

# Public Document Pack

**Steve Atkinson** MA(Oxon) MBA FIoD FRSA  
Chief Executive

Date: 30 April 2013



Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

*A Borough to be proud of*

To: **Members of the Scrutiny Commission**

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Mr MR Lay (Chairman)        | Mrs L Hodgkins |
| Mr PAS Hall (Vice-Chairman) | Mr MS Hulbert  |
| Mr C Ladkin (Vice-Chairman) | Mr DW Inman    |
| Mr PR Batty                 | Mr K Morrell   |
| Mr Bessant                  | Mr K Nichols   |
| Mrs WA Hall                 | Mrs S Sprason  |

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear Councillor,

There will be a meeting of the **SCRUTINY COMMISSION** in the Council Chamber on **THURSDAY, 9 MAY 2013** 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 Officer

## SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 9 MAY 2013

### A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS
2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)  
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2013.
3. ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES  
To be advised of any additional items of business which the Chairman 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 10.
6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2013/2014 (Pages 5 - 12)  
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Community Direction) outlining the Environmental Improvement Programme for 2013/14.
7. PARISH & COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND (Pages 13 - 18)  
Report of the Public Space Manager.
8. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (Pages 19 - 42)  
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Community Direction).
9. REFLECTION OF BARWELL SUE APPLICATION PROCESS (Pages 43 - 46)  
Report of the Barwell & Earl Shilton Scrutiny Group outlining the process followed prior to consideration of the Barwell SUE planning application and lessons learned.
10. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AS MATTERS OF URGENCY
11. MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED  
To consider the passing of a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 excluding the public from the undermentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act.
12. HINCKLEY CLUB FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - UPDATE (To Follow)

# Agenda Item 2

## HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### SCRUTINY COMMISSION

14 MARCH 2013 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman  
Mr PAS Hall – Vice-Chairman

Mr PR Batty, Mr Bessant, Mrs WA Hall, Mrs L Hodgkins, Mr DW Inman, Mr K Nichols and Mrs S Sprason

Officers in attendance: Steve Atkinson, Storme Coop, Bill Cullen, Louisa Horton, Sanjiv Kohli, Tracy Miller, Robert Morgan, Claire Preston, Caroline Roffey, Sally Smith and Judith Sturley

#### 451 MINUTES

On the motion of Councillor Nichols, seconded by Councillor Hodgkins, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 452 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

Councillors Batty and Bessant arrived at 6.33pm.

#### 453 SECTION 106 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS

Following concern expressed at a previous meeting, the situation with regard to two different Section 106 agreements was explained. It was reported that the delay in the Montgomery Road contribution was due to discussions surrounding the sports pavilion, and the position was clarified in respect of the Westfield Road contribution - that the development apparently had not commenced and, therefore, no contribution was owed to the Council. Any new application would be subject to a S106 discussion.

It was reported that more stringent and regular reviews were being put in place to prevent the situation recurring. It was suggested that better links with parish councils were needed, and that parish councils should be advised to put in place improved monitoring of section 106 monies.

It was agreed to have a further update on section 106 contributions in six months, but to have another report in the meantime, should any progress be made with regard to the Montgomery Road contributions.

#### 454 ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Members received an update on economic regeneration in and around the borough. During debate, the following were discussed:

- The physical access barrier to apprenticeships and need to consider transport issues;
- Work on broadband with Leicestershire County Council;
- The work of cross-border partnerships;

- The employment of apprentices within HBBC;
- The continually improving links with employers;
- The need to promote self employment to young people via schools.

It was agreed that future updates on the Strategy provide more detail on outcomes and impacts of the initiatives.

Members noted the report.

#### 455 PLANNING POLICY UPDATE

Following a request for a report to update on planning policy matters, Members were informed of the stage of various documents including the Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD, Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan and the Gypsy & Traveller DPD. Members were reminded of the new Neighbourhood Development Plan for Market Bosworth, which was to be the subject of consultation

There was discussion on the methodology of the Gypsy and Traveller revised needs assessment and which Members would be giving consideration to it, and in response it was explained that it would go to the Cross Party Senior Members' Group, prior to consideration by the Scrutiny Commission.

#### 456 DOG FOULING AND ENFORCEMENT

Members were updated on the situation with regard to dog fouling and enforcement. The current campaigns were outlined and their success highlighted. It was stated that reports of dog fouling had decreased year on year for the last four years.

Members noted and welcomed the update on the actions being taken.

#### 457 WELFARE REFORM AND IMPACT ON HBBC RESIDENTS

Members received an update on the welfare reforms, including a parliamentary letter which had added foster parents, members of the armed forces and families with severely disabled children to the list of those receiving exemptions from the reductions in benefits for having 'empty bedrooms'. It was also reported that around 20 households in the Borough had been identified as being affected by the benefit cap. The Discretionary Housing Payment fund was discussed, but it was noted that this was only a short term support of up to thirteen weeks.

Concern was expressed regarding many aspects of the changes, but in particular the fact that some disabled residents would have made adaptations to their properties at their own cost or a cost to the authority, but would now be penalised for remaining in them if they had an empty bedroom. It was requested that the authority write to the Government to express this concern, not only for the residents but also for the authority, which would have to pay for new adaptations in another property, should the resident be forced to move.

It was requested that a follow-up report be brought in six months.

#### RESOLVED –

- (i) representation be made to Government with regard to those with adapted properties;
- (ii) a further report be brought to the Commission in six months.

458 UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY CAPITAL PROJECTS

Members received an update on capital projects including Hinckley Hub, Atkins, the Jubilee building, the Bus Station development, the Leisure Centre and MIRA. It was reported that all offices in the Atkins building were fully let ahead of the Business Plan target; the Hub was on track for completion and staff relocation in May/June; administrative staff would soon be moving into the Jubilee building with operational staff two weeks later; a more detailed delivery programme for the bus station site would be available soon; there had been a lot of interest in the procurement process for the Leisure Centre on the Argents Mead site; and part of the RGF money for MIRA had been received and more detailed design work including the A5 upgrade was being procured.

It was agreed that the capital projects would be revisited when there was progress to report.

459 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS - UPDATE

In response to concerns raised at the previous meeting, Members were reassured that the budget for disabled facilities grants had not, and was not planned to be reduced. It was agreed that a full report on grants and waiting lists would be brought to the next meeting.

460 DRAFT PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE POLICE & CRIME PANEL AND THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The Commission was presented with Leicestershire County Council's draft protocol for its relationship with the Police and Crime Panel. Following discussion, Members felt that it would be more effective to continue the current relationship with the Community Safety Partnership and local police than to sign up to the county council's protocol to ensure HBBC retains a voice and can concentrate on actual outcomes of crime reduction work rather than analysing the relationship with partners and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

It was agreed that the Police & Crime Commissioner be invited to a future meeting.

461 SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was agreed as updated in previous items at this meeting.

462 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that the date of the next meeting be moved to 9 May 2013.

(The Meeting closed at 9.17 pm)

---

CHAIRMAN

This page is intentionally left blank

## SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 9 MAY 2013

### REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION) RE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14

---

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the Environmental Improvement Programme for 2013/14

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Commission agree the enhancement schemes (Appendix 1) to be implemented in the financial year 2013/14 as the Environmental Improvement Programme.

#### 3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

##### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2013/14

- 3.1 For 2013/14 Council agreed in February capital expenditure of £50,000 of which £15,000 was funded from contributions. If the Borough Council's applications for grant aid are successful and landowners agree to make financial contributions towards projects, as anticipated, it will be possible to finance the 15 schemes identified in Appendix 1 which will result in projects costing £53,374 being implemented at a net cost to this Authority of £34,941.

- 3.2 This year's programme aims to continue the practise to implement schemes identified in the Authority's Conservation Area Management Plan Reviews and provides a good distribution of projects throughout the borough both in the urban and rural areas. All of the conservation areas have now been reviewed and plaques have been displayed throughout the conservation areas. Several enhancement schemes are the continuation of projects undertaken in last years programme at Desford, Markfield and on the Ashby Canal.

- 3.3 Appendix 2 outlines the progress made on the projects included in the 2012/13 programme and the net cost to HBBC of the programme is outlined below:

|                        | Budget    | Actual    |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Approved Base Budget   | £66,900   | £40,084   |
| External contributions | (£20,000) | (£10,225) |
| C/fwd request          |           | £15,177   |
| NET HBBC BUDGET        | £46,900   | £45,036   |

##### GUIDELINES FOR PRIORITISING SCHEMES

- 3.4 The agreed guidelines approved by members for prioritising schemes are set out below:

- (a) Implement schemes identified in the Authority's Conservation Area Management Plan Reviews,
- (b) Schemes that generate significant amounts of external funding, or be supported by partnerships involving private sector funding,
- (c) Complete or complement schemes undertaken in previous years' programmes
- (d) Contribute to the Strategic objectives of the Local Authority to provide an attractive environment.
- (e) Be implemented on public owned or private accessible land
- (f) Be in areas which have not yet benefited significantly in previous years' programmes
- (g) Voluntary organisations are given priority for undertaking appropriate projects providing the work meets the selection guidelines outlined in sub paragraphs (a) to (f).

#### 4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Dme)**

- 4.1 The council approved a net budget of £35,000 for 2013/2014 (Expenditure of £50,000 of which £15,000 is to be externally funded). However, the attached appendix 1 outlines the cost of the implementation of the schemes at £53,374 and £18,433 to be externally funded. The net cost to HBBC is £34,941 which is within the approved budget of £35,000. The additional £3,374 expenditure budget and £3,433 income budget will need to be approved in accordance with the council financial procedure rules.

#### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

- 5.1 None raised directly by this report

#### 6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report contributes to the following Strategic Aims and Objectives of the Council

Strategic Aim – Proud of our achievements for the Community

Strategic Objective – Secure a healthy, safe, respectful and attractive environment

- 6.2 The report also contributes towards the Community Plan Objective of:

'Protecting our environment, relevant aims, heritage - protecting and enhancing the Borough's heritage'.



7. **CONSULTATION**

7.1 Consultations will take place on each project on an individual officer basis with parish councils and other interested parties.

