

## HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

19 February 2026 AT 6.30 pm

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

Cllr CM Allen, Cllr RG Allen, Cllr MC Bools, Cllr SL Bray,  
Cllr MB Cartwright, Cllr MA Cook, Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr WJ Crooks,  
Cllr SM Gibbens, Cllr CE Green, Cllr C Harris, Cllr L Hodgkins,  
Cllr C Lambert, Cllr KWP Lynch, Cllr J Moore, Cllr LJ Mullaney,  
Cllr MT Mullaney, Cllr LJP O'Shea, Cllr A Pendlebury,  
Cllr M Simmons, Cllr H Smith, Cllr MJ Surtees, Cllr BE Sutton,  
Cllr R Webber-Jones, Cllr A Weightman and Cllr P Williams

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

### 343. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cope, Glenville, Hollick, Stead-Davis and Walker.

### 344. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2025 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 345. **Additional urgent business by reason of special circumstances**

The Mayor reported that he had accepted an urgent motion based on information that had become public since publication of the agenda.

### 346. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

### 347. **Mayor's Communications**

The Mayor presented a long service award to Sarah Booth in recognition of 25 years of employment with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. He then updated Council on recent engagements and his forthcoming charity event.

### 348. **Questions**

Councillor Sutton put the following question to the Executive member for Planning:

“Is it possible to have a special meeting to discuss future planning policy and the Local Plan for the Borough?”

At the moment we have increased to over £1,000,000 for housing the homeless, which is not sustainable.

The average house occupancy is less than two people per household.

There is a need for more accommodation for older people, ie bungalows.

I think the projected numbers for the next 40 years are misplaced.

Developers and landowners should listen to what is needed to be built.

With the land available in the world suitable for producing food having peaked, and going downhill, we should put more emphasis on which land we build on; this also limits the spread of solar panels on good farm land.”

Councillor Crooks provided the following response:

“The Local Plan for the Borough has recently been the subject of a public consultation in autumn 2025. The responses from this consultation, over 800 in total, are being reviewed. These responses, together with further evidence both completed and in progress will inform the next Local Plan document at Regulation 19 stage. This next stage will include a further round of public consultation, considered to be in late spring / early summer 2026. Following this further public consultation, the Local Plan will then be submitted to the government by December 2026.

Members are involved in the Local Plan at each stage in the process. This includes a decision taken at Council ahead of each consultation stage, and this will be the same ahead of the next Regulation 19 consultation. Further, members will receive briefings through the Planning Policy Member Working Group, open to all members to attend, in the run up to the Regulation 19 consultation. A special meeting is therefore not required given that briefings are already available to members and members have the final sign off at Council at each stage in the process.

Ongoing evidence to inform the Local Plan includes evidence on housing mix. This will help to set future planning policy for the type and size of homes that are needed across the plan period to 2045, in addition to the quantity of new homes required.”

#### 349. **Leader of the Council's Position Statement**

In his position statement, the Leader referred to:

- Roll out of the food waste project with thanks to managers and staff involved
- The sports awards, with congratulations to the award winners
- The current consultation on an Article 4 Direction to give the council greater planning control over locations of houses in multiple occupation in Hinckley
- The government’s consultation on local government reorganisation urging residents and businesses to respond
- Closure of Lloyds bank in Hinckley and opening of a new banking hub

- Hinckley day case centre
- Biodiversity net gain to enhance Burbage Common and Woods
- The Ada Lovelace statue
- Sale of land for the development of a crematorium
- 2026 events.

**350. Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission**

The chair of the Scrutiny Commission presented the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2025.

**351. Pay Policy Statement**

The pay policy statement for 2026/27 was presented to Council. It was noted that the pay gap between the top and median average earner had remained the same as the previous year but the gender pay gap had seen a minor increase from 4.3% to 4.4%, but was still significantly lower than the national average of 11.2%. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Cartwright and unanimously

RESOLVED –

- (i) The pay policy statement for 2026/27 be approved;
- (ii) The pay gap between the top and median average earner being the same as the previous year be noted;
- (iii) The minor increase in the gender pay gap be noted.

