Hinckley. 7 minutes in the last year or so
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	I don't believe the Lib Dems provide a good service to is

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Provide a dedicated focus on Hinckley that other areas get.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	They understand the area
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	It works well
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	As above
A resident of Hinckley Page 91	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly disagree	Loss of local concern as well as identity
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	Given the amount of new build housing that is making driving through Hinckley worse than ever, regardless of government mandate, you have killed this town. Let's not get in to the M69 service station approval!
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	I like a new council and for Stuart Bray to focus less of keeping an old Hospital frontage. We have to move with the times! History will always be there!
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly disagree	Outlying villages fo not get the same attention as Hinckley, but we pay high council tax.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Neither agree nor disagree	Im not sure any changes would make a difference
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	The current setup ignores our needs and requirements

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	It doesnt make a difference if its Hinckley or Leicestershire. Having representation from each suburb/village cam still be appointed.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	Effective- no evidence. Convenient- not needed.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	A restrucure and cost cutting duplication, sounds like a good ides.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	Decisions appear politically biased and not made on merit and totally for the benefit of the tax paying residents, bringing about an increasing feeling of unrepresentation and a town that doesn't have the best 'offer' for the developing demographic catchment area.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	There appears to be little ownership or responsibility for decisions taken, with 'central government' often being cited as the reason for s decision being made the way it has!
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Unsure/don't know	Good governance should remain close to the community it represents, but it should also be effective and efficient. Often, if there are too many layers of governance, e.g., district, borough, town and village councils, duplication can occur and decisions delayed, in addition to which there is a negative impact on the costs of such an administration, I.e., an increase in costs with no discernible benefit.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	Borough Council is based in Hinckley
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	I can walk to council offices. That won't be the case with a unitary council
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Creation of a unitary council will move control of typical parish council services away from Hinckley
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley...	Neither agree nor disagree	Pros and cons

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	...reflect local identities and interests?		
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	Too much money wSted not enough focus on rural areas
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Parish council as is, no borough council, more localized autonomy focussed on specific issues, lcc to take responsibility for overarching larger issues, roads, education, transport, refuse collection etc. Middle layer unnecessary and costly
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	Too many people in same position within the council: e,g managerial positions
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	Same reason as above
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Cut unnecessary staff save money for more services and be more efficient in work ethos
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Do not want to be come under Leicester
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	To keep our boundaries
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	There is no need to change to Angela Raynors stupid ideas
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	HBBC thinks about its residents and tries to do what is best for the local community and works closely with the Parish Council in my area
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	HBBC ensures that local issues are dealt with as swiftly and proactively as possible

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Hinckley is a big enough area to ensure that local needs are met without being overwhelmed by differing needs of differing communities
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Unsure/don't know	n/a
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Unsure/don't know	n/a
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	n/a
A resident of Hinckley Page 94	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	The borough council puts on events that celebrate the town and are for the benefit of residents.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	They provide services locally and are in touch with the people they serve.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	The current system works perfectly well. By centralising power in the county we will have less accountability and less attention to local needs. Why not abolish the county council and have the boroughs take full responsibility for their areas
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Local parish /town government supports local communities better than centralised Leicester city who don't understand the needs of Hinckley.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	The way HBBC works now, works well for the town. The areas that Leicestershire council are responsible for are poorly managed and maintained.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	I don't think anything needs to change.

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	The council does a good job of supporting and reflecting the local area and reflecting our interests. We are a very large town bordered by increasingly large villages. Burbage has tens of thousands of residents.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Having a council for Hinckley and the neighbouring villages ensures that local people are making decisions on how local services should be run.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	There is no need to change the governance of a well organised, representative and elected council. It is wasteful financially in both the short and long term. The new suggested council will not to resent local people to the degree that the current council system does. This will become bureaucratic and alienating.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	County council in Leicester focus only on Leicester City. They don't care about these small towns. Hinckley have a 700 years of history. It should get a separate council.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	They do a good work at least trying to
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	New town council
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	It looks afyer peolpe who live here
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	It works
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	If it ain't broke don't fix it
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	We live in a Lib Dem area and are proud to do so. The Lib Dem Borough Council has always served us well, regardless of national turmoil and uncertainty. Theyrepresent our area so much better than our MP and other options.