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

8.1

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

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Projects put forward in the Environmental Improvement Programme are generally spread over the whole of the Borough and includes the rural area.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

- Community Safety Implications – Yes, Improving lighting and the environment will contribute reducing the fear of crime and disorder
- Environmental Implications – Yes, Protecting and enhancing the Borough’s Heritage
- ICT Implications – None directly arising from this report
- Asset Management Implications – None directly arising from this report
- Human Resources Implications – None directly arising from this report

---

Contact Officer: Alan Davies, Project Manager ext. 5916

This page is intentionally left blank

**APPENDIX 1 : SCHEMES PROGRAMMED FOR IMPLEMENTATION 2013/14**

| Ref No | Location Ward/Parish                   | Member/ Parish Council Suggestion | Scheme identified in Conservation Area Management Plan | Scheme  | Remarks  | Estimated Cost of Project | Gross Cost to HBBC | Anticipated External Contributions | Net Cost to HBBC |
|--------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 0/1    | Boroughwide Project                    |                                   |  | Financial contributions for the Borough's conservation areas towards the rebuilding/provision of new stone walls/iron railings, the re-roofing of properties with traditional materials and the reinstatement of chimney stacks and pots. | This project is proving very successful in helping to retain / provide traditional features in the Borough's conservation areas.   | £5,000                    | £5,000             | £2,500                             | £2,500           |
| 0/2    | Bridge 53, Ashby Canal                 |                                   | Yes  | Restoration of towpath steps.   | There have been complaints that the access steps from the highway to the towpath at Bridge 53 are in poor condition due to rainwater running off the highway and down the steps. To date, the first stage of the project, the installation of kerbing & road drainage has been carried out in partnership with Leicestershire County Council. It is now proposed to complete the project with the restoration of the steps to be carried out by the Conservation Volunteers. | £900                      | £900               |                                    | £900             |
| 0/3    | Gopsall Wharf, Ashby Canal             |                                   |  | This project is a partnership scheme with the Canal & River Trust, Ashby Canal Association, Crown Estates & the Borough Council   | It is proposed to dredge the canal near the moorings, place signs along the adjacent wood to restrict entry, resurface the car park with gravel and provide seating.   | £1,300                    | £1,300             |                                    | £1,300           |
| 0/4    | Bridge 57, Ashby Canal                 |                                   |  | Repairs to the Bridge 57  | Part of the bridge's buttress & parapet wall have been vandalised. It is proposed to provide the materials, the Canal & River Trust will undertake the re-construction work.   | £308                      | £308               |                                    | £308             |
| 4/1    | Horsepool, Church Street, Burbage      |                                   | Yes  | Installation of 3 heritage street lights at the Horsepool   | The installation of the 3 lights will complete heritage lighting on the Horsepool.   | £7,600                    | £7,600             | £4,200                             | £3,400           |
| 4/2    | St Catherines Churchyard, Burbage      |                                   | Yes  | Restoration of chest tomb   | Part of an ongoing programme to restore important tombs sited in churchyards. The work involves the taking up and relaying the tomb stones and replacing ferrous fixings that are damaging the stonework, with stainless steel dowels and cramps.  | £2,260                    | £2,260             |                                    | £2,260           |
| 4/3    | Burbage Conservation Area              |                                   | Yes  | Installation of heritage street nameplates throughout the Burbage Conservation Area.  | This is a continuation of last years project to install heritage street nameplates over the whole of the conservation area.  | £4,470                    | £4,470             | £2,235                             | £2,235           |
| 9/1    | Grobby Conservation Area               |                                   | Yes  | Installation of 10 heritage street nameplates throughout the Grobby Conservation Area.  | The Parish Council is designing its own crest to be used on the nameplates.  | £1,596                    | £1,596             | £798                               | £798             |
| 11/1   | Queens Park, Hinckley                  | Yes                               |  | Installation of heritage street light   | Proposed to replace the last remaining light along the path fronting Queen's Park Terrace with a heritage light.   | £2,800                    | £2,800             | £600                               | £2,200           |
| 11/2   | Old Plough Inn, Hinckley               |                                   |  | Installation of information board   | Contribution towards the installation of an information board that will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Century Theatre.   | £300                      | £300               |                                    | £300             |
| 11/3   | Wykin Gate                             | Yes                               |  | Restoration of iron gate that was gifted to the Borough Council. The gate was made by the local artist, Arthur Tomlin, to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee and was originally sited at Corner House Farm, Wykin.                    | The gate has now had minor repairs carried out and been shot blasted and primed. The pupils at Redmoor High School have repainted the gate as a school project and discussions are now taking place as to where the gate should be sited.  | £240                      | £240               |                                    | £240             |
| 11/4   | Hollycroft Conservation Area, Hinckley |                                   | Yes  | Installation of two heritage street lights.   | It is proposed to replace two existing street lights on Shakespeare Drive fronting Hollycroft Park with heritage lights.   | £5,600                    | £5,600             | £1,200                             | £4,400           |

|                          |                                  |  |     |   |  |                |                |                |                |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----|---|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 15/1                     | Newbold Verdon Conservation Area |  |     | Installation of heritage street nameplates throughout the Newbold Verdon Conservation Area. | It is proposed to install 8 heritage street nameplates in the Conservation Area. Newbold Verdon will need to decide on the crest to be used on the nameplates. | £1,000         | £1,000         | £500           | £500           |
| 18/1                     | Ratby                            |  |     | Installation of heritage nameplates along footpaths   | The Ratby Local History Group has suggested a couple more footpaths for signing.   | £800           | £800           |                | £800           |
| 19/1                     | Bilstone Conservation Area       |  | Yes | Installation of two heritage street lights.   | It is proposed to replace the two existing street lights in the conservation area with heritage lights.  | £5,600         | £5,600         | £3,200         | £2,400         |
| 20/1                     | Sheepy Road, Sibson              |  | Yes | Installation of two heritage street lights.   | It is proposed to replace two existing street lights in the conservation area with heritage lights.  | £5,600         | £5,600         | £3,200         | £2,400         |
|                          |                                  |  |     | Project Manager's costs   |  | £8,000         | £8,000         |                | £8,000         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b> |                                  |  |     |   |  | <b>£53,374</b> | <b>£53,374</b> | <b>£18,433</b> | <b>£34,941</b> |

**APPENDIX 2**

**END OF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2012-13**

| <b>Ref No</b> | <b>Location</b>                            | <b>Scheme</b>  | <b>Remarks</b>  | <b>Status</b>        |
|---------------|--|--|---|----------------------|
| 0/1           | Bridge 53 Ashby Canal                      | Refurbishment work to canal towpath steps  | The 1st phase of this project has now been completed. The Borough Council together with Leicestershire County Council installed kerbing and a road gully to prevent storm water washing away the towpath steps. Repairs to the steps have been placed in the 2013/14 Programme. | 1st Phase Completed  |
| 0/2           | Ashby Canal                                | Installation of conservation area plaques  | Plaques have been installed along the canal.  | Project Completed    |
| 4/1           | Coronation Gardens, Church Street, Burbage | Re-kerbing of open space with traditional granite kerbing  | Scheme to replace crazy paving with granite kebing and re-surface a section of the footpath.  | Project Completed    |
| 4/2           | Church Street, Burbage                     | Two projects to relay pavers around a tree and kebing on a small traffic island  | The pavers around a tree were being lifted and becoming a trip hazard. The kerbing on a small traffic island was being moved by tree roots.   | Project Completed    |
| 4/3           | Horsepool, Burbage                         | Installation of a heritage street lighting column  | The heritage light has now been installed inside the Horsepool Open Space.  | Project Completed    |
| 4/4           | Burbage Conservation Area                  | Installation of 2 heritage street nameplates   | These have been installed at the Grove Road/Hinckley Road/Church Street junction.   | Project Completed    |
| 4/5           | St Catherine's Church, Burbage             | Rebuilding of damaged churchyard wall  | The stone churchyard wall was damaged recently by a cedar and yew tree. The repair work has been ordered and work can proceed when faculty approval has been given.   | Project Ongoing      |
| 5/1           | Rectory Lane, Cadeby                       | Removal of ivy from boundary wall and clearing of highway verge  | The Ivy has been removed and the highway verge cleared. However, a section of the wall has been found to be in a dangerous condtion and talks are in hand with the owners' agent to address the problem.  | Project ongoing      |
| 7/1           | Baptist Burial Ground, Desford             | Improvements to entrance into burial ground  | Concrete slabs have been replaced with traditional brick retaining walls.   | Project Completed    |
| 11/1          | Queen's Park Hinckley                      | Installation of 2 heritage street lighting columns   | The heritage lights have been installed, however, the old street lights are still awaiting removal.   | Project Ongoing      |
| 11/2          | Village Green, Wykin                       | Restoration and relocation of an iron gate that was made by the local artist, Arthur Tomlin, to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee | The gate has been restored as a school project by pupils of Redmoor High School. A decision now needs to be taken as to where the restored gate is to be sited. This has been placed in 2013/14 Programme.  | 1st Phase Completed. |
| 11/3          | Gladstone/Davenport Terrace, Hinckley      | Improvements to the carriageways   | Numerous potholes on the two roads that were an eyesore and danger to pedestrians and road users have been filled.  | Project Completed    |
| 11/4          | Castle Street, Hinckley                    | Re-placement tree in the Hinckley Town Centre Conservation Area  | This project was to re-place a dead tree close to the junction of Castle Street & New Buildings   | Project Completed    |

| <b>Ref No</b> | <b>Location</b>                               | <b>Scheme</b>  | <b>Remarks</b>   | <b>Status</b>     |
|---------------|---|--|--|-------------------|
| 13/1          | The Nook, Markfield                           | Installation of 2 heritage street lighting columns                         | The heritage lights have been installed.   | Project Completed |
| 13/2          | Markfield Conservation Area                   | Display of 2 information boards and publishing of historical leaflet.      | Historical information from the Markfield Local History Group has recently been received and will be the subject of the information board & leaflet. | Project Ongoing   |
| 13/3          | The Green, Markfield                          | The siting of a traditional water pump                                     | The water pump has now been installed  | Project Completed |
| 16/1          | Osbaston Conservation Area                    | Installation of conservation area plaques                                  | Plaques have now been installed throughout the Conservation Area.  | Project Completed |
| 18/1          | St. Philip & St. James Church, Ratby          | Re-building of granite churchyard wall within the Ratby Conservation Area. | The section granite retaining wall that was starting to bulge dangerously has been re-built  | Project Completed |
| 18/2          | Fronting the Chemist Shop, Main Street, Ratby | Re-building of stone wall  | Work on re-building the stone wall has started.  | Project Ongoing   |
| 18/3          | Berry's Lane, Ratby                           | Construction of new face to wall   | The wall was an eyesore on Berry's Lane. Damaged bricks have been replaced in one of its piers and the wall rendered.                                | Project Completed |
| 20/1          | St Peter's Churchyard, Shackerstone           | Restoration of churchyard chest tomb                                       | Faculty approval has recently been given. Work on the tomb to commence when the weather improves.  | Project Ongoing   |
| 20/2          | Bilstone Conservation Area                    | Installation of conservation area plaques                                  | Plaques have now been installed throughout the Conservation Area.  | Project Completed |
| 24/1          | Orton on the Hill Conservation Area           | Installation of conservation area plaques                                  | Plaques have now been installed throughout the Conservation Area.  | Project Completed |

## SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 9 MAY 2013

### REPORT OF PUBLIC SPACE MANAGER RE: PARISH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FOR 2013/2014

#### WARDS AFFECTED: ALL PARISH WARDS



#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request Scrutiny approve the allocation of grants through the Parish and Community Initiative Fund 2013/14.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That Scrutiny Commission supports the funding allocations of £84,382, as detailed in section 4, from the Parish and Community Initiative Fund 2013.

