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Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Bill Cullen MBA (ISM), BA(Hons) MRTPI
Chief Executive

Date: 10 December 2025

To: Members of the Scrutiny Commission

Cllr C Lambert (Chair)
Cllr MJ Surtees (Vice-Chair)
Cllr P Williams (Vice-Chair)
Cllr DS Cope
Cllr MJ Crooks
Cllr C Harris

Cllr J Moore
Cllr A Pendlebury
Cllr M Simmons
Cllr R Webber-Jones
Cllr A Weightman

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear member,

There will be a meeting of the **SCRUTINY COMMISSION** in the De Montfort Suite, Hinckley Hub on **THURSDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2025 at 6.30 pm** and your attendance is required.

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Owen'.

Rebecca Owen
Democratic Services Manager

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- **Do not** use the lifts.
- **Do not** stop to collect belongings.

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Thank you

A G E N D A

1. **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

2. **MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)**

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

3. **ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

To be advised of any additional items of business which the Chair decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting.

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. **QUESTIONS**

To hear any questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

6. **SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 5 - 8)**

Work programme attached.

7. **PLANNING APPEALS ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 9 - 18)**

To provide an update on planning appeals for 2024/25.

8. **SCRUTINY REVIEW: HOUSING - PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS (Pages 19 - 26)**

To update members on progress in relation to actions arising from the report of the Housing Task & Finish Group.

9. **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY STATUTORY GUIDANCE - SELF ASSESSMENT (Pages 27 - 40)**

To present the outcome of the self-assessment against the overview & scrutiny statutory guidance.

10. **FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS (Pages 41 - 46)**

To review the forward plan for the period November 2025 to February 2026.

11. **MINUTES OF FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY (Pages 47 - 48)**

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2025 for information.

12. **ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AS MATTERS OF URGENCY**

As announced under item 3.

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

A Borough to be proud of

Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023-2027

DECEMBER 2025

Date	Issue (report author)	Reason	Outcomes	Supports corporate aims
18 December 2025	Planning appeals update (Chris Brown)	Annual report	Monitoring of performance on appeals	2
	Overview & Scrutiny statutory guidance	Final report following task & finish group	Recommendations to officer and/or Council	All
	Housing task & finish group – implementation of outcomes	To consider the outcomes of the review	Action outstanding items	1
22 January 2026 (budget meeting)	Budget reports (Ashley Wilson)	Normal reporting pathway	Scrutiny prior to Council decision	All
	Pay policy statement (Julie Stay)	Normal reporting pathway	Scrutiny prior to Council decision	All
	Review of recommendations of planning service review (2022) (Scrutiny review / Chris Brown)	Monitor implementation of recommendations	Ensure recommendations have been actioned	2
12 March 2026	Voluntary & Community sector partnership update and commissioning outcomes (Rachel Burgess)	Annual update	Awareness of VCS activity	1
	Parish & Community Initiative Fund allocations (Paul Scragg)	Normal reporting pathway	Recommendations to SLT	2
	Young People's Strategy 2026-29 (Rachel Burgess)			1
	Economic regeneration strategy 2026 – 2030	Refresh of strategy	Recommendation to decision making body	2
	Affordable housing delivery (Valerie Bunting)	Annual report	Awareness of delivery	1, 2

Date	Issue (report author)	Reason	Outcomes	Supports corporate aims
7 May 2026	Housing associations review (Scrutiny review)	Request of members: matter of importance to residents	Scoping of review	1, 2
2 July 2026	Environmental Improvement programme (Daniel Britton)	Annual report	Consult with members	2, 3
27 August 2026	Economic regeneration strategy (Daniel Britton)	Annual report	Briefing on outcomes	2, 3
	Infrastructure funding statement (Lesley Keal)	Annual report	Awareness of S106 contributions and allocations	2
	Overview & Scrutiny annual report (Becky Owen)	Annual report – good practice	Recommendations to Council	All
	Heritage Strategy update (Paul Grundy)	Update 12 months since adoption of new strategy	Ensure successful implementation of strategy	2
22 October 2026	Planning appeals update (Chris Brown)	Annual report	Monitoring of performance on appeals	2
10 December 2026				
28 January 2027 (budget meeting)	Budget reports (Ashley Wilson)	Normal reporting pathway	Scrutiny prior to Council decision	All
	Pay policy statement (Julie Stay)	Normal reporting pathway	Scrutiny prior to Council decision	All
11 February 2027	Affordable housing delivery	Annual report	Awareness of delivery	1, 2

Date	Issue (report author)	Reason	Outcomes	Supports corporate aims
	(Valerie Bunting)			
8 April 2027	Voluntary & Community sector partnership update and commissioning outcomes (Rachel Burgess)	Annual update	Awareness of VCS activity	1
	Parish & Community Initiative Fund allocations (Paul Scragg)	Normal reporting pathway	Recommendations to SLT	2

To be programmed
Public transport review

Key to corporate aims
1 – People
2 – Places
3 – Prosperity



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

18 December 2025

WARDS AFFECTED:

ALL WARDS

Planning Appeals

Report of the Assistant Director Planning and Regeneration

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update members on planning appeals for 2024/25

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.
- 2.2 That the financial implications of planning appeals and the impact of planning appeals performance be acknowledged.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The Planning Service forms part of the Community Services Directorate. It includes the work areas development management, planning enforcement, regeneration/economic development, conservation/heritage and planning policy. This report sets out an update on planning appeals.
- 3.2 Planning appeals include where a planning application has been refused or where an applicant has appealed against non-determination of a planning application or appealed against a planning enforcement notice served. Planning appeals are processed by the Planning Inspectorate, with Planning Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to determine appeals.
- 3.3 The format for processing a planning appeal can include through written representations, a hearing or a public inquiry. The majority of planning appeals are considered via a written representations procedure, with larger

scale appeals or those with complex matters to consider heard by way of either a hearing or an inquiry. A hearing will typically last for one to two days and is a structured discussion led by the Inspector whereas an inquiry may last several days and will include an element of cross examination of professional witnesses by legal advocates.

- 3.4 In all three appeal procedures public participation is allowed, through either written responses or addressing an Inspector at a hearing or an inquiry.
- 3.5 An update on progress with planning appeals is presented to Planning Committee as a standing item on the monthly agenda.