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
			Changing the system would mean we could lose our representation at all levels
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Their hands can be tied by national government but they know the area and residents and are as effective and convenient as they are allowed to be.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	What we have works better than most other areas.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly disagree	DON'T WANT TO BE JOINED UP TO LIEICESTER
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	Hinckley Council might not be perfect but you can get to the office, and County Hall loves to spend money on wasted projects, any thing but the infrastructure i.e roads
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	The people will never benefit from these changes just someone getting a higher position +higher wage for what going backwards in the service. No Thanks
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	When have you ever carried out effective consultation?
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	All you ever is object to any proposed changes
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Close HSBC and have a county wide council.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	I feel that hinckley and Bosworth need a council that reflects local interests and knows the needs of their residents
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Access to local council in your local area is essential and for them to know what that area needs because they reflect it.

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Generally i feel that council and parish councils work together to reflect the interests and their communities.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	But, Road and Housing are particularly out of control with no local plan for these or local input being valued
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Neither agree nor disagree	At least there is a hub in Hinckley for convenience of local people which must be retained but we don't need to be combined with any other towns in Leicestershire or Warwickshire
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Hinckley, while in Leicestershire, is blocked from the county by Leicester so needs local concernment rather than being governed from the county side of the city
A resident of Hinckley Page 97	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	Need to streamline . Too many snouts in the trough. Want value for money and basic services done well
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	Not effective . Town centre is dead boarded up shops etc council charge too much on rates that keep shops empty
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Streamline and save money . No need for multiple councils. We just want decent roads and the grass cut and bins emptied it's not hard
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	I have seen positive results of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	I have seen positive results of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Unsure/don't know	Am not involved at that level of detail as a resident only.

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	I agree
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	I agree
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	No changes please
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	The Hinckley special area meeting, wholly attended by Lib Dems met for 10 minutes in a year. This is politically motivated only and is a waste of money. Same as said by Councillor Mullaney about the county council roles that Reform split
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	The Hinckley special area meeting, wholly attended by Lib Dems met for 10 minutes in a year. This is politically motivated only and is a waste of money. Same as said by Councillor Mullaney about the county council roles that Reform split
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Inefficient additional cost is not required. Maybe the Lib Dem councillors should use the Hinckley meeting better
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly disagree	The Lib Dem councillors appear just to be a layer of protection for the overpaid and underworked at the HUB and do not support the local community, in fact I have been banned from the hub for 4 years for being a Reform UK politician and Advocating professionally for people in Need.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	Overpaid underworked and never help the public
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	I look forward to a single Authority and the removal of overpaid corrupt officials
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	I think it's done for political reasons and not for the people. They want to point score and disrupt anything good that is happening

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	Whenever I get a paper from the local Libdems it's always about how much they've done but I don't see that around town. Look at the town and see how the crescent has not been as successful as it could have been. The cinema is hanging on, just!! Cheap shops, barbers, vapes and second hand shops. This town was built on an industry of hosiery. It's falling way behind.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	I think it needs fresh eyes and a wide variety of people with genuine interest in the area not political interest. Start working together. Someone tried to stop the new day centre at the last hour!! Why? Time was allocated to discuss. They don't realise how much it affects people. We want people with integrity and honesty. We want a pride in our town but not at the expense of someone's ego.
A resident of Hinckley Page 99	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	We are some parts of the borough burdened with Parish Council yet Hinckley town is different. The multilayer system of county borough and parish seems inefficient particularly County controlling HBBC yet the people making decisions etc have no idea about local area.
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	Most members of public don't understand the different responsibilities of the different government layers
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	I would prefer simple process of having one councillor to involve to represent my views. I would rather have one office to contact to seek help rather than think is this Parish County or Borough responsibility
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Local councillors understand local issues and are readily accountable to the electorate
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Same comments as above
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Same reasons as above
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Neither agree nor disagree	It would benefit Hinckley and Bosworth because local matters would be more understood.