2.2 That Scrutiny Commission supports the allocation of additional funding (£20,000) to super fast broadband as detailed in 4.5 and 5.2 in this report.

#### 3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

3.1 Since 2005 the Parish Community Initiative Fund has distributed over £665,000 towards 146 schemes to local parishes or voluntary organisations.

3.2 In 2012/13 the scheme received 32 applications from across the Borough and a total of £93,302 was awarded to 28 schemes

#### 4. APPLICATIONS FOR 2013/14

4.1 The table in Appendix 1 of this report provides an objective scoring summary of the assessments made of all the applications by the Public Space Team.

4.2 The assessment panel then determined grants to be allocated. This panel consisted of Caroline Roffey – Public Space Manager, Edwina Grant – Strategic and Community Planning Officer, Paul Scragg – Senior Public Space Officer, Jackie Lee - Public Space officer and Chris Pocock - Public Space Officer.

4.3 The maximum amount of funding available to each Parish is £10,000. The grant will fund a maximum of 50% of the project costs. Each applicant must seek support from their Parish Council and Borough Councillor. Only capital items are funded, the lowest submitted quote has been used to calculate the maximum eligible grant.

26 applications have been received requesting a total of £111,840.

4.4 Based on the information in Appendix 1 the assessment panel recommends funding the following schemes totalling £84,382: (Applications are set out in alphabetical order by parish and parish name is given in brackets)

1. Church Handrail Installation - St Peter's Church Thornton (Bagworth and Thornton).

Outline: Installation of a supportive handrail along tarmac path to church entrance to improve access for users.

Recommended grant: £500

2. Meeting Point Community Space – Elohim Church (Barlestone).

- Outline: Rebuilding of dilapidated outbuildings to provide an additional community building for people of all ages.  
Recommended grant: £3,910
3. Exercise for All – Barlestone Parish Council (Barlestone).  
Outline: Installation of outdoor fitness equipment at Bosworth Road Park Barlestone.  
Recommended grant: £6,090
  4. Low maintenance landscaping scheme – George Ward Centre (Barwell).  
Outline: Landscaping of part of the grounds of the George Ward Centre to create a more maintenance friendly area.  
Recommended grant: £1,224
  5. Pathway Improvements at Kirkby Road – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell).  
Outline: Renewal of the cemetery pathways at Kirkby Road Cemetery.  
Recommended grant: £1,036
  6. New tarmac footpath – Burbage Parish Council (Burbage).  
Outline: The installation of a new tarmac footpath at Hinckley Road Recreation ground to create a circular path around the whole site to improve access.  
Recommended grant: £9,250
  7. Development Plan for repairs at All Saint’s Church – Cadeby Parish Council (Cadeby).  
Outline: Production of a Development Plan which will enable phase 2 works to carry out large scale works to the church.  
Recommended grant: £5,767
  8. Resiting of Tennis Court Gate – Desford Lawn Tennis Club (Desford).  
Outline: Put in a new gate and entrance to the tennis courts to allow safer and easier access for all.  
Recommended grant: £450
  9. Mural on Community Garden Wall - Desford Free Church (Desford).  
Outline: The designing and painting of a mural with a youth group on the garden wall.  
Recommended grant: £300
  10. Access improvements at Sports Club Car Park – Sport in Desford (Desford).  
Outline: Refurbishment of the sports clubs car park and entrance to improve access.  
Recommended grant: £5,000
  11. New Camping Equipment for Scout Group – Desford Scout Group (Desford).  
Outline: New tents, a trailer, camping chairs and tables and cooking equipment for scouting expeditions.  
Recommended grant: £3,820
  12. Mill Lane Cemetery Pergola, Benches and Planters – Earl Shilton Town Council (Earl Shilton).  
Outline: The installation of new planters at Mill Lane Cemetery, together with new seating and a pergola.  
Recommended grant: £1669
  13. Scout Hut Improvements – Groby 73<sup>rd</sup> Scout Group (Groby).  
Outline: The improvement and renovation of the toilets to allow use by girls and to create a disabled toilet.



Recommended grant: £5000

14. The Garden of Remembrance – Groby Parish Council (Groby).  
Outline: The creation of a new garden of remembrance at Groby Village Cemetery.  
Recommended grant: £5000
15. Parish Hall Annex Development – Market Bosworth Hall Management Committee (Market Bosworth).  
Outline: Development of a new annex at Market Bosworth Parish Hall to include new office space, meeting rooms and toilet facilities.  
Recommended grant: £7,000
16. Football and Cricket Drainage works – Market Bosworth Sports and Social Club. (Market Bosworth).  
Outline: The installation of drainage at the club ground to improve pitch quality.  
Recommended grant: £3,000
17. New Skate Park – Markfield Parish Council (Markfield)  
Outline: The installation of a new state of the art concrete skate park at Mayflower Close recreation ground.  
Recommended grant: £10,000
18. Replacement of Leaded Windows – Nailstone Parochial Church Council (Nailstone)  
Outline: The replacement of leaded windows and associated metal work to improve the church for use as a community building.  
Recommended grant £630
19. Renewal of Parish Notice Boards – Newbold Verdon Parish Council (Newbold Verdon)  
Outline: The replacement of 6 parish notice boards within Newbold Verdon.  
Recommended grant: £830
20. Hard surfacing for Basketball area – Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton)  
Outline: New hard surface area around basketball hoop at Kirkby Mallory recreation ground to allow all year round use.  
Recommended grant: £2,493
21. Entrance Improvements at Ferndale Community Park – Ratby Parish Council (Ratby)  
Outline: Improvements to the entrance of Ferndale Park to help with access and antisocial behaviour issues.  
Recommended grant: £1,743
22. Replacement of Carpet in Main Hall – Without Walls Christian Fellowship (Stanton under Bardon)  
Outline: The replacement of a dilapidated carpet in the main hall following works to replace the rotten flooring.  
Recommended grant: £1,275
23. Outdoor Gym and Fitness Trail – Stoke Golding Parish Council (Stoke Golding)  
Outline: Phase 2 works at Stoke Golding recreation ground to provide an outdoor fitness and gym trail.  
Recommended grant: £4,995
24. New Kitchen at Twycross Village Hall – Twycross Village Hall (Twycross)

Outline: Remove the old kitchen and replace all units, tiles and floor at the village hall.

Recommended grant: £2,900

25. Insulation works at Village Hall – Norton Juxta Twycross Village Hall institute (Twycross)

Outline: Loft insulation and draft proofing at the village hall.

Recommended grant: £500

The Assessment panel recommends **rejecting** the following application:

1. Gravel Path upgrade at Park Street Memorial Gardens – Market Bosworth Parish Council (Market Bosworth)

Outline: Resurfacing of gravel paths at Memorial Gardens.

Rationale: 3 applications were received from Market Bosworth requesting a total of £17,395. The criteria for this grant specify only £10,000 per parish and the panel felt the two other applications offered better overall community benefit and scored more highly on overall grant criteria.

- 4.5 Members will be aware that the Council has committed £40,000 towards the provision of superfast broadband across the county. The Executive is wishing to increase that funding allocation and has suggested that any money legitimately not utilized from this year could be allocated to this provision. As a result, therefore, the Executive could consider utilizing the £15,000 of funding unallocated this year, along with £5,000 from next years PCIF allocation, to commit an additional £20,000 (a total of £60,000) towards improvements in super fast rural broadband provision.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (TO)**

- 5.1 The total Capital budget for 2013/14 is £100,000. The total grants recommended for approval is £84,382.

There are 3 grants totaling £7,762, which were approved for 2012/13 where projects have been delayed. These will be completed in 2013/14. A further grant of £12,000 awarded to Bagworth and Thornton Parish Council in 2011/12 has also been delayed and a further 6 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 has been granted for the completion of this project. A request to carry forward this budget under spend into the year 2013/14 will be submitted as part of the year end process. These are: George Ward Centre Play area safety surfacing £1,212, Bagworth and Thornton Old Colliery Sport Ground £2550, Higham-on-the-Hill St Peter's Church Toilets £4,000 and Bagworth and Thornton Community Centre Renovation £12,000.

- 5.2 To allow for the carry forward of the 4 projects the capital budget will be increased by £19,762. Additionally, the 2013/14 budget will be reduced by £15,618 to reflect the approved allocations in the year. However, if Executive approve the £15,000 allocation towards the superfast broadband provision the reduction will be £618. For 2013/14 this will result in a revised programme budget of £119,144. If approved, these budget revisions will form part of the year end accounting process.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

- 6.1 None raised directly by this report

7. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Parish & Community Initiative fund supports parishes and community groups to achieve the aims and objectives of the Corporate Performance Plan to:

- Cleaner and greener neighbourhoods

- Safer and healthier borough
- Strong and distinctive communities

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

No significant risks identified

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

All grants are awarded to the rural areas, and parish council support is sought for each application.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications - some schemes will require planning consent
- Voluntary Sector

---

Background papers: Appendix 1 attached

Contact Officer: Paul Scragg – Senior Public Space Officer x5983

Executive Member: Cllr B Crooks – Executive Member for Rural Issues

This page is intentionally left blank

**SCRUTINY – 9 MAY 2013**

**DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT UPDATE**  
**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY**  
**DIRECTION)**



Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

*A Borough to be proud of*

**ALL WARDS**

---

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the progress made to improve the service delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's). To show the work being undertaken to forecast demand and develop a range of options to assist with financial management and planning. To inform members of the challenges faced in the delivery of the DFG programme.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members:

- a) Note the achievement of the Private Sector Housing Team in reducing the time taken to process grant applications whilst maintaining a high standard of delivery.
- b) Consider the impact of an aging population and the future demand for adaptations within HBBC.
- c) Acknowledge the lack of control / influence that HBBC has on the referral rate and criteria set by Leicestershire County Council Social Care Services (SCS) for the initial Occupational Therapist (OT) assessment.
- d) Support the work being undertaken to improve delivery time of DFG's and on the exploration of alternative solutions which allow for more timely installation of adaptations.
- e) Acknowledge that the DFG process is rigid, but the outputs always have to be flexible.
- f) Note that Papworth Trust Home Solutions (PTHS) is the new Home Improvement Agency operating in Leicestershire.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 DFG's are Mandatory and each Local Housing Authority has a duty to provide them. Funding is provided by Central Government however due to the level of demand Local Authorities must also make a contribution. In recent years the Private Sector Housing Team have been successful in securing additional funding which have supplemented this core funding. Historically the internal funding stream has always remained fairly constant but the external funding has been more variable.
- 3.2 The DFG process involves a number of agencies and is inherently bureaucratic. The benefits are often difficult to measure and any savings made are usually overshadowed by constant increases in demand or the requirement for more complex schemes.
- 3.3 **The challenges facing the DFG delivery programme:**