4. Appeals

Appeals update

- 4.1 A list of planning appeals from 2024/25 is set out in Appendix A to this report.
- 4.2 Appendix A shows that 29 appeal decisions were received in 2024/245 (down from 34 in 2023/24). Of these 29 appeal decisions, five were for major proposals (proposals above 10 dwellings or above 1000sqm) with the remaining 24 for minor proposals or enforcement appeals. The list of appeals does not include any non-determination appeals, with all decisions made by the Council in determining the application.
- 4.3 Of the 29 appeals in 2024/25, eight of these (28%) were allowed (granted permission) with the other 21 dismissed. Of these 8 allowed decisions, this includes two appeals that were for major proposals and allowed at appeal. These two are highlighted in orange in Appendix A.
- 4.4 At the time of writing, 22 appeals have been determined thus far in 2025/26. Of these, none are major appeals with the appeal decisions split between minor appeals and enforcement appeals. Of the 22 appeals, two have been allowed, and the rest dismissed. None of these decisions received thus far in 2025/26 have been for non-determination appeals.
- 4.5 Of the total appeal decisions received in 2024/25, two of these relate not to planning applications but instead relate to planning enforcement cases, with an appeal received against an enforcement notice served. Of the two planning enforcement appeals, both relate to the same site (Fenn Lanes, Fenny Drayton), with one allowed and one dismissed. These also relate to two planning application appeals at the same site, with both dismissed.
- 4.6 In addition to the appeals listed in Appendix A, Members should be aware that the Council has major appeals outstanding. These include:
 - Land at York Close, Market Bosworth – 100 dwellings – appeal decision awaited;
 - Land north of Station Road, Market Bosworth – 120 dwellings – appeal submitted, start date awaited;

- Land north of Barlestone Road, Newbold Verdon – 240 dwellings – appeal submission awaited;
- Land at Newbold Road, Barlestone – 58 dwellings – appeal submission awaited; and
- Kyngs Golf Club, Market Bosworth – holiday lodges – appeal submission awaited

Appeals allowed

- 4.7 Of the appeals allowed in 2024/25 (eight decisions), none of these were against non-determined applications, two were against decisions taken by Planning Committee against the recommendation of Planning Officers (Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon and Houghton House, Sibson) and six were against either delegated Officer decisions or decisions taken by Planning Committee in line with a recommendation for refusal. Of the outstanding appeals in para 4.6 above, two of these were delegated decisions to refuse, with three decisions taken by Planning Committee contrary to Officer recommendation.
- 4.8 Of the two appeals allowed in 2024/25 for decisions taken by Planning Committee against Officer recommendation, one was a major residential appeal and one was a minor residential appeal. Of the six appeals allowed against delegated Officer decisions, one was a major appeal (The Common, Barwell), with all others minor appeals.
- 4.9 Of the allowed appeals across 2024/25 the key reasons given by Inspectors in allowing planning appeals are:
- Lack of a national policy requirement of a 5 year housing land supply (at the time);
 - Relevant housing target policies of the Local Plan being out of date;
 - Limited or localised only landscape harm;
 - Limited impact on highway safety; and
 - Planning balance giving greater weight to delivery of housing over any identified harm.
- 4.10 In all allowed appeals for major developments, the above factors have been balanced against the benefits of the proposed developments, namely the delivery of housing and affordable housing against an identified shortfall of both in the Borough. As the Council was unable to demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply (currently 3.89yrs) and the relevant policies with regards to housing supply of the Core Strategy are out of date, all recommendations and decisions make reference to paragraph 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the presumption in favour of development. This states that planning applications for development should be granted unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.

4.11 This test of paragraph 11 of The Framework sets a very high bar for the Council to refuse an application. This high bar has been met with appeals in 2024/25 for:

- Barrow Hill Quarry, Earl Shilton (holiday lodges)
- Dawsons Lane, Barwell (change of use)
- Kyngs Golf Club, Market Bosworth (holiday lodges)
- Numerous single dwelling applications in the countryside

In determining these appeals, the Inspectors considered that the harm to the landscape (all) and other material considerations significantly and demonstrably outweighed the benefits of the proposals of the delivery of market and affordable dwellings.

Appeal Performance

4.12 Planning appeal performance remains a key requirement of government. Under-performance can lead to government intervention by removing decision-making powers from local planning authorities. The government measures performance at appeal against all decisions over a rolling 2 year period. No more than 10% of all decisions should be overturned at appeal. It should be noted that at the end of the 2 year period there is a further 9 months to take account of an applications still in the appeal system.

Application Type	National Indicator	Performance
Major Applications	10%	10.0%
Non Major Applications	10%	0.8%

Table 1: Quality of decision making (1 October 2022 to 30 September 2024)

4.13 Performance on Majors of 10.0% (down from 12.7%) was on the basis that of the 90 major applications determined between October 2022 and September 2024, 11 were appealed and of these 9 were allowed on appeal. The 9 appeals allowed was the 8th highest nationally over this period. Of those with a higher number of allowed appeals, only two others are not larger unitary authorities (Cherwell and Wychavon), although both of these processed more applications within the same timeframe (115 and 114 respectively vs 90).

4.14 The performance on major planning appeals is improving, with the current 10% down from 12.7%, with a previous high of 14%. This is due to fall to c.8% in the next update, based on only two major appeals being allowed within the previous financial year. However, as set out in para 4.6, there are a number of major appeals currently awaited.

4.15 Performance on non-majors was 0.8% (up from 0.7%) on the basis that of the 1233 minor applications determined, 45 were appealed and of these only 10 were allowed. The Council is therefore significantly below the 10% which is the level at which the government would intervene in relation to minor and other applications.