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Neither agree nor disagree	I don't understand how it works
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Our issues will be understood better.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly disagree	No one takes responsibility for problems.
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	Councillors should live in the area they represent no just pass through at election time. They are out of touch with the people they allegedly represent
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	HBBC is unable to run a raffle! Areas of the town are treated differently dependant on which councillors live in the area. The only thing I know about me councillors is how much expenses they claim.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Because it does
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	The people involved are local. Merging with other areas will almost certainly mean local residents losing out.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	See above. Plus a change will result in more remote councillors with no idea about the town
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	The services we receive are adequate for our area
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	I feel the amount of parishes and councilors are respectable for our current demographics

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Internal change is certainly needed and to be streamlined for sure but a whole new setup? Waste of money, time and resources especially considering that central government hasn't even done its own homework into the costs. https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj9wxnlnrxdo.amp Above is an interesting article to consider and shows that the labour government really doesn't know what it's doing.
A resident of Hinckley Page 101	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	I feel that Hinckley would be swallowed up if put with other towns and turned into a larger area. Residents would lose out in every possible way. We would be governed by people who would be out of touch with the inhabitants of our town. Just when we have a council who actually care about our town after years of Tories its all change. I am horrified of what the future might hold.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Our present council have done more for our town than any other. One example: the Tories wanted to close hinckley hospital honestly with a town the size of ours and continually growing it was madness. We now have a diagnostic centre championed by the Lib Dems. despite the Tories taking the credit..
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Our council is managing not practically bankrupt like L.C.C
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	The borough Council is small enough to address what's best for the Hinckley area
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	It's a bit of a narrow distinction from the previous question. You could've done better by just having one question.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Perhaps not need for change immediately, but if we get the south Leicestershire council to replace HBBC then having a town council makes sense
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	I think being able to choose and vote for someone from the area and knows the issues is great and needs to be kept

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	Feels like there is conflict and delay between various things caused by the LLC looking after some things and HBBC others. I feel there would be less delays and 'red tape' if under one though hesitant to say it should be under LCC as feel like Hinckley has more in common with the surrounding areas of north Warwickshire than with the eastern areas of leicestershire and Rutland.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	I feel that with the governments request to reduce the tier system then the need to expand and create a council that is local and works is needed. I don't want to end up as part of Leicester City council
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Variety
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Best I've lived in
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	We need a town council when the unitary comes in to retain local events and reflect our community
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Unsure/don't know	I have recently moved to Hinckley and our decision to move to Hinckley was based on the past performance of the council and history of positive impact.
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Unsure/don't know	I'm not really sure about how i can answer something that i have no knowledge of as i have recently moved in
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	A change would be required if there is evidence of governance issues or if there any challenges in providing services effectively. That said council should focus on developing or taking measures to sustain keeping in the mind the current demographic and how they can make the town attractive to young people whether its through employment or schools as Hinkley Town itself has huge potential and how it can also help neighbouring villages like Barwell and Earl Shilton also develop.
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley...	Strongly agree	Local knowledge.

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	...reflect local identities and interests?		
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Local issues sorted locally
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	The present system as worked fine for many years, and I so no need to change
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Working fine
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Works fine
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Town Council wanted
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	All ok as it is
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	as above everything is local, we and councillors know and respect this reasonably sized area
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	A town council would be good
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	everything is locally identified
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	as above everything is local, we and councillors know and respect this reasonably sized area
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	bigger area become impersonal and could be distanced

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	I believe that HBBC is providing all the required public services for the residents of Hinckley. However, I think there is a issue with the current frequency of buses/trains connecting Hinckley to Leicester, Coventry, Birmingham and Nottingham. Considering that Hinckley is a commuter town, the public transport links could definitely be improved so that both the young & elderly residents can benefit from more accessible travel. Also, there are very less white collar professional job vacancies other than in the public sector advertised within Hinckley for recent graduates who have come back home from university. This means that many young talented graduates do not return back to Hinckley after completing higher education.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	The current local goverance arrangements work well for Hinckley.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	No name/structural change to HBBC is required as they are already providing a good local government. I propose that everything is kept the same and to focus on improving the current services/facilities for the local community
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly disagree	Not listening to the basic wants of the locals. From keeping our town a town and not joining leicestershire council, to planning permissions, road works and even council rax spending
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	as above everything is local, we and councillors know and respect this reasonably sized area
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Prioritise locals and their rights to a tradiitonal enviornment
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	It works so why change it.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	Hinckley council is effective and provides a good service.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Change internally is good and should start there first before LGR is considered. With Angela Rayner and Jim McMahon now dismissed not mentioning that LGR was NEVER in labours manifesto last year this whole thing needs to be looked at again instead of taking figures from a PWC 2020 report. No real savings will be made and may further any debts by forming