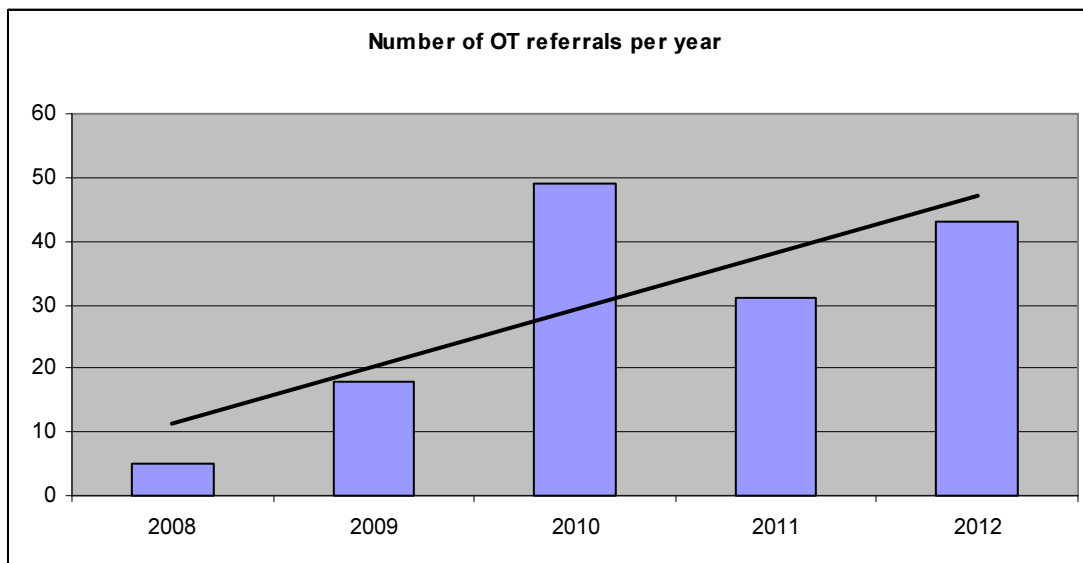
- The referral process is via SCS, HBBC have no control over how long people are waiting for the initial assessment with an OT.
- Determining future demand is very difficult as HBBC have no control of the assessment criteria used by SCS at the referral stage.
- Each of the organisations involved in the process have their own ways of working and it is sometimes difficult to obtain consensus and change in work practices.
- The process has evolved over time and is a heavily prescribed by legislation and statutory instruments, leaving very little scope for innovation or creativity.
- The customers who request assistance usually require the adaptation immediately and Private Sector Housing Team are investigating ways to make the experience better and appear less bureaucratic whilst still fulfilling the statutory obligations.
- The financial burden of this capital programme is substantial and any supplementary funding streams identified or obtained from partners are unpredictable and usually available at short notice and with conditions.
- Working with The Papworth Trust to provide holistic solutions for customers of whom the DFG forms part of the solution.
- The customer has a right to choose when to have the work carried out within a 12 month period from the date of approval. This can affect which financial year the allocated funding is spent.
- The Council must approve a grant within a 6 Month period to consider the application. The Council cannot delay an approval because of an increase in demand or a lack of funding.
- HBBC doesn't currently operate a waiting list; having a waiting would leave the Council vulnerable to a judicial review challenge.

3.4 Whilst there are challenges to delivery, the timely processing of DFG applications is extremely important and has positive outcomes for the majority of customers who go through the process. These outcomes also impact on savings elsewhere such as Health and Social Care. Adaptations often reduce the risk of the client having an accident at home, resulting in fewer hospital admissions and incidentally family members needing to take fewer days off work to act as carers.

## 4.

### Demand

Figure 1



4.1 Fig 1 shows that year on year the number of OT referrals increase. The additional increase in 2010 was due to resources being allocated to clear a waiting list for OT assessment.

4.2 SCS carry out this assessment under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 Section 2(1). This legislation sets out the range of services that should be provided to meet the needs of the “disabled person” which includes help with work for adaptations to the home.

4.3 At present HBBC have no control or influence over the method or timing of the OT assessment. Currently the options being explored by Officers for the future management of referrals are shown below:

- Maintain the status quo and accept the fluctuations in referrals. This may result in no or a low number of referrals, if the OT’s have other priorities or are short staffed, alternatively there may be a significant increase in referrals e.g. 2010 when the OT’s obtained additional resources to clear their waiting lists.
- Work with SCS to ensure that the criteria for DFG eligibility is known and that all eligible people are offered an assessment as this may be contrary to other eligibility criteria implemented at first point of contact. Further, to establish a method of sharing information in order to forecast future demand and referral rate.
- Employ a private OT to carryout DFG assessments on behalf of HBBC; this OT could also monitor ongoing cases to reduce delays between OT assessment and completion of works

## 5 Timescales

5.1 The series of tables below show the mean average length of time in days for DFG’s to be processed in HBBC, broken down by type of adaptation.