- 4.16 The Council received a letter from MHCLG in March 2025 requesting information as to why performance on quality of decision making for major applications (appeals performance) was above the 10% threshold. The Council responded in April 2025, outlining the reasons for and raising queries for a number of appeals allowed to justify the performance figure being below 10%, proposing that a more accurate figure instead should be 7.6% when taking into account exceptional circumstances around three of the allowed appeals (Crabtree Farm, Barwell, Workhouse Lane, Burbage and Land east of Stoke Road and north of Normandy Way, Hinckley). The Council was not designated at the time.
- 4.17 Given the reduction to 10.0%, and with this expected to fall, the Council is not currently anticipating receiving a letter from MHCLG in early 2026. Should this be the case, this will be the first year since 2020 when a letter from MHCLG has not been received with regards to either speed of determination of applications or quality of applications (appeals).
- 4.18 This progress is very welcome, and shows the progress made since 2020. However, it is noted that the 10% threshold equates to approximately three major appeals allowed per year. Should this rise again above this level, and rise above the 10% threshold, then the Council risks designation in the future. It is noted that para. 4.6 as above includes five major appeals either awaited or awaited to be submitted.
- 4.19 To date the Council has not been designated, with this in part to the progress demonstrated at each stage, however, should the 10% threshold be breached again in future years then MHCLG may reach a different conclusion.

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

5.1 Open

6. Financial implications – [CS]

- 6.1 The current budgeted impact of appeals and historic data is summarised below:

	Budget	Actual costs	Overspend/(underspend)
2020/21	£43,000	£147,582	£104,582
2021/22	£43,000	£274,568	£231,568
2022/23	£43,000	£144,896	£101,896
2023/24	£93,000	£217,224	£124,224
2024/25 *	£145,790	£50,721	(£95,069)
2025/26	£145,790	£2,098 actual to date	(£75,000)

**Note: the budget from 2024/25 onwards was increased by £52,790*

6.2 The forecast for 2025/26 is based upon written representations appeals covered by officer time only (no additional costs) and hearings that can cost around £15,000 per hearing. There are no inquiries potentially costing around £50,000+ anticipated for 2025/26 that are not already covered from within the appeals provision. The estimated underspend for 2025/26 has been allowed for in this year's forecast outturn.

6.3 The MTFS assumes that the provision will start to decrease by £25,000 from 2026/27. If appeals costs increase, this will lead to a further pressure on the Council finances.

7. Legal implications

7.1 Set out in the report.

8. Corporate Plan implications

8.1 The planning service contributes to all three priorities of the Corporate Plan, helping People stay healthy and reducing crime; improving Places through improved quality of homes, affordable housing, urban design and heritage facilities; and by delivering Prosperity by supporting town centre regeneration, tourism and economic growth.

9. Consultation

9.1 None

10. Risk implications

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

10.2 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.

10.3 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
<p>DLS.19 - Recruitment & retention of staff</p> <p>Failure to recruit & retain staff leads to failure to maintain staffing levels within Development Services to deal with works required and increases use of agency staff with associated higher costs.</p> <p>For appeals this could lead to a greater number of non-determination appeals should resources decrease. Further, the resourcing impact of additional appeals on existing resources, financial and staff time need to be considered.</p>	<p>Appointment of recruitment consultants</p> <p>Supporting Officers Careers through training and modern apprenticeships</p> <p>Benchmarking against surrounding authorities to ensure competitiveness.</p>	Chris Brown
<p>DLS.44 - Five year housing land supply</p> <p>Failure leads to speculative unplanned housing developments plus additional costs incurred due to planning appeal process</p>	<p>The council to maintain a 5YHLS. All Members have received training and further briefing to this effect. SLT and officers are working closely with Members to plan a positive way forward to address this.</p>	Chris Brown
<p>DLS.51 Housing Delivery Test</p>	<p>DLUHC published the Housing Delivery Test results in January 2021 and the Council has delivered 86% of it's housing requirement HBBC will continue to work on delivering new homes to ensure it does not continue to fail the HDT</p>	Chris Brown

11. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 11.1 The planning services takes account of equality and rural issues as part of all the decisions taken.

12. Climate implications

- 12.1 The planning service considers the climate impact of all decisions it takes in accordance with the Council's strategy and Government Policy and Guidance.

13. Corporate implications

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

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

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Chris Brown, Assistant Director Planning and Regeneration
Executive member: Cllr W Crooks

Appendix A – List of planning appeal decisions 2024/25

Appendix A – List of planning appeal decisions 2024/25

No.	Application Number	Site Address	Appeal Decision	Officer/Councillor Decision	Date of Planning Decision	Date of Appeal Decision	Type
1	22/01233/FUL	Houghton House, Sheepy Road, Sibson	Allowed	Councillor	10.05.23	10.04.24	Minor
2	22/00199/UNBLDS	Land North of Lindley Wood, Fenn Lanes, Fenny Drayton	Allowed	Officer	16.12.22	24.04.24	Enforcement
3	22/00804/CLE	Land North of Lindley Wood, Fenn Lanes, Fenny Drayton	Dismissed	Officer	22.08.22	24.04.24	Minor
4	22/00725/FUL	Land North of Lindley Wood, Fenn Lanes, Fenny Drayton	Dismissed	Officer	28.07.22	24.04.24	Minor
5	22/00194/UNBLDS	Land North of Lindley Wood, Fenn Lanes, Fenny Drayton	Dismissed	Officer	16.12.22	24.04.24	Enforcement
6	22/00277/OUT	Land East of the Windmill Inn, Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon	Allowed	Councillor	15.03.22	17.05.24	Major
7	23/00356/FUL	Bancroft, Dadlington Lane, Stapleton	Allowed	Officer	12.04.23	10.06.24	Minor
8	23/00443/FUL	22 Oaks Drive, Newbold Verdon	Allowed	Councillor	22.09.23	13.06.24	Minor
9	22/000556/HEDGE	Sheepy Lodge, Twycross Road, Sheepy Magna,	Split	Officer	27.02.24	03.07.24	Other
10	23/00508/FUL	Kyngs Golf and Country Club, Station Road, Market Bosworth	Dismissed	Officer	17.07.23	08.07.24	Minor
11	23/00767/FUL	Barrow Hill Quarry, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton	Dismissed	Councillor	10.11.23	19.07.24	Major
12	23/00455/FUL	Dawsons Lane, Barwell	Dismissed	Officer	09.11.23	24.07.24	Major
13	24/00016/FUL	Land south of Normandy Way, adjacent 12 Newquay Close, Hinckley	Dismissed	Officer	05.08.24	18.04.24	Minor
14	23/01163/HOU	Cherry Cottage, 24 Kennel Lane, Witherley	Dismissed	Officer	22.02.24	12.08.24	Minor
15	23/01176/FUL	The Water Tower, Roe House lane, Norton Juxta, Twycross	Dismissed	Officer	30.01.24	23.08.24	Minor
16	24/00054/FUL	65A Newbold Road, Barlestone	Dismissed	Officer	17.01.24	05.09.24	Minor
17	23/00535/FUL	Inglenook Farm, Leicester Road, Barwell	Dismissed	Officer	30.11.23	20.09.24	Major
18	23/00168/FUL	Long Eaves, Pinwall Lane, Pinwall	Dismissed	Officer	19.01.24	25.09.24	Minor
19	23/00716/FUL	Land adjacent to Barwell Constitutional Club, Chapel St, Barwell	Dismissed	Officer	24.04.24	28.10.24	Minor
20	24/00338/FUL	Willow Barn, Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding,	Dismissed	Officer	09.04.24	29.10.24	Minor
21	24/00647/HOU	132 Stanlet Road, Hinckley	Dismissed	Officer	28.06.24	19.11.24	Minor
22	23/01195/FUL	Land Northeast of The Hovel, Spinney Drive, Botcheston	Dismissed	Officer	01.02.24	12.12.24	Minor
23	24/00646/HOU	Owl Barn, Brockey Farm, Kirkby Road, Barwell	Allowed	Officer	01.08.24	12.12.24	Minor