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
			new councils! Central government needs to provide real evidence and answers instead of worming around the subject that is reorganisation/reforms. Enough said!
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Because our local councillors know what is going on in the Hinckley area.
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Because they are local to Hinckley
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	It is fine as it is
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	Hinckley has seen massive over development during recent years. The infrastructure was not designed for such over development, leading to congestion. The town centre has been allowed to deteriorate with the loss of services and banking and a proliferation of barbers, nail bars and tattoo parlours.
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	The lack of a Local Plan has led to many of the problems listed above together with a poor road system.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Hinckley suffers from a dilution of local governance
A resident of Hinckley	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ... reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	We have a great coubcil, the area is looked after, fantastic green spaces and events
	... provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	See above
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Why change what works

Responses from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough councillors

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
A Hinckley and Bosworth Borough councillor	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Neither agree nor disagree	I believe we would benefit from a town council, especially if the borough council is abolished.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	The borough council generally works well for Hinckley people. It is efficient, well run, and is supported by excellent officers and staff.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	A town council would bring back local accountability if the borough council is abolished.
A Hinckley and Bosworth Borough councillor	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	Runs smoothly. Reflects need of the community
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	The current dystem of governance is working.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Reflects local needs.
A Hinckley and Bosworth Borough councillor	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Neither agree nor disagree	The question is totally unclear and badly worded. Hinckley area committee has no budget or power to do much as all decisions are made by the council. That's not to say that the council are doing a bad job...but in this uncertainty surrounding devolution then Hinckley cannot be left without a town council when they merge.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Neither agree nor disagree	See above

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	See above
A Hinckley and Bosworth Borough councillor	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Lot more happening in town centre
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Neither agree nor disagree	Local people
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Local representatives speaking for local people and businesses
A Hinckley and Bosworth Borough councillor	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Disagree	Hinckley is the main area of the local council and as such should have its own town council.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Disagree	again being one of the main areas of the council it should control its own area
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Hinckley would hold their own purse strings and be in control of the area instead of other parish councils having to give money to subsidize it as it has always been in the past
A Hinckley and Bosworth Borough councillor	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly disagree	The local identity of Hinckley is currently represented by having a Borough Council Based in the town on which a considerable number of the councillors represent Hinckley wards for adjacent wards. Under the government plans for larger Unitary Councils, this local link is likely to be lost.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	The governance of Hinckley is currently locally based by having a Borough Council Based in the town on which a considerable number of the councillors represent Hinckley wards for adjacent wards, with a Hinckley Area Committee overseeing specific Hinckley matters. Under the government plans for larger Unitary Councils, this local government cannot be guaranteed without A town council.

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Reasons outlined above.
A Hinckley and Bosworth Borough councillor	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Residents are always encouraged to have a say
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	These current arrangements can make the changes required
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	We don't have a Hinckley town council . This will be necessary if the other governance changes happen

Responses on behalf of parish or town councils

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
On behalf of a parish or town council	No responses received		

Responses on behalf of a local business

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
On behalf of a local business	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Unsure/don't know	We're a new business in this area.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Unsure/don't know	We're a new business in this area.
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Unsure/don't know	We're a new business in this area.
On behalf of a local business	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Hinckley is a rarity in that it's a town with a real community spirit driven by all the things that HBBC organise
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Things work well in our town. I'm and a proud resident as well as working in the town
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	I think we have the balance right currently. I don't see how this could be improved
On behalf of a local business	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly disagree	Relevant extracts taken from full response SUR747438087 In our lived experience, the governance arrangements within Hinckley do not adequately reflect local identities or interests. Instead of fostering a sense of community, transparency, and shared decision-making, the current structures often feel disconnected from the people and businesses they are meant to serve. Our concerns include: Lack of meaningful engagement: [...] Business impact not considered: [...] Disconnection from local identity: [...] Reactive rather than proactive culture: [...] For governance to truly reflect local identities and interests, it should prioritise openness, accountability, and active listening, ensuring that