Figure 2

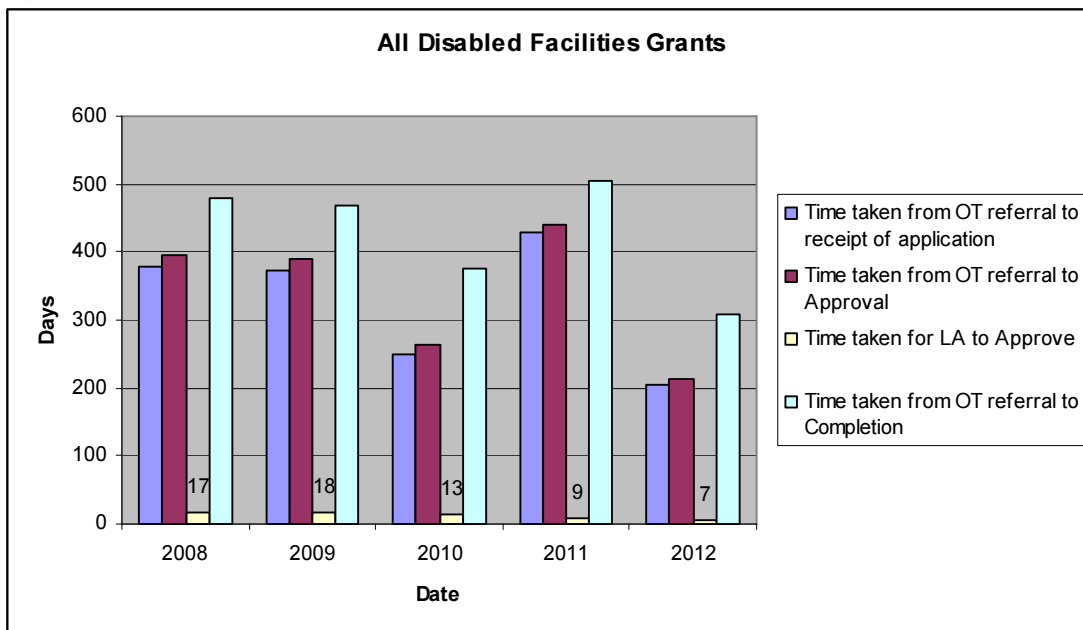


Figure 3

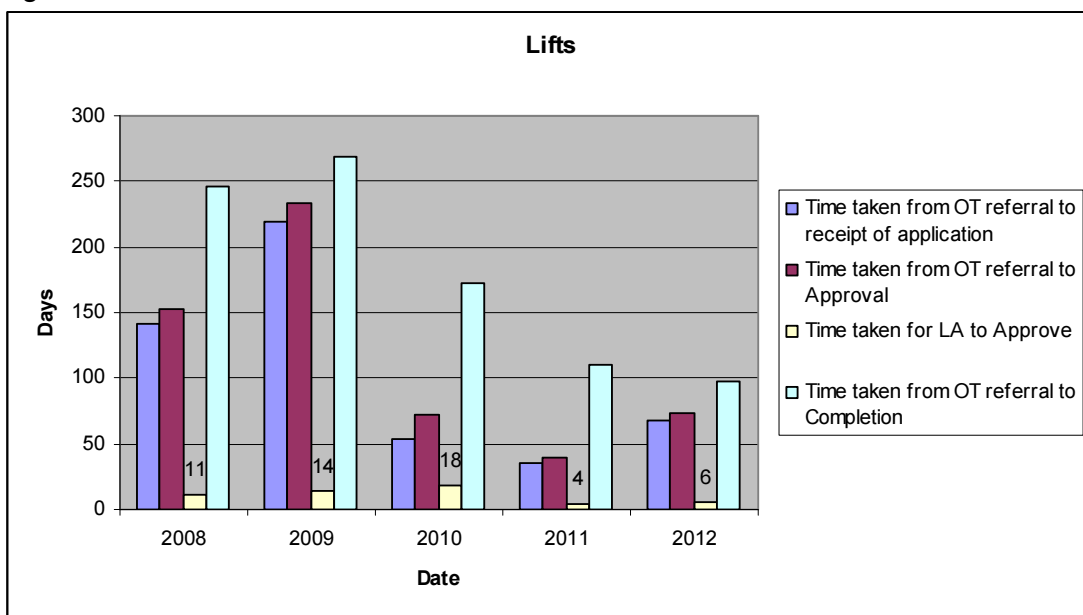




Figure 4

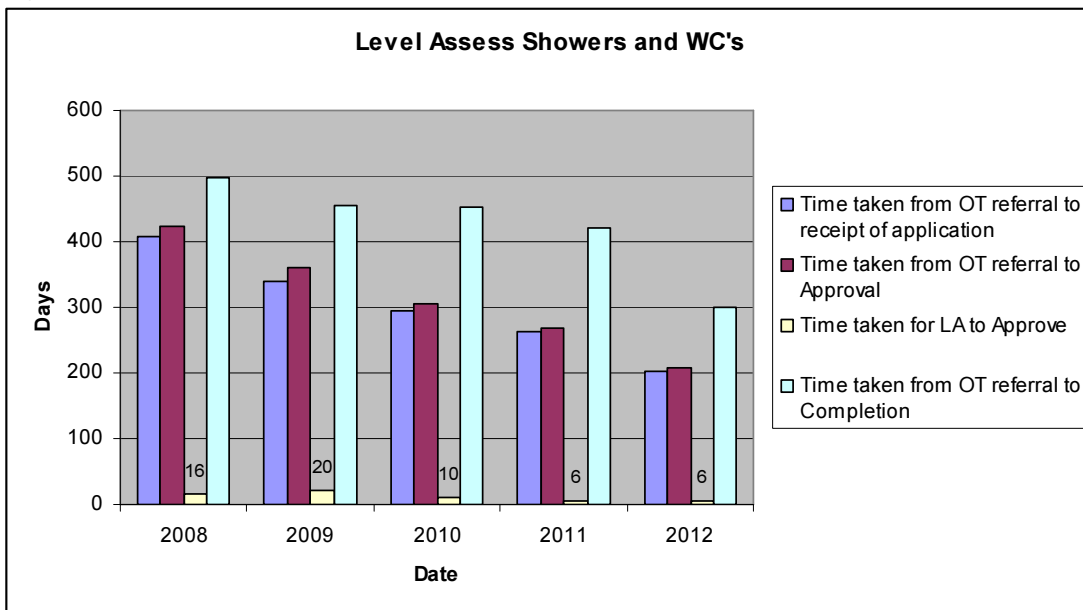


Figure 5

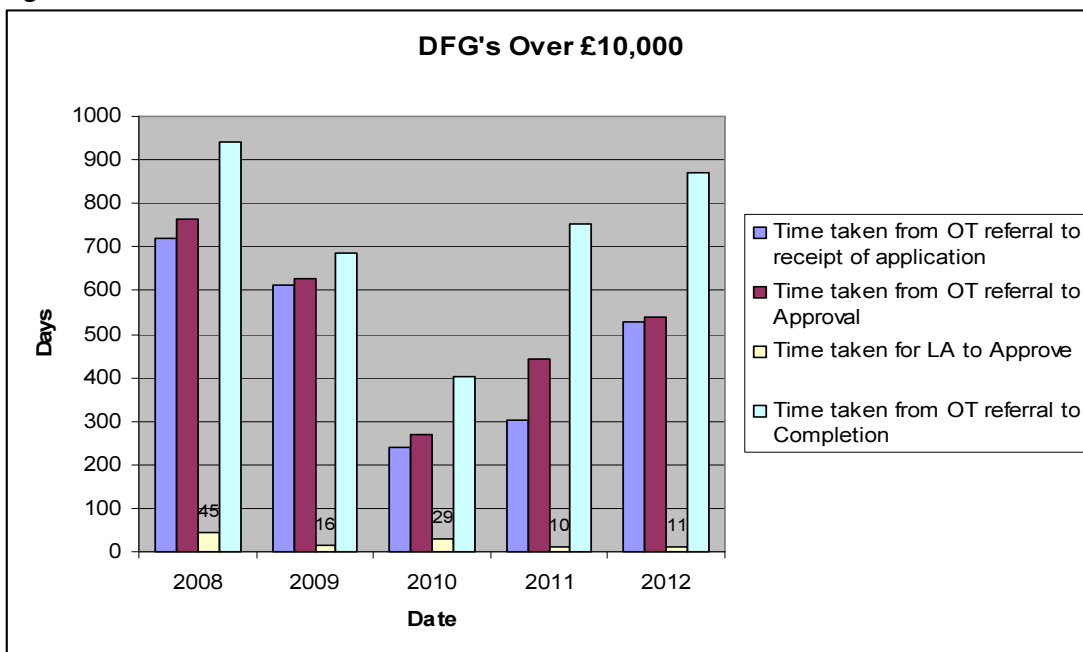
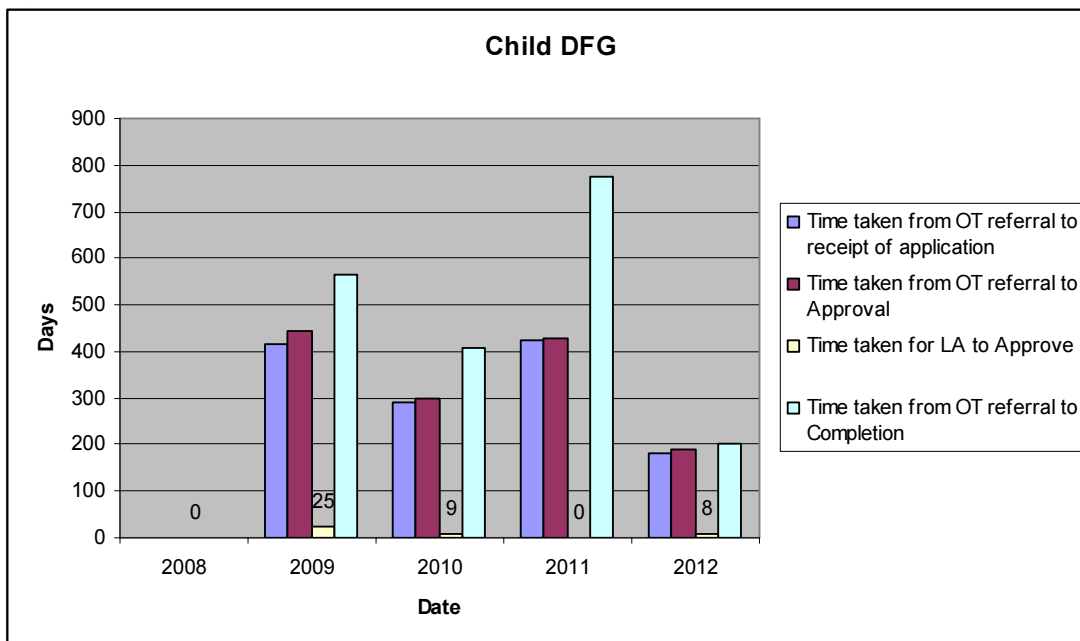


Figure 6



5.2 The tables above (Fig 2-6) show that the efficiencies put in place to reduce the time taken from receipt of an OT referral to completion of work have been successful with the exception of the cases where the cost of the works is over £10,000. This increase in delivery time was caused by a number of complex cases that were completed in 2012 prior to the termination of the previous HIA contract. This progress is encouraging and with the introduction of the new Home Improvement Agency, further efficiencies should be achieved.

## 6 Costs

6.1 The tables below (Fig 7-10) show that with the exception of lift installations the mean average cost year on year is reduced, this has largely been due to the current economic situation and construction prices being very competitive.

Figure 7

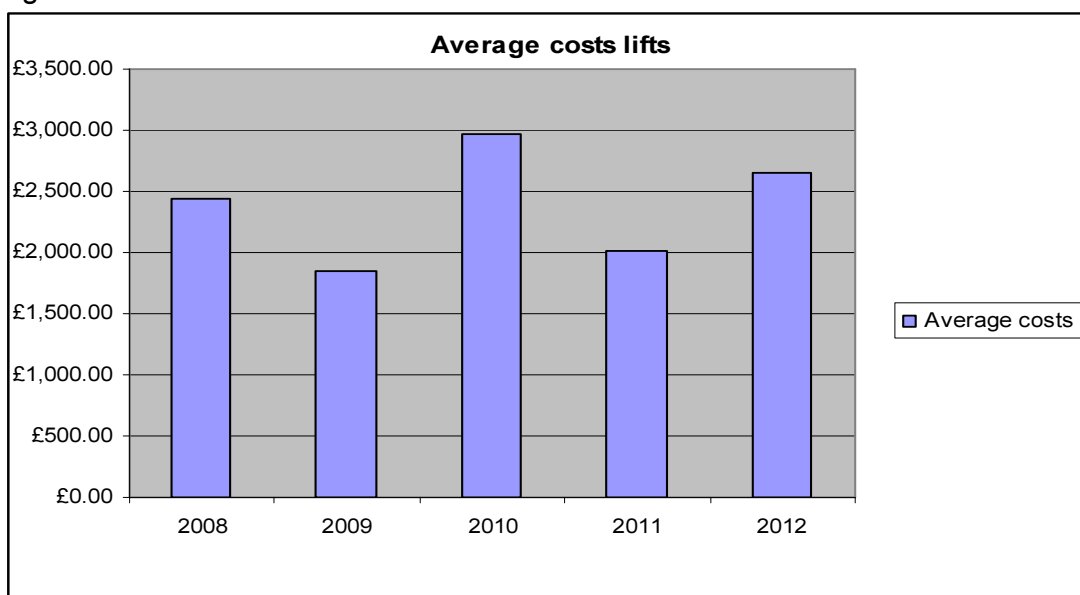


Figure 8

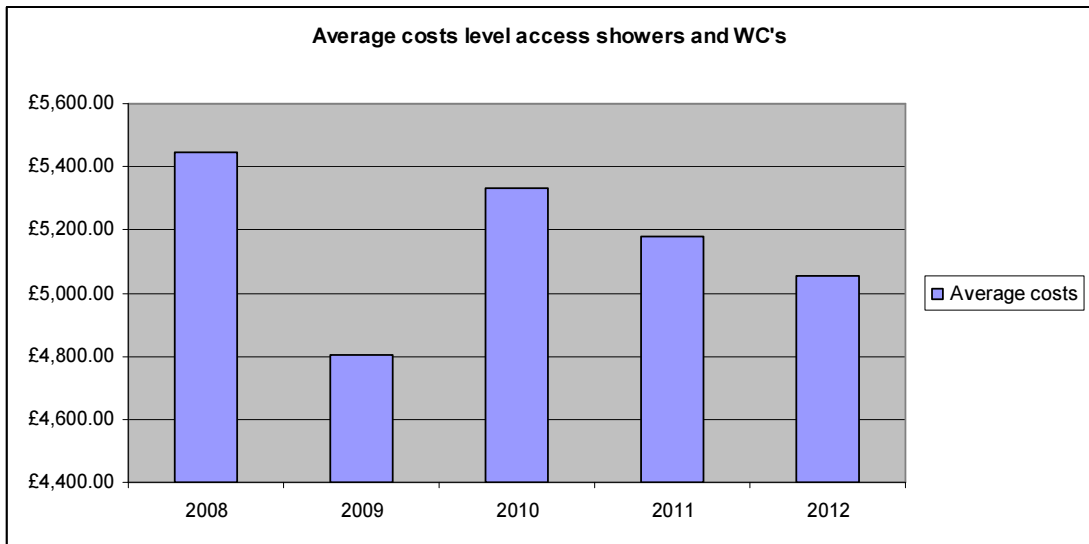
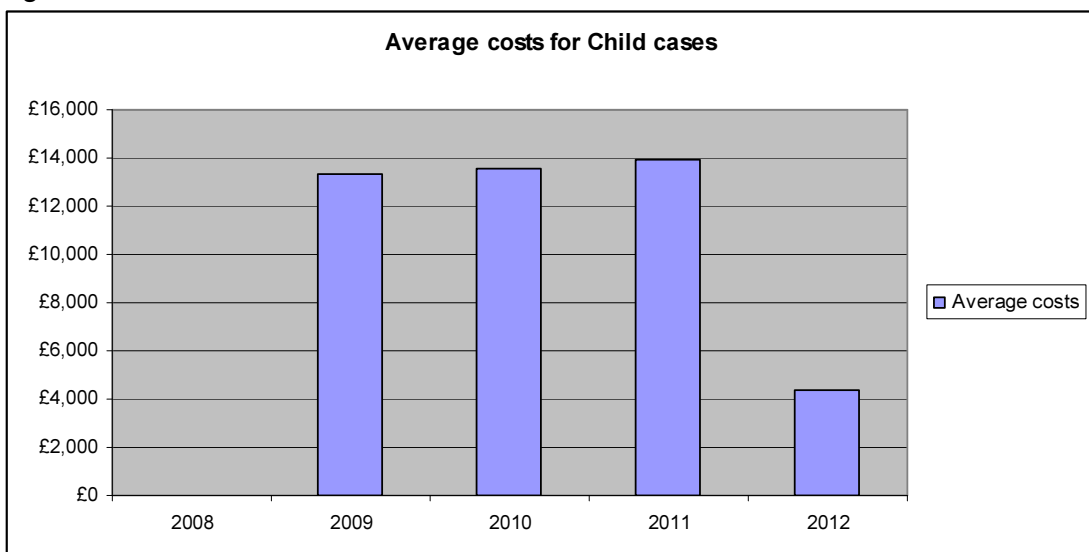


Figure 9



Figure 10



## **7 Funding**

7.1 In 2011/2012 the Private Sector Housing Team who administer the DFG programme, secured additional external funding from the Primary Care Trust. Decent Homes funding which was secured in 2010/11 was also used.