24	23/00973/HEDGE	67 Cedar Road, Earl Shilton,	Dismissed	Officer	02.02.24	21.01.25	Minor
25	23/00020/CLE	6 Kingfisher Way, Sheepy Parva	Dismissed	Officer	03.03.23	24.01.25	Minor
26	24/00021/FUL	Poplar Cottage, Little Shaw Lane, Markfield	Allowed	Officer	24.04.24	30.01.25	Minor
27	24/00118/FUL	Land adjacent 10 Wolsey Drive, Ratby	Dismissed	Officer	18.03.24	05.02.25	Minor
28	24/00476/FUL	87B & 87C High Street, Barwell	Dismissed	Councillor	30.07.24	24.02.25	Minor
29	23/01229/OUT	Land East of The Common. Barwell	Allowed	Officer	17.06.24	13.03.25	Major



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 18 December 2025

Wards affected All wards

Housing Task and Finish Group- Progress on Recommendations

Report of the Director (Community Services)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update Scrutiny on progress in relation to actions set by the Housing Task and Finish Group.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The Housing Task and Finish Group was established to examine the increasing pressures on housing within the Borough, including homelessness, the supply of affordable housing, changes in the private rented sector, and the number of empty properties. The Group's remit focused on understanding the causes of housing need across different sectors of the community and identifying practical actions that could support both immediate and longer-term improvements.

- 3.2 During its early meetings, the Group:

- Reviewed trends in homelessness and the impact of reduced availability of private rented accommodation.
- Examined the extent of housing need among households who do not qualify for the housing register but nevertheless face significant challenges in finding suitable accommodation.

- Considered the number, type, and causes of empty residential properties in the Borough and explored opportunities to bring them back into use.
- Assessed the constraints on delivering affordable housing through Section 106 agreements, noting reductions in viability and delivery.
- Explored the loss of council homes through Right to Buy and the effect on the council's ability to retain housing stock.
- Identified gaps in landlord regulation and discussed opportunities for improved engagement with private landlords.
- Considered the role of the Council's development company and the challenges of applying local connection criteria to homes developed through that route.

3.3 The Group also agreed several actions, including receiving further data from officers regarding private rented sector trends, census information, and empty-homes work, and inviting relevant landlords, letting agents, and officers to contribute to the review. This work informed the final recommendations submitted, which are summarised below with updated progress.

3.4 **Progress on Recommendations**

3.5 **Recommendation 1:**

Information be shared between Revenues and Housing Services, including a list of empty properties, property sizes, and second homes where the owner also lives in the Borough.

Progress:

This information-sharing process has been implemented. Data flows between Revenues and Housing have been strengthened, enabling Housing Services to have more up-to-date information on empty properties and second homes. This supports both monitoring and potential interventions where appropriate.

3.6 **Recommendation 2:**

The Executive be recommended to consider providing additional staffing to investigate empty properties and bring them back into use.

Progress:

At the request of Executive a service budgetary growth bid has been submitted to SLT for initial consideration against other priorities. This is for a grade 6 staffing resource.

3.7 **Recommendation 3:**

The Executive be recommended to consider increasing capacity and expertise within the relevant team to benefit from opportunities to acquire S106 properties.

Progress:

This was considered and it was acknowledged that capacity and expertise is already in place within the planning service. Consideration is given to a number of options around acquisitions, within the funding available, including acquisition of 106 units and gifted units. Capacity and expertise isn't the limiting factor, it is available finance.

3.8 Recommendation 4:

Officers continue dialogue with local landlords and their representatives to explore ways of working together to relieve pressure on homelessness services.

Progress:

Dialogue with local landlords is ongoing with letting agents to identify potential accommodation options, and share information about tenancy support and homelessness prevention. In addition, properties are currently being purchased through the General Fund to help address Temporary Accommodation needs. Plans are progressing to restart landlord forums across South Leicestershire, supported by our new membership with the National Residential Landlords Association to strengthen engagement and best practice. Alongside regional efforts to promote changes under the Renters' Rights Act, we have explored solutions with a local letting agent to ease pressure on homelessness services, though initial options proved unworkable. Engagement with landlords and agents remains ongoing, focusing on improving property standards and preventing retaliatory or illegal evictions to help reduce homelessness.

3.9 Recommendation 5:

Council be recommended to lobby Government in relation to:

- Section 106 delivery (affordable housing, RPs, viability, community infrastructure)
- Right to Buy restrictions to help retain council housing stock
- Funding to assist with bringing empty properties back into use
- Officer capacity and funding to support housing initiatives and the development/acquisition of council housing
- The need for more coordinated housing-related policy across Government departments

Progress:

A letter setting out these issues was sent to Government. A response has been received and is included as an appendix to the report. This fulfils the lobbying action.