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
Page 111			decisions are grounded in the lived realities of the community rather than distant or detached policy frameworks.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly disagree	<p>Relevant extracts taken from full response SUR747438087</p> <p>In our lived experience, the governance arrangements within Hinckley are neither effective nor convenient. [...]</p> <p>Our concerns include:</p> <p>Ineffective communication: [..]</p> <p>Bureaucratic delays that harm business: [..]</p> <p>Perceived uneven treatment: [..]</p> <p>Inconvenience in resolving issues: [..]</p> <p>Lack of accountability: [..]</p> <p>A truly effective and convenient local government would demonstrate transparency, fairness, and consistency, while working with residents and businesses to resolve issues promptly.</p> <p>Unfortunately, our lived experience with HBBC has been the opposite</p>
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Unsure/don't know	<p>Relevant extracts taken from full response SUR747438087</p> <p>"We are somewhat unsure whether a change in governance is the right step, as our experiences with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) have been very mixed over time.</p> <p>[...] We have often found that the governance arrangements no longer reflect the identities and interests of the local community, nor do they operate in a way that is effective or convenient.</p> <p>Poor communication and lack of responsiveness [...] Limited support for local business and culture: [...] Decisions frequently appear detached from the realities of those living and working in the area.</p> <p>Inconsistency with local identity: The governance approach has not celebrated or supported the distinctive culture, character, and enterprise within Hinckley. This leaves residents and businesses feeling undervalued and unheard.</p> <p>By contrast, our experience with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) has been the complete opposite. [...]</p> <p>This stark difference suggests that changes in governance arrangements could help ensure Hinckley's structures are more closely aligned with the community's identities and interests."</p>

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
On behalf of a local business	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Neither agree nor disagree	With any control that councils have there will always be good and not so good. (I didn't say bad) Business and retail rely on footfall, those footfall visitors rely on good parking, do our council deliver that? Some will say yes some will say not quite.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Neither agree nor disagree	Like main govenment there is far too much spin, too much 'blame culture' also 'they did this so we can't do that'. Our council do exactly that instead of doing what is best for the town rather than their party
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Unsure/don't know	Is what we have broken? Or is it short of funds to offer everything that people ask for through surveys like this. This proposed change to our boundries is all about saving money. In order to 'fix' things to suit everyones 'we want this atitude' taxes have to rise. Simple.
On behalf of a local business	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	Seems to work ok to me
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	Works as it should
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	As previous, it works so no need for change

Responses on behalf of a group, organisation or club

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
On behalf of a group, organisation or club	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	The current Bough Council (both officers and elected members) has always been very supportive of the importance of the Museum within the town in fostering an interest and enthusiasm for the town's history and heritage
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	The Borough Council has a strong community service agenda and organisation which gives support to organisations and local parishes within the council's area of authority
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	The current governance at the Borough Council provides community governance. However if change is determined to be necessary it is imperative that a Town Council is established to adequately support the local inhabitants of Hinckley and further the community involvement of all local organisations.

Other

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
"Interested Party"	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	It works
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Good local accountable arrangements with the public at the heart of decisions
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	See above
"I live in Barwell. It matters to me"	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Although not technically on the doorstep, still close enough when relevant
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	Not everything is perfect, but it works for local people. We would get lost in county government
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	It works for local people
"HBBC/Groby Resident"	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	Groby PC is reflective of community and provides effective services
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	Good to have a local parish office
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	I would consider change if it was necessary and clear reasons and options were given. As i see it, fine as is, don't waste money

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
"Resident of Hinckley & Bosworth"	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	The council is well run and offers value for the council tax
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	Its necessary for local councils to over see decisions for residents and business. Too much central involvement with little local knowledge
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	There seems to be a power grab
"Lives nearby"	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	The local borough works well
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	The borough is the expert in local knowledge
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	Local knowledge is key
"Employee of HBBC"	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Neither agree nor disagree	Dont understand the question
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Neither agree nor disagree	Dont understand the question
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Hinckley needs a town council if we lose the borough coucil to keep hinckley the place people love for its parks events etc
"Resident of Burbage"	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley...	Disagree	Lots of empty shops which could be filled with smaller businesses - even a hub of smaller business sharing the space