7.2 This additional external funding ensured that there were adequate funds available to deliver the DFG programme in 2011/2012. A carry forward of funds into the 2012/2013 financial year was also possible, due to the external funding contribution. However, due to the changes in the method of delivery during 2012/2013, this funding although committed, was not spent and has been carried forward to 2013/2014.

7.3 No additional external funding has been secured for the DFG programme 2014/15. This reduction in the overall DFG budget will need to be carefully managed either by obtaining additional external funding if available, by revising delivery methodology to obtain efficiencies, by an increased internal HBBC budget or with a combination of all of the above.

### **7.4 Future Funding Proposals**

7.5 Work has already started to profile the demand for DFG's locally for 2014/15 so that the budget requirement can be established; this will also allow HBBC to bid for additional external funding when opportunities are announced.

7.6 A report has been produced to demonstrate how the PCT funding in 2011/2012 was utilised, with a long term view of securing additional external resources from Health. (See appendix 1)

7.7 The Private Sector Housing Team are considering innovative solutions to DFG delivery, which should allow for more timely installations that are both cost effective for HBBC and also improve service delivery.

e.g. Officers are currently looking at the possibility of assisting customers at the point of discharge from Hospital with modular ramping. This would benefit:

- The customer, as they are able to attend out patient appointments etc...
- Assist Ambulance crews, ensuring their Health and Safety and reducing time taken.
- SCS and Health, as it reduces the duplication of installing a temporary ramp installed by Social Care and Health which may need to be replaced in the long term by a permanent ramp installed by HBBC.
- HBBC, additional funding may be available if we can demonstrate a tangible saving for our partners.

7.8 Private Sector Housing Team are also working with the SCS and The Papworth Trust to investigate more efficient ways of delivering the programme, to reduce the number of contacts encountered by customers and improving the procurement of works.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [IB]

- Expenditure and Funding for financial years 2008/09 to 2014/15 is summarised below:-

|                  | 2008/09  | 2009/10  | 2010/11  | 2011/12  |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Actual           | 236,492  | 496,537  | 351,851  | 487,987  |
| External Funding | -141,895 | -257,693 | -351,851 | -487,987 |
| HBBC             | 94,597   | 238,844  | 0        | 0        |

|                  | 2012/13  | 2013/14  | 2014/15  | 2015/16  |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Budgets          | 400,000  | 639,000  | 319,000  | 319,000  |
| External Funding | -253,739 | -174,000 | -174,000 | -174,000 |
| HBBC             | 146,261  | 465,000  | 145,000  | 145,000  |

The high level of HBBC funding for 2013/14 is as a result of additional external funding in 2010/11 and 2011/12 and the knock on effect of HBBC resources not being used. Budgets for 2013/14 to 2015/16 have been approved by Council in February 2013.

If the level of demand is above that budgeted additional external funding will need to be secured.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

Contained in the body of the report

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Thriving economy: Create small works construction employment in the local community.

Safer and healthier: DFG's create safer environments for the recipients making it less likely for hospital admission.

Decent, well managed affordable housing: The DFG, helps to make a property more suitable for the occupants, this contributes to making the property decent for a customers individual need.

7. CONSULTATION

Papworth Trust

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified

| Management of significant (Net Red) Risks                                   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| Risk Description  | Mitigating actions  | Owner          |
| Operating a waiting list for DFG's would leave HBBC open to Judicial Review | Reviewing costs and forecasting demand to gauge budget required. Working with partners to | Rosemary Leach |

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
|   | develop different ways of working.   |                |
| Workflow affected by partners, leading to under or overspends.    | Develop common policies with partners  | Rosemary Leach |
| Failure to deliver DFG's due to lack of funds                     | Bad publicity and possible additional cost incurred by partner organisations ie: Delayed Discharge   | Rosemary Leach |
| Considering the effect of the Market with regard to building cost | If the building industry picks up then costs may increase dramatically, effectively reducing the number of jobs completed within the budget. | Rosemary Leach |

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

Disabled Facilities Grants widen the choices and opportunities for people allowing them to a greater level of independence. Disabled Facilities Grants are carried out in all areas of the Borough homes in rural areas are also be adapted under the scheme.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

---

Background papers:

Contact Officer: Rosemary Leech  
Executive Member: Cllr Mullaney

# **Review of Disabled Adaptations in 2012 including those funded by Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT**

## **1. Introduction**

In late March 2012 Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT contributed £1m towards adaptations in Leicestershire & Rutland. By December 2012, all of the £1m had been spent on eligible adaptations throughout the County.

Disabled adaptations are carried out to eligible (usually vulnerable, low income) households to enable the recipient to remain safely in their own home. This may prevent them having to access more expensive services, for example hospital or care services. These adaptations are usually referred to as disabled facilities grants (DFGs).

The adaptations can also be preventative, for example installing a stair lift for an elderly person may prevent a fall.

The most common types of adaptations in Leicestershire are level access showers (LAS) and/or stairlifts, both of which can help to prevent falls.

## **2. The Benefits of an Adaptation for a Recipient**

It was agreed that the Leicestershire & Rutland Authorities would gather information from people who had received an adaptation in order to assess the benefits to the wider health and social care community of the PCT contributing to the adaptation fund.

Research has established that in 2000 the University of York produced a report on The Economic Cost of Hip Fracture in the UK. It concluded that the cost of an individual hip fracture at that time was calculated to be £25,424. (Appendix 1).

In addition Officers are aware of the positive feedback received from grateful recipients of grant funding.

In order to get ongoing information around the benefits of investment in housing adaptations it was decided to ask all adaptation recipients in 2012, to complete an evaluation form. The information in this report is based on adaptations done between April and December 2012 and considers whether the adaptation improved their;

- quality of life
- quality of health
- independence
- level of comfort and
- wellbeing.

A postal survey was carried out in all but Hinckley and Bosworth, who used a telephone survey to obtain results. In addition customers were asked to say if the adaptation had improved their life in any other ways. The comments made are of great value to the study. A copy of the questionnaire is attached at appendix 2.

### 3. Results

3.1 Throughout Leicestershire 209 questionnaires were completed. The number returned approximates to the amount of funding in each Authority and the number of adaptations carried out.

| Authority           | Number of Questionnaires returned |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Blaby               | 57                                |
| Charnwood           | 48                                |
| Harborough          | 13                                |
| Hinckley & Bosworth | 16                                |
| Melton              | 20                                |
| North West Leics.   | 17                                |
| Oadby & Wigston     | 27                                |
| Rutland             | 10                                |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>209</b>                        |

3.2 Below in a Figure 1 is the analysis of the types of adaptation carried out at the respondent's property.

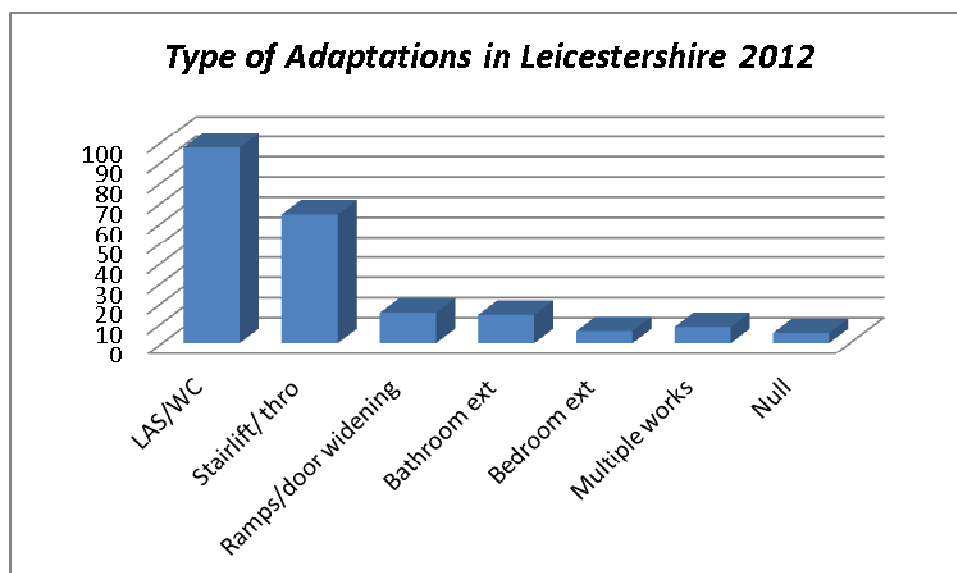


FIGURE 1

It can be seen that level access shower (LAS) and toilet adaptations are required most and lifts (primarily stairlifts, but this also includes through floor lifts) are also frequently needed.



3.3 Figure 2 below shows the results the percentage of respondents who thought the adaptation had improved their life in each of five ways.