Recommendation 6:

A review of actions undertaken following the consideration of the recommendations be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2025/26.

Progress: Addressed by this report.

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

4.1 Open

5. Financial implications [AW]

5.1 A growth bid has been submitted for a grade 6 post to investigate empty properties and bring them back into use. The full year cost of this post is £46,950. This will be added to the growth & savings list going to Council for approval in February.

5.2 This would add a further pressure to the general fund position of £281,700 in 2026/27 and an estimated £292,686 in 2027/28. A total pressure of £574,386 during the MTFD period. According to our council tax system, there were 90 long term (over 1 year) empty properties as at October 2025. Increased premiums have been recommended as the best way to try and bring these back into use. Therefore it is unclear if the additional investment in posts will lead to any further increase in the number of properties brought back into use above and beyond that of the higher premiums recommend.

6. Legal implications [ST]

6.1 None.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The objectives of this policy align to the following Corporate Plan aims
People- Helping people to stay safe, healthy, active and in employment.

8. Consultation

8.1 None

9. Risk implications

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

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all 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 these report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Limited impact with empty homes work.	Continue monitoring empty property data and trends to ensure any emerging hotspots are quickly identified. Maintain cross departmental information sharing to support early engagement with property owners.	Private Sector Housing Lead
Insufficient housing resources to delivery housing initiatives- funding restraints.	Prioritise housing initiatives that offer the highest impact for available resources.	Director of Community Services
Reliance on Government policy decisions.	Continue to Lobby through regional and national networks.	Members of group/Executive Lead for Housing

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 This workstream has considered both equality and rural issues as part of all the decisions taken.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 The Council strives to consider climate impact of all decisions it takes in accordance with the Council's strategy and Government Policy and Guidance.

12. Corporate implications

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

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications

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

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Maddy Shellard/Valerie Bunting
Executive member: Cllr M Mullaney



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: TO2025/23037

Rebecca Owen

Rebecca.Owen@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

3 November 2025

Dear Rebecca Owen,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 14 July 2025. I am incredibly sorry for the delay in responding to you.

I am pleased to hear about the steps Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have already taken to increase housing delivery. As you know, the government remains committed to delivering 1.5 million safe and decent homes this Parliament, alongside a generational increase in social and affordable housebuilding.

On 2 July, we set out our plan for a decade of renewal for social and affordable housing, including a reinvigoration of council housebuilding. The link for this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivering-a-decade-of-renewal-for-social-and-affordable-housing/delivering-a-decade-of-renewal-for-social-and-affordable-housing#:~:text=This%20is%20the%20biggest%20long,of%20homes%20the%20country%20needs>. This included confirmation of £39 billion in funding for a new 10-year Social and Affordable Homes Programme (SAHP), running from 2026 to 2036. Our ambition is to deliver around 300,000 homes over the Programme's lifetime, with at least 60% for Social Rent. The remainder will be available for other tenures including Shared Ownership, Affordable Rent, and Intermediate Rent.

In addition to grant-funded Social Rent homes, we expect further delivery through Right to Buy receipts and Section 106 agreements. We recognise ongoing challenges in the Section 106 market, which is why the Government launched the Homes England clearing service in December to help buyers and sellers of S106 homes connect more effectively. While there has been some uptake, more action is needed to ensure homes are built to a good standard, marketed reasonably, and purchased efficiently.

We expect the improved financial capacity created by measures announced at the Spending Review to encourage Registered Providers to reassess their position on uncontracted and unsold S106 units.

To support councils' financial viability, we introduced a 10-year social housing rent settlement allowing rents to increase by CPI+1% annually from April 2026. This provides certainty for investment in new and existing homes, while protecting tenants. We also consulted on a convergence mechanism for social rents below formula to further support investment.

We are aware that the discounted Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rate for Housing Revenue Account borrowing is due to end in March 2026. The government recognises the sector's call for certainty to enable long-term planning and remains committed to supporting councils. All

PWLB rates are kept under review, and we will confirm our approach to the discounted HRA rate in the autumn.

Regarding your concerns about the Right to Buy scheme, a review published alongside the 2024 Autumn Budget concluded that returning discounts to pre-2012 regional levels will create a fairer and more sustainable scheme. This will better protect council housing stock and enable councils to replace homes sold. The government also consulted on further reforms, including increased protections for new builds and changes to eligibility. A response was published on 2 July 2025 and is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-the-right-to-buy/outcome/government-response-to-the-consultation-on-reforming-the-right-to-buy>.

Section 157 of the Housing Act 1985 imposes resale restrictions on properties purchased under Right to Buy in designated rural areas, helping ensure social housing remains affordable and available to local residents.

We know council housebuilding capacity has been under pressure for over a decade. That's why we partnered with the Local Government Association and Homes England to launch the Council Housebuilding Skills & Capacity Programme, backed by £12 million in funding for 2025–26. The link for this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/council-housebuilding-skills-and-capacity-programme>. I encourage you to make full use of the support available, including the graduate talent scheme for vital surveyor and construction project manager roles.

The Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) continues to receive bids from housing associations and local authorities. Delivery partners assess viability against programme criteria. Bidders must demonstrate maximised use of other funding sources and justify grant levels based on project complexity. All bids are scrutinised to ensure compliance with subsidy control rules. A full prospectus for the new SAHP will be published in autumn 2025, with bidding expected to open in winter.

Thank you for writing in on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Shuma
Correspondence Unit



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 18 December 2025

Wards affected: All wards

Self-assessment against the overview & scrutiny statutory guidance

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present the outcome of the self-assessment carried out by members of Scrutiny against the MHCLG overview & scrutiny statutory guidance.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Commission endorses the self-assessment.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Commission establishes priorities for action from the self-assessment.
- 2.3 The Scrutiny Commission agrees development of an action plan based on the priorities established.
- 2.4 A workshop be arranged for overview & scrutiny members to develop the action plan.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The purpose of the overview & scrutiny statutory guidance is to ensure councils are aware of the purpose and practices all authorities should adopt or consider adopting when deciding how to carry out their overview and scrutiny functions.
- 3.2 The guidance recognises that individual authorities' approaches to scrutiny will differ and that whilst we need to have regard to the guidance, it is not statutory.