Respondent	Question	Response	Supporting comments
	...reflect local identities and interests?		
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	Council services such as bins are good
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	No change	It's fine as is
"Resident of Hinckley & Bosworth, visitor to Hinckley for shopping, leisure, entertainment and a number of services"	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Agree	The Borough Council serves Hinckley well. The Council and its partners (e.g. Hinckley Bid) have found a niche for the Town and do a tremendous job enhancing its offer and facilities.
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Agree	I live in a village in Hinckley & Bosworth and it will always be that Hinckley hosts services, employment, education, facilities, retail and entertainment that provides for the hinterland not just the Town itself
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Local Government Reorganisation into larger unitary authorities is less likely to reflect the identities and niches of the towns and the hinterlands of those towns in their areas. In my experience, large unitary authorities and county councils tend to provide a one size fits all approach. If change is to happen, Hinckley will need a Town Council to represent its citizens, support the BID, and continue to provide the cultural, entertainment and lesiure opportunities which support the town's success.
"Resident"	How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley... ...reflect local identities and interests?	Strongly agree	Best
	...provide an effective and convenient local government?	Strongly agree	Best
	Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change .	Change	Best

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Have your say on the community governance review

SUR737646332

Which of the following best describes how you are responding to this survey:As a resident of Hinckley

Please provide your postcode:: LE9 [REDACTED]

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley reflect local identities and interests?: Disagree

Please explain the reason for your answer::The existing governance framework in Hinckley and Bosworth fails to capture and champion the distinct identities, priorities, and interests of its urban and rural communities. While the town centre's concerns often dominate council agendas, the needs of outlying villages and hamlets frequently is overlooked, with frankly lip-service being frequently played... leading to unequal service delivery, skewed resource allocation, and a growing sense of disenfranchisement among rural residents.

Key Issues

- Disproportionate Representation

Rural wards are grouped into large, mixed divisions that dilute the voice of individual villages, whereas urban areas enjoy tighter boundaries and more councillors per head of population.

- Unequal Resource Allocation

Funding for infrastructure, public transport, and digital connectivity is concentrated on Hinckley town, leaving many rural parishes with substandard roads, patchy broadband, and infrequent bus services.

- Divergent Service Needs

Urban residents prioritise town centre regeneration, parking and traffic management. By contrast, rural communities need support for agricultural businesses, community run transport schemes, and maintenance of rights of way—none of which receive adequate attention.

- Consultation Fatigue

Rural residents often find that local consultations and decision-making meetings take place in the town centre at times that clash with farming rhythms or school runs, effectively preventing full participation.

Call for Reform

To restore balance and ensure every voice in Hinckley and Bosworth is heard:

1. Redraw ward boundaries to create more coherent rural divisions, each with dedicated councillor representation.
2. Establish a Rural Forum charged with identifying and prioritising village-level concerns, feeding directly into cabinet decisions.
3. Ring-fence a proportion of the council budget specifically for rural infrastructure and community

initiatives.

4. Rotate formal meetings between town and village venues, with hybrid access options, to reduce barriers to attendance.

Only by restructuring governance in this way can we guarantee that Hinckley's future reflects the full tapestry of its urban heart and rural hinterland.

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley provide an effective and convenient local government?: Disagree

Please explain the reason for your answer::Governance Arrangements Require Reform

The current tiered system of decision-making in Hinckley and Bosworth frequently fails to deliver an effective and convenient local government. Residents face delays navigating multiple bodies from parish to borough to county councils where when seeking effective communication to resolve issues, whether fixing potholes at one end to school placements and planning advice at the other with many other factors that could be easily listed. This complexity erodes public trust, stifles community engagement, and prevents timely, locally tailored solutions.

Protecting Farming and Safeguarding Food Security

Hinckley and Bosworth rich agricultural hinterland plays a critical role in Leicester shire's food supply chain. Unchecked land take-up for housing undermines this essential resource, increasing our reliance on imported produce and exposing our community to global price shocks. Preserving productive farmland must become a cornerstone of any growth strategy.

Housing Expansion vs. Local Services Capacity

Recent decisions that have enabled mass house building of new estates have proceeded without a truly robust assessment of supporting services required which is already undermine existing services and overstretching what they can truly deliver to detriment of existing local residents, not to mention the stress being imposed on the existing staff expected to deliver these service, with less resources both fiscal and in terms of insufficient personnel.

School places, GP surgeries and bus routes are already under strain.

Waste and water infrastructure lack the headroom to absorb tens of hundreds more residents.

Traffic congestion on key rural corridors will worsen if road upgrades aren't delivered in lock-step with new housing.

Piecemeal developments create "dormitory suburbs" that neglect the needs of both newcomers and established families.