**352. Community governance review - Witherley**

Consideration was given to the terms of reference for a community governance review of Witherley parish following receipt of a petition from residents of Ratcliffe Culey. It was noted that a further petition had been received more recently from residents of Fenny Drayton. Members encouraged residents to respond to the consultation and it was noted that viability of any potential new parish council would be a key consideration. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Cartwright and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The community governance review and associated terms of reference be approved for publication and consultation;
- (ii) Authority be granted to the Deputy Chief Executive to amend the terms of reference if required;
- (iii) The petition from residents of Fenny Drayton be accepted and considered as part of the Witherley community governance review.

### 353. Budget reports

Consideration was given to the medium term financial strategy, the general fund budget for 2026/27, the calculation of council tax for 2026/27, the housing revenue account budget for 2026/27, proposed fees and charges for 2026/27, the capital programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29 and the treasury management strategy and prudential indicators for 2025/26 to 2028/29.

During discussion, reference was made to the negative outcome and impacts from the government's finance settlement on the MTFS but the ability of the council to achieve a balanced budget with the use of reserves, and any contingency should local government reorganisation be delayed, which would result in the need to make larger savings on top of those already secured and to increase income. Members thanked officers and the Executive member for their work on the budget.

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

#### (a) Medium term financial strategy

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

Councillors Bools, Bray, Cartwright, J Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, C Gibbens, S Gibbens, Green, Hodgkins, Lynch, Moore, L Mullaney, M Mullaney, Pendlebury, Webber-Jones, Weightman and Williams voted FOR the motion (18);

Councillor C Allen voted AGAINST the motion (1);

Councillors R Allen, Cook, Harris, Lambert, O'Shea, Simmons, Smith, Surtees and Sutton abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore CARRIED and it was

#### RESOLVED –

- (i) The impacts on the council's three-year financial position arising from the government's fair funding review and finance settlement be noted;
- (ii) The updated medium term financial strategy, in particular level of reserves used and any potential need for savings and new income required between 2026/27 to 2027/28, be approved;
- (iii) The use of earmarked reserves to support the general fund position required over the life of the medium term finance strategy be approved;
- (iv) Supplementary requests above £10,000 for the period of the medium term financial strategy be tightly managed and not

agreed unless matched by savings, unless legally unavoidable or required to ensure greater costs are not incurred.

(b) General fund budget

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

Councillors Bools, Bray, Cartwright, J Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, C Gibbens, S Gibbens, Green, Hodgkins, Lynch, Moore, L Mullaney, M Mullaney, Pendlebury, Webber-Jones, Weightman and Williams voted FOR the motion (18);

Councillor C Allen voted AGAINST the motion (1);

Councillors R Allen, Cook, Harris, Lambert, O'Shea, Simmons, Smith, Surtees and Sutton abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) The general fund budget for 2025/25 and 2026/27 be approved;
- (ii) The special expenses area budget for 2025/26 and 2026/27 be approved;
- (iii) The proposed movement in general fund balances and earmarked reserves for 2025/26 and 2026/27 be approved;
- (iv) The material use of reserves to balance the general fund position be noted.