- 3.3 At its meeting on 26 June 2025, the Scrutiny Commission considered the overview & scrutiny statutory guidance and agreed to hold a workshop to undertake a self-assessment against the guidance.
- 3.4 On 23 October a workshop took place for Scrutiny Commission members. Councillors J Crooks, Lambert and Williams were in attendance. The workshop went through a self-assessment based on relevant paragraphs of the guidance. The self-assessment is attached at appendix A.
- 3.3 The self-assessment uses a red / amber / green rating to indicate how overview & scrutiny operates against key parts of the guidance. Those areas that have been rated red are not necessarily indications of where improvements are required, but where members may wish to consider whether change is a priority.
- 3.4 Members are asked to consider priorities to inform an action plan, for which a workshop will be arranged. This work will be positive in providing a platform for Scrutiny in any future LGR council structure. It is recognised that the implementation for some actions could take the council beyond 2028.
- 4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules**
- 4.1 To be taken in public session.
- 5. Financial implications (IB)**
- 5.1 None.
- 6. Legal implications (ST)**
- 6.1 None.
- 7. Corporate Plan implications**
- 7.1 This report supports all objectives as the overview & scrutiny function's work covers all areas of the council.
- 8. Consultation**
- 8.1 The self-assessment was informed by a member workshop.
- 9. Risk implications**
- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion

based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 No significant risks associated with this report were identified.

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

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

11. Climate implications

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

12. Corporate implications

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

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

Background papers: Overview & Scrutiny statutory guidance
Report to the Scrutiny Commission, 26 June 2025.

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

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Self-assessment against the Overview & Scrutiny Statutory Guidance

Section of guidance	Reference to relevant part of guidance	Initial assessment	Comments	Actions
2. Culture	9. Scrutiny is led and owned by members		Some lack of shared understanding and awareness of the role of scrutiny between members and officers	Revisit constitution to remind ourselves of purpose of scrutiny and consider training/updates to members and officers.
	10. There is a strong organisational culture, support for and engagement with the scrutiny functions	See 9 above		
	12(a) All members and officers recognise and appreciate the importance and legitimacy the scrutiny function is afforded by the law		Many unaware of legal powers of scrutiny	Training for members and officers
	12(b)(i) Ensure scrutiny delivers work that is of value and relevant to the authority		Work programme and focused task and finish groups evidence of relevant and value-added work.	
	12(b)(ii) Ensure a clear division of responsibilities between the scrutiny and audit functions		Relationship between Scrutiny / F&P and Audit unclear	Clarify differences and share outcomes via training

Section of guidance	Reference to relevant part of guidance	Initial assessment	Comments	Actions
	12(c) Regular discussion between the scrutiny function and the executive		Chair meets with Chief Executive and Leader and separately with Chief Executive, but meetings could be more frequent	
	12(d) There is an executive-scrutiny protocol to define the relationship and mitigate differences of opinion		Protocol isn't a top priority, however shared understanding of the relationship is required.	Define and review existing relationship. Create protocol if felt to be beneficial
	12(e) Resources allocated to scrutiny		<p>Acknowledge extensive officer support for task & finish groups and provision of reports to all overview & scrutiny meetings</p> <p>Concern regarding lack of dedicated support for the overview & scrutiny function, provision of which would improve the effectiveness of the function – this is being reviewed</p> <p>Member commitment / capacity needs to be balanced with work programme and ambitions (if members understand</p>	<p>Identifying best practice in scrutiny capacity / resource for similar councils</p> <p>Member training</p>

Section of guidance	Reference to relevant part of guidance	Initial assessment	Comments	Actions
			powers they have, they may be more engaged)	
	12(f) Impartial, relevant, timely and high-quality advice provided to scrutiny (particularly by the statutory officers)		<p>Potential lack of awareness amongst officers of the powers of scrutiny.</p> <p>Lack of items requiring obvious statutory officer attendance illustrates benign nature of some subjects discussed. This potentially limits scrutiny's effectiveness in looking at more challenging subjects</p>	Training for officers
	12(g) Members and officers are aware of the role scrutiny plays in the organisation, its value, outcomes, powers, membership and officer support		Organisational awareness good of the overall role scrutiny plays as evidenced by peer review – this is different to the issue around more detailed understanding of legal powers etc.	
	12(h) Reports and recommendations are submitted to Council, not just Executive		Minutes and annual report go to Council. Scrutiny is aware it can make recommendations to Council if appropriate	

Section of guidance	Reference to relevant part of guidance	Initial assessment	Comments	Actions
	12(i) Scrutiny has a profile in the wider community, with early engagement in the work programming process		Profile not promoted. Community feedback on items for work programme not sought	Consider wider community engagement to identify work programme topics. Consider use of comms to promote the work of Scrutiny.
	12(j) Scrutiny members have an independent mindset		Evidence of independent thinking from items considered, however opportunity for wider contributions if role better understood. Debate often limited if item is to be considered by Council (keeping powder dry), for example the budget	
3. Resourcing	17. Resources are provided to the scrutiny function	See 12(e)		
	18. The wider authority engages with those who carry out the scrutiny function (both members and officers)	See 12(g)		
	23. Officers providing scrutiny support are able to provide impartial advice	See 12(f)		
4. Selecting committee members	25. Consideration is given to expertise, commitment and ability to act impartially when selecting members		Difficulty in addressing because of method of selecting membership (first consideration is	Consider how expertise, commitment and impartially could be better exploited.