Calls to Action

Establish a single, democratically accountable Hinckley and Bosworth authority

Merge overlapping functions of borough and county councils for streamlined planning and service delivery.

Create ward level committees empowered to make binding decisions on local issues.

Enshrine farmland protection in the Local Plan

Introduce an Agricultural Land Classification test for all housing allocations.

Mandate on-site productive farming or community gardens/allotment in any future expansion zones (this would also support the NHS, healthier food pursuits that everyone can benefit from)

Link growth directly to infrastructure commitments

Refuse outline planning permissions until demonstrable funding is secured for schools, health and transport.

Require developers to phase housing release in line with delivered service upgrades.

Involve residents proactively at every stage

Hold quarterly town hall assemblies in each ward, rotating between urban and rural venues.

Use digital platforms for real-time feedback on planning proposals and service performance.

By overhauling the governance framework, protecting vital farmland and insisting on properly funded services, will deliver truly achievable and sustainable growth in Hinckley & Bosworth – one that benefits both current residents and future generations and not making knee jerk reactions to a central governments, chasing tick box exercises that no understanding of our local communities.

Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change. For example, by merging, altering, or creating a new parish/town council:: Change

Please provide reasons for your answer, including why you feel a change will ensure that community governance within the area will reflect the identities and interests of the community and will be effective and convenient:: Population Growth and Representation Gap
Hinckley & Bosworth's population rose by 8.1% between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, reaching approximately 106,300 residents. This growth has intensified demand for local services and highlighted the absence of a town or parish council in the unparished area of Hinckley, leaving nearly a third of borough inhabitants without the most local tier of representation.

Shortcomings of the Existing Two-Tier System

The current borough and county council structure struggles to maintain strong local engagement in fast-growing areas. Complex overlaps in responsibility dilute accountability, and the ever more slowing decision making has left communities uncertain about where to address issues from play area upkeep to neighbourhood planning.

Recognising that Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council have launched a Community Governance Review examining parish boundaries, council sizes, and representation ratios to ensure arrangements are both reflective of community identity and convenient for residents, my input would be;

Options for Merging, Altering or Creating Parish Structures

Merge smaller parishes suffering low electoral turnout

Some parishes currently fall below the National Association of Local Councils' recommended minimum of seven members. Consolidation would strengthen capacity, reduce administrative overheads and improve service delivery in rural wards.

Alter existing boundaries to align with "natural communities"

Adjustments can reflect new housing developments and evolving settlement patterns, securing clearer lines for service funding and local accountability.

Create a truly accountable and accessible Hinckley Town Council

Establishing a town council for Hinckley's unparished area would bring decision-making to street level. Powers could include allotment management, open space maintenance, public events and neighbourhood planning. Funding through a modest precept ensures direct reinvestment in localised specific services. Implementation could align with elections in May 2027, following the

current review timeline that have been imposed.

Benefits of Reform

Restores proximity between elected representatives and community concerns.

Enhances capacity for targeted local services, from play areas to public toilets (and lack thereof)

Strengthens community identity by ensuring parish boundaries mirror real lived in neighbourhoods and not arbitrary lines that get drawn that split them.

Delivers clear accountability through an additional tier where needed, including consolidated governance where parishes are too small to function effectively in isolation (small maybe beautiful, but not when it's fiscal longevity is compromised by failing to be value for money)

A reimagined governance framework, that is both accountable and truly transparent in its dealings, through strategic mergers, boundary realignments and the creation of a Hinckley Town Council, aligned with relevant parish councils (where warranted and appropriate) would deliver an effective, convenient and locally attuned system, empowering residents and safeguarding service quality as the borough continues to grow.

Do you wish to be consulted directly on any draft recommendations arising from the review relating to your area?: Yes

Please provide your email address::

[REDACTED]

**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Have your say on the community governance review

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Which of the following best describes how you are responding to this survey?: On behalf of a local business

Name of business:: [REDACTED]

Your position within the business:: Director

Postcode of the business:: LE10 [REDACTED]

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley reflect local identities and interests?: Strongly disagree

Please explain the reason for your answer:: In our lived experience, the governance arrangements within Hinckley do not adequately reflect local identities or interests. Instead of fostering a sense of community, transparency, and shared decision making, the current structures often feel disconnected from the people and businesses they are meant to serve.

Our concerns include:

Lack of meaningful engagement: Community voices are not consistently sought or genuinely incorporated into decision making processes.