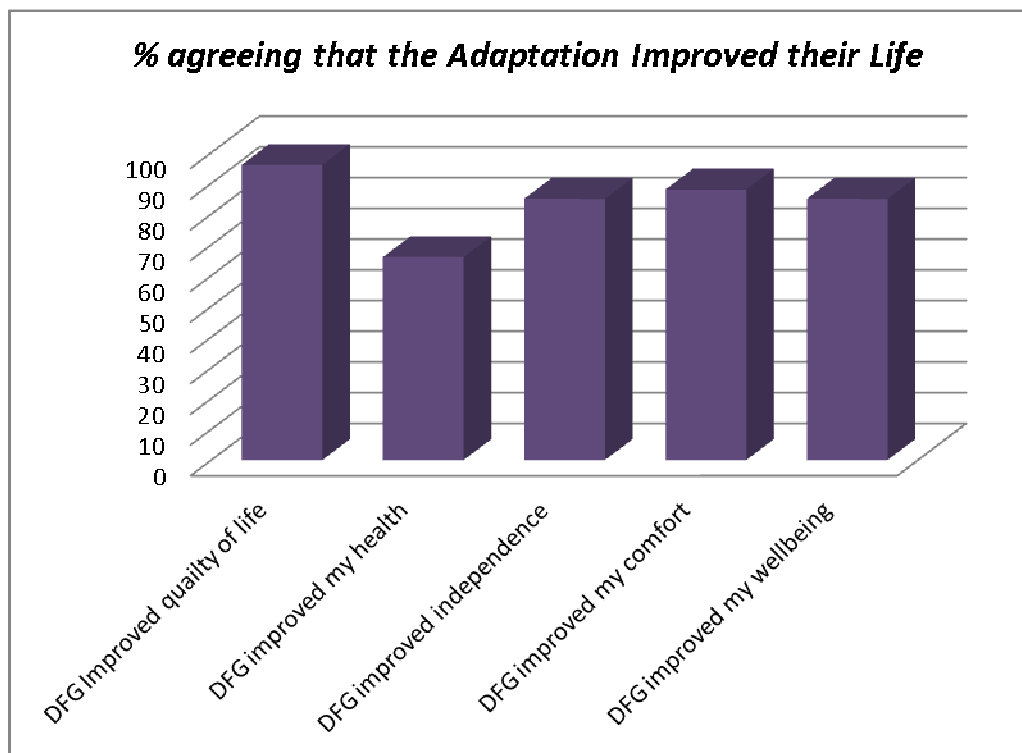


FIGURE 2

### Column 1

96% of respondents claimed that the adaptation improved their quality of life, for example; ***“The adaptation has given me dignity and privacy”***. A further 0.7% responded that the adaptation hadn’t improved their quality of life but qualified this in that the stairlift had not suited them as they were unable to get off it safely and another that the stairlift was not functioning at the time of responding.

The respondents were then asked to state by what % the adaptation had improved their quality of life. One third of respondents answered this and the average was **it had improved their quality of life by 81%**. It needs to be determined if there is an easier way to elicit this information in future.

### Column 2

66% of respondents stated the adaptation improved their health. This may be explained that whilst an adaptation may make life easier, it is less likely to actually improve their health. As an example; following installation of a stairlift one recipient stated ***“I no longer get breathless”***, the recipient no longer has to exert themselves getting up stairs rather than the adaptation actually making breathing easier.

12% responded to whether the adaptation had improved their health and the average was **it had improved their health by 69%**.

### Column 3

85% of respondents said the adaptation had improved their independence; ***“my carer no longer has to dice with death to get me up/down stairs BEST ASPECTS - given me back some freedom”***.

25% responded to whether the adaptation had improved their independence and the average was **it had improved their independence by 78%**.

### Column 4

88% of respondents maintained that the adaptation had improved their comfort ***“Can manoeuvre around parkhome without bashing myself against doors. Less restricted in own home”***.

26% responded to whether the adaptation had improved their comfort and the average was **it had improved their comfort by 83%**. This is the best result.

### Column 5

85% of respondents confirmed that the adaptation had improved their wellbeing ***“It has taken away the pressure and stress of climbing in and out of the bath”***.

26% responded to whether the adaptation had improved their wellbeing and the average was **it had improved their wellbeing by 75%**.

- 3.4 The results for individual authorities were fairly typical of the results overall. The only notable difference was that Hinckley & Bosworth (H&B) had 100% responses to the percentage questions. H&B carried out phone surveys so were able to obtain responses more directly.

### 3.5 Equalities Data

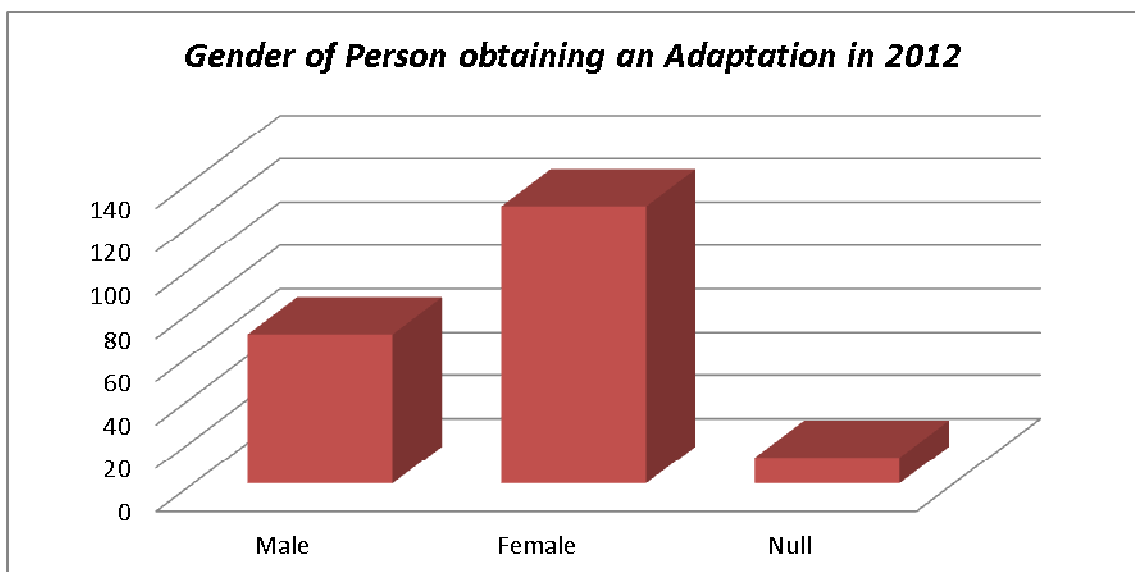


FIGURE 3

There were 128 female respondents, 69 male and 12 did not respond.

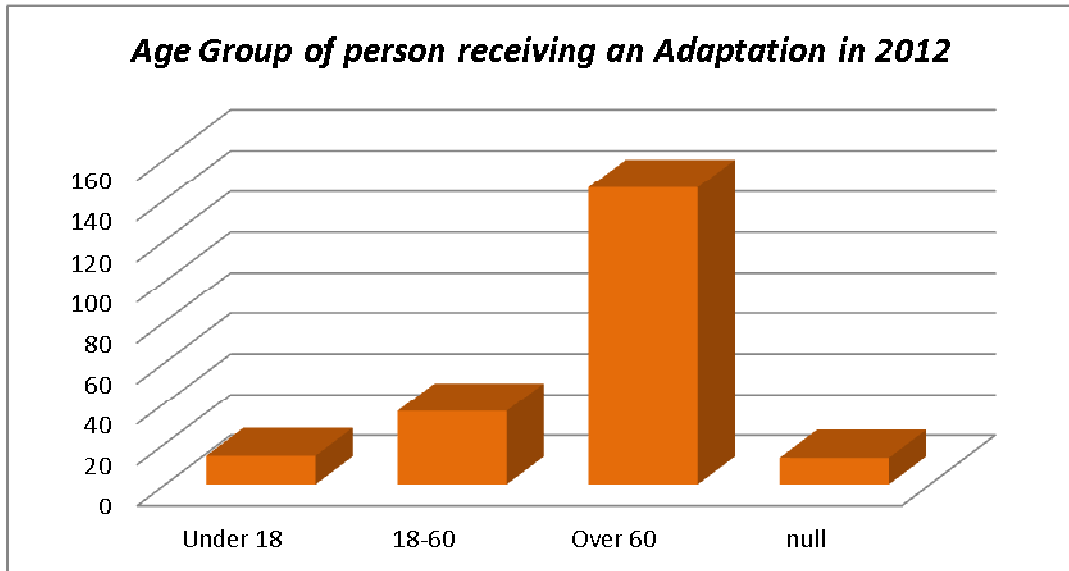


Figure 4

There were 14 child adaptations, 36 adult adaptations and 146 senior adaptations. There were 13 forms where age group was not completed.

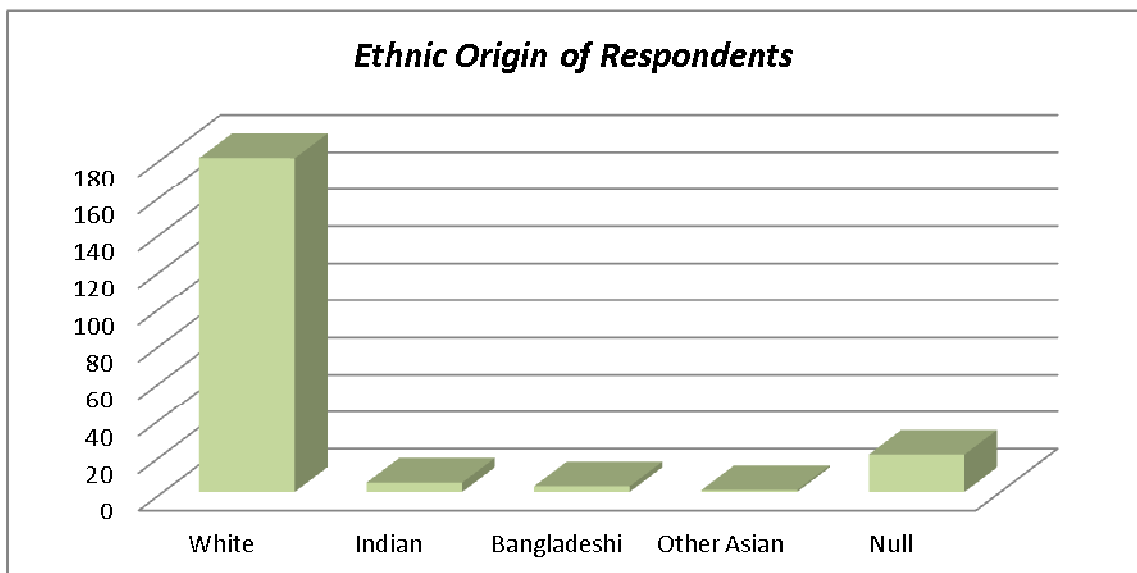


Figure 5

There were 180 white respondents, 5 Indian, 3 Bangladeshi, 1 other Asian and 20 did not respond.

#### 4. Conclusion

Disabled adaptations appear to be good value for money, enabling recipients to remain in their own homes. The individual benefits to recipients also indicate that these adaptations are a good investment for the quality of life, independence, comfort and wellbeing of recipients.

A list of the comments made by recipients follows. It makes you realize the difference these adaptations make to people's lives.

