

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

**AGENDA FOR THE
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

TO BE HELD ON

THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2025

AT 6.30 PM

Fire Evacuation Procedures

- On hearing the fire alarm, leave the building **at once** quickly and calmly by the nearest escape route (indicated by green signs).
- *There are two escape routes from the Council Chamber – at the side and rear. Leave via the door closest to you.*
- Proceed to **Willowbank Road car park**, accessed from Rugby Road then Willowbank Road.
- **Do not** use the lifts.
- **Do not** stop to collect belongings.

Recording of meetings

At HBBC we are open and transparent about how we make decisions. We allow recording, filming and photography at all public meetings including Council, the Executive and Planning Committee as long as doing so does not disturb or disrupt the proceedings. There may occasionally be some reports that are discussed in private session where legislation requires this to happen, but this is infrequent.

We also allow the use of social media during meetings, which helps to bring the issues discussed to a wider audience.

Members of the public, members of the press and councillors are hereby informed that, in attending the meeting, you may be captured on film. If you have a particular problem with this, please contact us so we can discuss how we may accommodate you at the meeting.

Use of mobile phones

To minimise disturbance to others attending the meeting, please switch off your phone or other mobile device or turn it onto silent or vibrate mode.

Thank you



Date: 12 February 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 **THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 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 - 8)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 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 9 - 12)**

Minutes of the joint meeting of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny held on 30 January 2025 for information only.

10. **Pay policy statement 2025/26 (Pages 13 - 30)**

To seek approval of the pay policy statement for 2025/26. The pay policy statement was considered at a joint meeting of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny on 30 January. The minutes of that meeting are attached at item 9.

11. **Budget 2025/26**

The budget reports were considered by a joint meeting of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny on 30 January. The minutes are attached at item 9.

(a) Medium term financial strategy (Pages 31 - 90)

(b) General fund budget 2025/26 (Pages 91 - 106)

(c) Calculation of council tax for 2025/26 (Pages 107 - 116)

(d) Housing revenue account budget 2025/26 (Pages 117 - 130)

(e) Fees and charges 2025/26 (Pages 131 - 164)

(f) Capital programme 2024/25 to 2027/28 and capital strategy (Pages 165 - 186)

(g) Treasury management strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28 and prudential indicators 2024/25 to 2027/28 (Pages 187 - 230)

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

Motion to be proposed by Councillor O'Shea and seconded by Councillor Cartwright:

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

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

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

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

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

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