Business impact not considered: Local businesses have faced repeated challenges where governance decisions or bureaucratic delays have undermined ability to operate sustainably.

Disconnection from local identity: Rather than celebrating and building upon the unique character of Hinckley, governance often imposes generic or poorly communicated initiatives that fail to resonate with residents and entrepreneurs.

Reactive rather than proactive culture: Issues are frequently handled only after they escalate, rather than being anticipated and managed collaboratively.

For governance to truly reflect local identities and interests, it should prioritise openness, accountability, and active listening, ensuring that decisions are grounded in the lived realities of the community rather than distant or detached policy frameworks.

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley provide an effective and convenient local government?: Strongly disagree

Please explain the reason for your answer:: In our lived experience, the governance arrangements within Hinckley are neither effective nor convenient. Instead of enabling residents and businesses to thrive, the systems in place are often characterised by inefficiency, inconsistency, and a lack of accessibility.

Our concerns include:

Ineffective communication: Decisions and processes—particularly around licensing and business operations—are poorly explained, leaving us uncertain about requirements, timelines, and outcomes.

Bureaucratic delays that harm business: We have faced prolonged delays and unclear instructions, costing both time and revenue.

Perceived uneven treatment: In our experience, outcomes have sometimes appeared to depend less on the merits of the case and more on long standing personal relationships within the council. This creates a perception of unfairness and undermines confidence in governance.

Inconvenience in resolving issues: Problems that should be addressed quickly often require repeated chasing and escalation, draining both resources and morale.

Lack of accountability: When mistakes or oversights occur, responsibility is rarely acknowledged, leaving local businesses to carry the consequences.

A truly effective and convenient local government would demonstrate transparency, fairness, and consistency, while working with residents and businesses to resolve issues promptly. Unfortunately, our lived experience with HBBC has been the opposite.

Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change. For example, by merging, altering, or creating a new parish/town council::

Unsure/don't know

Please provide reasons for your answer:: We are somewhat unsure whether a change in governance is the right step, as our experiences with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) have been very mixed over time.

Prior to owning [REDACTED], The directors have worked collaboratively with HBBC for over 40 years and never encountered major difficulties. Outside of experiences with [REDACTED], the Council was approachable, cooperative, and effective in supporting long-term service delivery. That positive history makes our more recent experience all the more surprising.

Since operating, and from our experiences purely with [REDACTED], our dealings with HBBC have been very different. We have often found that the governance arrangements no longer reflect the identities and interests of the local community, nor do they operate in a way that is effective or convenient.

Poor communication and lack of responsiveness: Interactions have been marked by delays, unclear guidance, and an absence of genuine dialogue. This has created barriers rather than support, particularly for businesses trying to contribute positively to the local economy and community life.

Limited support for local business and culture: Instead of working collaboratively with us to sustain and grow our venues, HBBC has too often adopted a reactive stance that complicates rather than enables. Decisions frequently appear detached from the realities of those living and working in the

area.

Inconsistency with local identity: The governance approach has not celebrated or supported the distinctive culture, character, and enterprise within Hinckley. This leaves residents and businesses feeling undervalued and unheard.

By contrast, our experience with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) has been the complete opposite. LCC has consistently shown:

- Clarity and professionalism in communication
- Proactive problem-solving and collaboration
- A willingness to engage with local voices and adapt processes in ways that feel both fair and supportive

This stark difference suggests that changes in governance arrangements could help ensure Hinckley's structures are more closely aligned with the community's identities and interests. A model that mirrors the transparency, accountability, and collaborative spirit we have experienced with LCC would:

- Empower residents and businesses to play an active role in shaping their area
- Ensure governance is effective, convenient, and responsive to real needs
- Build pride and trust in local identity, strengthening the sense of community

It is important to say that some departments within HBBC are excellent and have always been professional, responsive, and supportive. Our concerns are mainly with certain areas where communication and collaboration have fallen short, particularly around business support.

While we remain uncertain whether a structural change is the best route forward, we are clear that improvements are needed. At present, the governance arrangements in Hinckley do not consistently reflect or support the people they serve, and that gap must be addressed for the community to thrive.

Do you wish to be consulted directly on any draft recommendations arising from the review relating to your area?: Yes

Please provide your email address:: [REDACTED]

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

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