Section of guidance	Reference to relevant part of guidance	Initial assessment	Comments	Actions
			political balance, second is availability and interest) In a larger authority with a greater pool of members to select from, this would be more achievable	Consider creating a role profile for a scrutiny member to demonstrate best practice.
	26. - Members of the Executive are not members of scrutiny - The constitution articulates how to deal with conflicts of interest between executive and scrutiny responsibilities			
	28. Members' experience, expertise, interests, ability to act impartially, ability to work as part of a group and capacity to serve are considered	This is dependent on 25 above so wasn't specifically assessed		
	31. Chair has the ability to lead and build a sense of teamwork and consensus		Purpose of this paragraph of the guidance is ambiguous (is it referring to leadership skills, or constitutional power to lead?). Practical process for selecting chair has political aspects	
	33. Vote for chair is taken by secret ballot		No identified concerns with current process	Explore benefits of secret ballot

Section of guidance	Reference to relevant part of guidance	Initial assessment	Comments	Actions
	34(i) Committee members are offered induction training		Induction provided, however more time should be given to understanding the legal position of scrutiny. Scope of induction training to be informed by members following training on legal role of scrutiny.	Discussions on induction content to take place before end of the current term of office to inform future programme
	34(ii) Committee members are offered ongoing training		Need for a more comprehensive ongoing training programme	Create a more comprehensive training programme
	34(iii) Committee members are aware of their legal powers and how to prepare for and ask relevant questions at scrutiny	See 12(a)		
	36. Outside expertise is called upon via co-option or technical advisors		External “witnesses” are called when appropriate for a particular review. Need to clarify description of roles, ie technical advisor v witness	Explore constitutional requirements and benefits of co-option

Section of guidance	Reference to relevant part of guidance	Initial assessment	Comments	Actions
5. Power to access information	41. - Scrutiny members have access to a regularly available source of key information about the management of the authority, particularly on performance, management and risk - Members have the support to make requests for information from an informed position		Quality and style of presentation of information could be improved in some areas Evaluate whether too much time is spent on annual/quarterly items for note rather than scrutiny of executive functions and decisions	Review reports, style and content going to various meetings
	45. Scrutiny committees are aware of their legal power to require members of the executive and officers to attend to answer questions		Members are aware that they can do this.	Training to reinforce Clarification of legal powers
	46. Scrutiny members are aware of their statutory powers to invite other persons to attend meetings and to access information from certain external organisations		Evidence of external invitees, for example as part of the healthcare session	
6. Planning work	48. There is a long-term work programme for scrutiny which is flexible enough to accommodate any urgent, short-term issues that might arise		Work programme in place	
	49. The work of all scrutiny bodies is co-ordinated to make best use of resources available		Lack of clarity and co-ordination between Scrutiny Commission and	Consider F&P work programme at triumvirate meeting

Section of guidance	Reference to relevant part of guidance	Initial assessment	Comments	Actions
			F&P and overlap with Audit Committee	Review whether regular reports that are presented to F&P are still relevant / required
	50. Scrutiny has a clear role and function and prioritises as necessary		Member driven work programme prioritised. Priorities reviewed regularly Improving clarity of the role will strengthen further the points above.	Role and function should be revisited to ensure culture and understanding is embedded
	54. In gathering evidence for the work programme, conversations take place with: the public the authority's partners the executive			Community awareness and public engagement exercise Training to raise awareness of powers Consider how we engage with the executive
	55. Meetings are generally held in public		Working groups generally not in public	
	57. The committee can justify how and why a decision has been taken to		Work programme is an early item on every	

Section of guidance	Reference to relevant part of guidance	Initial assessment	Comments	Actions
	include certain work issues on the work programme and why		agenda and reasons for changes are explained	
7. Evidence sessions	61. Scrutiny considers in advance what it is trying to achieve from an evidence session			Clarify definition of an evidence session

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Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

NOVEMBER 2025 TO FEBRUARY 2026

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What is the forward plan?

The forward plan is a list of decisions to be taken by the Executive or Council during the period referred to above. The plan also identifies any key decisions to be taken by the Executive. The Council has a duty to publish notice of key decisions at least 28 days before a decision is taken.

What is a key decision?

The definition of a key decision is contained within the council's constitution and is a decision which:

- Involves expenditure (or reduction of income) of over £50,000 on any particular scheme / project
- Adopts a policy or strategy (which the Executive has the power to adopt)
- Involves the adoption or amendment to the scale of fees and charges

- Is one that affects the whole of the borough and is one of which the residents of Hinckley & Bosworth would normally expect to be notified or consulted;
- Involves a recommendation by the Executive to a partnership organisation which will take the ultimate decision.

Who can make key decisions?

Key decisions can be made by the Executive, the Leader or Executive members, or individual officers acting under delegated powers.

Are only key decisions published on the plan?

Whilst the requirement only covers inclusion of key decisions on the plan, the council has voluntarily decided to list non-key Executive decisions and decisions of Council. Key decisions will be identified on the plan.

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What does the plan tell me?

The list gives information about the upcoming decision, whether it will be made in public or private, when the decision is likely to be made, who will make the decision, and who you can contact for further information.

Confidential and exempt information

This list may include items for decision which contain confidential or exempt information, such items will be identified with '(exempt)' next to the report title.

Details of the Decision to be taken (*denotes key decision)	Portfolio/ Service	Decision Maker And Date(s)	Reporting Pathway And Dates(s)	Consultees and Consultation Process	Report Author
Housing and Respiratory Illness Project Update	Housing	Council 18 Nov 2025			Rosemary Leach
Electrical Installation Condition Requirements for Social Housing	Housing Repairs	Executive 19 Nov 2025			Madeline Shellard
Compliance with the Safety and Quality Consumer Standards	Housing Repairs	Executive 19 Nov 2025			Madeline Shellard
Decant policy	Housing	Executive 19 Nov 2025			Madeline Shellard
tenancy policy *	Housing	Executive 19 Nov 2025			Madeline Shellard
Extended Producer Responsibility Funding	Street Scene Services	Executive 19 Nov 2025			Caroline Roffey
Right to buy policy *	Housing	Executive 19 Nov 2025			Madeline Shellard
Housing aids and adaptations policy *	Housing	Executive 19 Nov 2025			Madeline Shellard