(c) Calculation of council tax for 2026/27

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

Councillors Bools, Bray, Cartwright, J Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, C Gibbens, S Gibbens, Green, Hodgkins, Lynch, Moore, L Mullaney, M Mullaney, Pendlebury, Webber-Jones, Weightman and Williams voted FOR the motion (18);

Councillor C Allen voted AGAINST the motion (1);

Councillors R Allen, Cook, Harris, Lambert, O'Shea, Simmons, Smith, Surtees and Sutton abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED – the following be approved in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act (1992) for 2026/27:

- (i) £69,437,851 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act (gross expenditure on general fund services, special district expenses and parish precepts);
- (ii) £59,544,607 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (gross income including external financing and the use of reserves);
- (iii) £9,893,244 being the amount by which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii) above calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year (amount to be funded from council tax including special expenses and parish precepts);
- (iv) £164.02 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (average local council tax, not including parish precepts);
- (v) A band D council tax for borough wide services, excluding special expenses and parish council precepts of £144.65;
- (vi) An average band D council tax relating to borough wide services and an average of special expenses and parish council services of £243.95;
- (vii) The council tax for the HBBC district divided by the tax base, including amounts for the Leicestershire County Council, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire, and Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Fire Authority for each area and valuation, as set out in appendix B to the report (council tax band charges for each parish and special expenses area).

(d) Housing revenue account budget 2026-27

RESOLVED –

- (i) The rent policy for 2026/27 be approved;
- (ii) The revised housing revenue and housing repairs account budgets for 2025/26 be approved;
- (iii) The housing revenue and housing repairs account budgets for 2026/27 be approved;
- (iv) The proposed movement of reserves be approved.

(e) Fees and charges 2026/2027

RESOLVED –

- (i) The fees and charges for 2026/27 be approved;
- (ii) Authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Finance & Audit to update fees and charges should nationally set fees and charges for planning be updated.

(f) Capital programme 2025-26 to 2028-29 and capital strategy

RESOLVED –

- (i) The capital strategy be approved;
- (ii) The proposed capital programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29 be approved;
- (iii) The growth bids detailed in the report be approved.

(g) Treasury management strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29 and prudential indicators 2025-26 to 2028-29

RESOLVED –

- (i) The prudential indicators and limits for 2025/26 to 2028/29, including the authorised limit prudential indicator, be approved;
- (ii) The minimum revenue provision (MRP) statement be approved;
- (iii) The treasury management strategy be approved.

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

Notice of the following motion had been submitted by Councillor M Mullaney:

“This Council notes:

- The Home Secretary is planning to merge England and Wales’s 43 police constabularies into as few as 12 or 15 larger regional forces
- The need for a commitment to strong, visible, community-based policing and local accountability
- Evidence that local policing builds trust, improves crime prevention, and ensures responsiveness to community needs
- Police forces already achieve economies of scale through joint procurement of vehicles, shared ICT systems, and collaborative cross-border operations to tackle issues such as county lines drug dealing.

This Council believes:

- Merging police forces into “mega-forces” would weaken local accountability and reduce the visibility of officers in our communities
- Investment should focus on modernising technology, improving data sharing, and strengthening community policing—not structural mergers.

This Council resolves to:

- Oppose any proposals to merge our local police force into a regional or national entity
- Call on the Government to prioritise:
  - Increased funding for community policing teams
  - National standards for vetting and technology upgrades to improve efficiency
  - Enhanced rural crime support and local police desks in community hubs
- Write to the Home Secretary to express this Council’s opposition to force mergers and support for localised policing.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor O’Shea, proposed the following amendment to the motion:

“That the text following “This Council resolves to” be replaced to read:

“This Council resolves to:

- Seek clarity from the Home Office on the evidence base, financial case and operational impact of any proposed police force mergers
- Request assurances that any future reform will protect local accountability, neighbourhood policing visibility and rural crime response capacity
- Support measures that improve efficiency, technology and collaboration between police forces where these demonstrably strengthen frontline policing
- Write to the Home Secretary reflecting these views”.

Councillors Mullaney and Cartwright as mover and seconder of the original motion indicated they did not accept the amendment, and after further debate, the amendment was put to the vote and subsequently LOST.