Details of the Decision to be taken (*denotes key decision)	Portfolio/ Service	Decision Maker And Date(s)	Reporting Pathway And Dates(s)	Consultees and Consultation Process	Report Author
Mutual exchange policy *	Housing	Executive 19 Nov 2025			Madeline Shellard
Council Values Review	Communications	Council 18 Nov 2025			Jacqueline Puffett
Local Government Reorganisation proposal		Executive 19 Nov 2025	Scrutiny Commission 6 Nov 2025 Council 18 Nov 2025		Bill Cullen
Community governance review	Democratic Services	Council 9 Dec 2025		Public consultation, consultation with businesses and parish councils	Julie Kenny
Statement of Licensing Policy	Environmental Health	Council 9 Dec 2025	Licensing Committee 21 Oct 2025		Mark Brymer
Young People strategy *	Community Safety	Executive 28 Jan 2026			Rachel Burgess
Waste bin and collection policy *	Street Scene Services	Executive 28 Jan 2026			Caroline Roffey
Pesticides review	Street Scene Services	Executive 28 Jan 2026			Caroline Roffey

DETAILS OF COUNCIL DECISION MAKERS

The Executive is made up of the following councillors:

Councillor SL Bray – Leader of the Council and Executive member for external relations, communications, regeneration & town centres, corporate & member services – stuart.bray@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Councillor MC Bools – Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive member for leisure, culture, tourism, arts, equalities, health & well being
Email: mark.bools@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Councillor MB Cartwright – Executive member for climate change, environment & rural affairs
Email: martin.cartwright@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Councillor WJ Crooks – Executive member for planning
Email: bill.crooks@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Councillor L Hodgkins – Executive member for parks, open spaces & neighbourhood services
Email: lynda.hodgkins@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Councillor KWP Lynch – Executive member for finance, ICT & asset management
Email: keith.lynch@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Councillor MT Mullaney – Executive member for housing & community safety
Email: michael.mullaney@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

To find out which officer is responsible for a particular service area, view the [structure chart](#) on the council's website.

Further clarification and representations about any item included in the forward plan can be made to the appropriate Executive Member and senior officer either using the contact details above or in writing to: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Hinckley Hub, Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 0FR. Representations should be made before noon on the working day before the date on which the decision is to be taken.

DECISION MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

The views of local people are at the heart of decision making at Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, because major decisions are made by councillors who are elected every four years by local people. Councillors work with the communities that they represent to ensure that local priorities are reflected in the work that the council does.

The Council is made up of 34 councillors representing 16 wards. If you want to know which councillor(s) represents your area or you would like to contact your councillor(s) concerning an issue, you will find contact details on our website (www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk) or alternatively you can contact the Council on 01455 238141.

The council is committed to the principle of open government and everyone is welcome to attend meetings (except for confidential business) and to receive details of non-confidential items. Below are further details of the Council's democratic decision making arrangements.

The Council

The Council is responsible for setting the budget and the policy framework. Each year there is an annual meeting, which selects the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (who are the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council) and decides the membership of the overview and scrutiny bodies and regulatory committees. There are approximately six ordinary meetings of the Council per year, which make strategic, policy and major budget decisions.

Executive functions

Many day to day policy and operational decisions are taken by the Executive, a group of seven councillors comprising of the Leader, Deputy Leader and five Executive Members each responsible for an area of council policy and activity. The Executive members and their responsibilities are detailed in the previous table.

Overview and scrutiny functions

Decisions of the Executive are subject to scrutiny by the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny. The Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny also have a role in policy development. In addition, scrutiny panels are established to undertake ad-hoc reviews. The Scrutiny Commission publishes an annual report and a work programme; this is available on the council's website and from the council on request.

Regulatory functions

In addition the Council has established committees to deal with regulatory issues, these committees are Audit Committee, Ethical Governance & Personnel Committee, Licensing Committee, and Planning Committee.

Further information about the Council's decision making arrangements can be obtained from Democratic Services on 01455 255879.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

10 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr P Williams (Vice-chair in the chair)

Cllr P Stead-Davis and Cllr BE Sutton

Officers in attendance: Ilyas Bham, Chris Brown, Rebecca Owen, Madeline Shellard and Ashley Wilson

226. Apologies and substitutions

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Glenville, Smith, Surtees and Weightman.

227. Minutes of previous meeting

It was moved by Councillor Stead-Davis, seconded by Councillor Sutton and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September be confirmed as a correct record.

228. Declarations of interest

No interests were declared.

229. Frontline service review - planning

Members received the annual frontline service review report for planning. The positive progress in relation to recruitment was acknowledged. Progress in relation to the Barwell Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) was queried and it was noted that the 2012 application was still live but the S106 was now being progressed again following a positive response from Leicestershire County Council and public consultation was being undertaken before it coming to Planning Committee.

In response to a member's question, it was noted that Leicester City Council's housing numbers reduced when the borough council's increased, and that local plans couldn't take local government reorganisation into account.

In relation to the Earl Shilton SUE, it was hoped that the S106 agreement would progress soon and that the highways authority had agreed.

In response to a member's question about the Wayfinder strategy, the work and engagement was ongoing but the member would be updated on timescales.

Members were pleased to note that the 70% target for determination of minor applications was consistently exceeded, however there were a high number of

applications being handled per officer due to an increase in applications earlier in the year.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

230. Council Tax - Local Discounts & Premiums

Consideration was given to recommended changes to council tax discounts and premiums in relation to empty, unoccupied and unfurnished properties, those undergoing major repairs and for second homes.

Members queried the low impact of some of the proposed changes due to the number of properties affected. It was explained that the intention was to encourage empty properties to be brought back into use more quickly. They asked for more information to be included in the Council report in relation to the number of homes that may be impacted and / or brought back into use to assist Council with the decision.

It was moved by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Stead-Davis and

RESOLVED – greater detail be included in the report to Council in relation to how many properties may be brought back into occupation due to the changes proposed.

231. Financial Outturn - September 2025

The financial outturn to September 2025 was presented. Members queried the detail of table 2 in relation to additional budgets and expenditure and whether there had been an increase or a reduction, and the significance of table 3.

In response to a member's question, it was noted that 136 households were in temporary accommodation for varying lengths of time and this was a national trend. It was noted that actions were being taken to address the level of spend on temporary accommodation.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

232. Sundry Debts Quarter 1 2025-2026

Members were informed of the sundry debt position at 30 June 2025.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

233. Finance & Performance Scrutiny Work Programme

It was reported that the chair and vice-chair would be looking at the regular reports and reviewing the relevance. The work programme was noted.

(The Meeting closed at 7.33 pm)

CHAIR