Following further discussion on the original motion as moved and seconded by Councillors M Mullaney and Cartwright, it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) Any proposals to merge our local police force into a regional or national entity be opposed;
- (ii) The government be called upon to prioritise:
  - Increased funding for community policing teams

- National standards for vetting and technology upgrades to improve efficiency
  - Enhanced rural crime support and local police desks in community hubs
- (iii) A letter be sent to the Home Secretary to express this Council's opposition to force mergers and support for localised policing.

### 355. **Urgent motion**

An urgent motion had been accepted for the meeting as information had been published since the agenda had been published.

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Bray and seconded by Councillor Bools:

“Hinckley and Bosworth expresses deep concern that the ICB is considering cancelling the new NHS day case centre proposed in Hinckley.

This Council has fully supported NHS colleagues in bringing much needed new investment in health facilities into Hinckley for the benefit of residents across the borough. This has included supporting the £22m investment in the recently opened new diagnostic centre and hosting the new physio and occupational health facilities at the Hinckley Hub.

HBBC granted planning permission for the planned day case centre only last summer – within the NHS' tight timescales.

HBBC offered to help meet the £2m shortfall for the day case centre in the form of a loan to the NHS but this has been declined. The offer remains on the table.

The Council notes that the current administration has for a long time been pushing for a new urgent care walk-in centre to be provided in Hinckley for the benefit of our residents. Despite our efforts, not only has this not been provided but the facilities that were considered by the NHS to enhance much needed health infrastructure for our residents is being snapped away from our grasp.

The Council also condemns the inaccurate and untruthful statements issues by the Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth seeking to blame the Council for the NHS's decision.

This Council therefore resolves:

1. To request that the ICB boards urgently reconsider their position on withdrawing this much needed investment in Hinckley
2. To ask that consideration be given by the ICB boards to the potential for an urgent care centre to be delivered on the site of the former community hospital
3. That an urgent meeting be requested with the ICB executives to consider investment in alternative neighbourhood and community health facilities,

- pending a final decision of the day case centre and consideration of a new urgent care centre on the site
4. That the Council's Chief Executive writes to the Chief Executive of the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland and Northamptonshire ICBs and ministers requesting an urgent meeting takes place on these proposals
  5. To call upon the Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth to issue an apology to the Council and its Leader for his misleading statements and work with all councillors to ensure the best possible outcome
  6. That, should the Member of Parliament fail to issue an apology within seven days, the Council instructs the Leader to contact The Speaker of the House of Commons and its Standards Commissioner to express concerns about the conduct of the MP."

Members expressed disappointment in the decision of the ICB to consider not going ahead with the NHS day case centre and concern was expressed that the ICB had suggested that there was no need for such a facility in Hinckley.

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

Councillors Bools, Bray, Cartwright, J Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, C Gibbens, S Gibbens, Green, Hodgkins, Lynch, L Mullaney, M Mullaney, Pendlebury, Webber-Jones, Weightman and Williams voted FOR the motion (17);

Councillors C Allen, R Allen, Cook, Harris, Lambert, Moore, O'Shea, Simmons, Smith, Surtees and Sutton abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) The ICB boards be requested to urgently reconsider their position on withdrawing this much needed investment in Hinckley;
- (ii) The ICB boards be requested to consider the potential for an urgent care centre to be delivered on the site of the former community hospital;
- (iii) An urgent meeting be requested with the ICB executives to consider investment in alternative neighbourhood and community health facilities, pending a final decision on the day case centre and consideration of a new urgent care centre on the site;
- (iv) The Council's Chief Executive writes to the Chief Executive of the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland and Northamptonshire ICBs and ministers to request an urgent meeting takes place on these proposals;
- (v) The Member of Parliament for Hinckley & Bosworth be called upon to issue an apology to the Council and its Leader for his

misleading statements and to work with all councillors to ensure the best possible outcome;

- (vi) Should the Member of Parliament fail to issue an apology with seven days, the Leader be instructed to contact The Speaker of the House of Commons and its Standards Commissioner to express concerns about the conduct of the MP.

(The Meeting closed at 8.34 pm)

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MAYOR