## COMMENTS ADDED BY THE RESPONDENTS

As a left hemiplegic I no longer fear climbing over my bath to get under shower

It has made it easier for my wife and carers to shower me

*It has helped my husband, he used to carry my commode chair up & down stairs each day himself being 78. BEST ASPECTSS: I can now get to the bathroom myself*

IMPROVED LIFE OF OTHERS - yes spouse

It is so much easier to shower, I am no longer afraid of falling. No having to climb into the bath to have a shower, and not having to hang onto the wash basin getting out.  
DO BETTER nothing everything was alright and everyone involved was so kind, I cannot fault anything

IMPROVED LIFE OF OTHERS - yes son my full time carer.

BEST ASPECTS - can be wheeled straight into shower.

*Being able to go upstairs to bed instead of sleeping downstairs on settee.  
thank you.*

Less pain in limbs, easy for husband to get wife upstairs

IMPROVED YOUR LIFE - by being able to use bathroom and own bedroom for privacy

IMPROVED LIFES of OTHERS - yes as before someone had to sleep downstairs with me

BEST ASPECTS - being able to access upstairs of home and access own bedroom well makes my life easier in general,

OTHERS - yes all of us but my daughter as I can go toilet on my own etc.

BEST ASPECTS - all of it

*IMPROVED MY LIFE - easier for the carers to move me around the house*

*IMPROVED LIFE OF OTHERS - carers, and family living in house  
BEST ASPECTS - can get through doorways without a struggle*

Easy access to upper floors

Getting up and downstairs

Having the shower safer – when getting into the bath I struggled with bath, now I can shower several times a day if needed.

**BEST ASPECTS** – fact that I don't need to climb into bath as I have slight incontinence problems coupled with arthritis

**DO BETTER** – absolutely nothing job well done and all clean on completion **THANK YOU** to all who helped, respectful, cheerful and clean. It has made me more confident in bathing and more comfortable

**OTHERS** - husband

**BEST ASPECTS** - walk in shower big enough for chair

**OTHERS** - my wife who's my carer with ulcerated legs

**BEST ASPECTS** - get to toilet upstairs

***OTHERS** - Ellis our son has now got his own room which has made all our lives a lot easier.*

**IMPROVED LIFE** - yes after original shower was put in 11" too high off the floor

**OTHERS** - yes my wife

**Shower now easily available**

My carer no longer has to dice with death to get me up/down stairs

**BEST ASPECTS** – given me back some freedom

A lot easier to get upstairs to bed and downstairs in a morning

It has made life safer for all of us, we can use the kitchen, when son is home, safely now as he can't access it without assistance.

**BEST ASPECTS** - it is safe no-one can get locked in if there is a fire no-one can get trapped

**OTHERS** - husband and carer

**BEST ASPECTS** - previously it was impossible to get into bath now everything is at floor level

*Made it easier to use 100% of my home 100% of the time  
**BEST ASPECTS** - not having to worry prior to use that I may fall. I used to dread using stairs and bath because I have fallen quite a number of times*

Stairlift is faster and smoother than the previous one

**BEST ASPECTS** - big room for mum

**OTHER WAYS** –this adaptation has made our home safer and our belongings safer  
**IMP LIVES OTHERS** – yes, Caleb cannot go upstairs unattended and is therefore safe and

not throwing things downstairs  
BEST ASPECTS -it works safe and it stops Caleb getting into dangerous circumstances

IMP LIFE - yes I can get upstairs and downstairs  
BEST ASPECTS - going down and upstairs  
OTHER WAYS - yes I feel much more confident when showering

IMP LIFES OTHERS - the provision of the wet room makes it much easier for  
my husband to help me shower

BEST ASPECTS -walk in, no steps to worry about, much brighter and safe  
seat to use. No longer struggle. Can now shower unaided

DO BETTER- everything satisfactory

*Freedom of access*

Bathing easily

**Adaptation improved life for the whole family  
No more dangerous transfers upstairs**

I no longer get breathless  
It is nice not to have to struggle in and out of the bath

Not used yet as waiting for shower chair, but assume personal hygiene will be much  
easier

**Made things much easier for my wife**

*Live alone so getting to the toilet is much easier  
Can now get upstairs. So much easier getting upstairs  
Am able to bathe OK now*

It has taken away the pressure and stress of climbing in and out of the bath

**It would be yes to all of the other questions, when the lift is working properly**

It has improved my personal hygiene

Health Hygiene and being independent

**Yes very easy to clean**

*Yes my wife can now use the Bathroom which helps her life*

I am now safer in my Shower

**I have more energy and less pain not having the stairs to climb**

Without having the Stair Lift I would have had to move

Does not require too much assistance whilst bathing now

**Mother does not have to carry child upstairs now - very impressed with speed of installation**

*Stairlift was for son (18-60) as well - complete independence for both of us*

Life much easier as can now access bathroom upstairs

**Do not have to struggle in and out of bath, make life much easier for wife (carer)  
Much happier now as do not have to have a bed bath**

Made life much easier for husband (carer) as much more hygienic  
No longer need assistance to get upstairs - do not have to rely on wife  
Has taken away anxiety as was afraid when coming downstairs - given complete independence

Enables me to bathe independently and taken away fear of falling

**Improved quality of life - given ability to take control of own hygiene - no longer need assistance**

*Much easier for husband to assist with bathing - he has own difficulties and this has benefited him*

Having bedroom/bathroom downstairs has given me dignity and privacy - life easier for family too

**LAS/Specialist toilet & stairlift have made lift much easier for wife (carer) - dignity with hygiene**

LAS/ground floor toilet means can access much more quickly - do not need to wake parents during night - given me independence - steps to front door make it easier for me to get in/out of home  
No more stairs to climb  
Ease of use

I have tick one coz all the rest is alright

**Many ways improved my life, my independence, All are best aspects**

*Can shower on my own. Make better - fan hums all night*



Removed lift as couldn't get off safely at top.

**Feel more safer, wonderful!**  
**Improvement for husband, he does not have to get me up & down stairs, gives me independence**  
**would like a ramp to my garden**

Shower best part of adaptation. Want to compliment workmen

More independence. Carer does not need to help me upstairs or out of bath

**Easier for my wife as she has arthritis, I have cancer. Easy access is best aspect**

*Best - walk in shower*

No struggle going up stairs, don't get out of breath so not so dangerous (emphysema)

**No more stairs to climb**

Independence - not needing to wait for help

Being able to bath and get around

**Restored confidence**

*No need for support in/out bath, better dignity*  
*Can use bathroom without help from another person*

Lift - now able to get back in room, builder left a mess  
Can go upstairs when want

**More independence**

Independence

Able to shower and bath

Able to shower every day without struggling

Easy access

Ease of having a shower

**Going upstairs and showering much easier**

*No stepping up to shower cubicle and turning into it.*

Could not manage the stairs before but can now  
it helps me stay independent

**Adaptation has improved dignity, self esteem and confidence.  
Improved quality of life for disabled son**

I don't have to get in and out of the bath

**carer can now supervise showers  
adaptation is everything I needed and more  
given me extra pride in my house  
easier cleaning. Overall appearance is good**

safety going up and down stairs

*life is so much easier  
it helped the carer and helped getting up the stairs*

it made showering the disabled person much better

**I am able to have a shower**

No more stairs to climb

Now can safely play in garden- mental health benefits to parents/ safety for child

**Kitchen safety adaptation. Can now cook safely and avoid burning himself. Can  
stay at home without carers. Mental wellbeing for proud ex serviceman**

*Can manoeuvre around parkhome without bashing himself against  
doors. Less restricted in own home*

Child can safely wash without need to watch hold Child has freedom. Safety  
issues.

Garden safety work. Child can safely play in garden without need to watch closely.  
Child has freedom. Safety issues. Parents get brief respite, Some stress/mental  
health benefits.

**Can be washed with dignity. Mental health benefits. Reduced chance of carers getting  
back issues.**

Can access WC and survive without need to enter home, mental and financial benefits.  
Safety benefits, falls prevention.

Stairlift allows parents to carry child to bedroom safely , safety benefits to child and  
parents/carers

Shower allows parents to wash child safely without need to immerse in bath.

Safety benefits, carers back health improved.

I have more energy and less pain not having the stairs to climb

*Best Aspect -I can go upstairs when I want to instead of just once to go to bed*

**Everything is exactly as we wanted. Marvellous**

This page is intentionally left blank

## SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 9 MAY 2013

### REPORT OF THE BARWELL & EARL SHILTON SCRUTINY GROUP

#### WARDS AFFECTED: BARWELL



Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

*A Borough to be proud of*

This is the first draft of the report of the SUE subgroup to Scrutiny and I apologise to my fellow SUE members for the short time they have had to read the report and submit comments, but if any other comments are received or amendments requested, these will either be reported at this Committee or at the next meeting. Two of the Councillors are also on this Committee and I am sure they will be prepared to express their opinions of the usefulness of this subgroup and of the meetings they attended.

May I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their attendance at the Committee meetings as well as all the Officers and Outside Bodies that took part. I feel the meetings were extremely useful and a number of interesting discussions and questions were raised at them and I hope it will continue when the Earl Shilton application is submitted

#### **Purpose of Report**

To inform members of some of the issues and outcomes that came from the Scrutiny Sub Committee formed to discuss the Planning application for the SUEs in Barwell, but to also include the expected SUE application for Earl Shilton.

#### **Recommendations**

To confirm the ongoing formation of this subgroup to look at the Earl Shilton SUE application when submitted.

It is recommended that once the Earl Shilton application is received that the Traffic Impact and the Traffic Modelling be put to public consultation as soon as possible.

That if possible pre-application discussions take place with the Developers to ensure that no more flats or apartments are built in Earl Shilton unless they can prove, without doubt, that there is a need for them and that instead town houses or similar are built.

That the same legal advice that was sought for the Barwell application, be sort, if necessary, for the Earl Shilton application to ensure that the best financing of all Infrastructure Improvements are fully and properly funded by Section 106 money or CILs.

That a close eye be kept on the proposed STW pipeline to ensure that it is completed in 2013 as promised so that no additional capacity is put on the Earl Shilton Sewerage systems or Sewage works.

#### **Background to Report**

At the first meeting a programme of work to be discussed at future meetings was drawn up :-

1. To meet first with the Developers, Leicestershire County Council and our own transport consultants.
2. Sewage works (Severn Trent to be invited)
3. Infrastructure Plan (including PCT, Education)
4. Financing infrastructure improvements including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
5. Affordable Housing
6. Strategic Transport Assessment
7. Employment

## **Highways**

The first meeting was with the Developers and LCC and it became apparent right from the start that the Highway issues were going to be the most difficult because the developers were using their own Highway Modelling system in their Transport assessment, whereas the County Council were using their own LLITM (The Leicester & Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model). The County Council & the Developers had apparently started pre-application discussions during the Summer of 2011 and discussions were still ongoing when we met with them. My first question to them was, is there likely to be agreement between them both in the near future and they said that discussions were ongoing but they hoped to have all issues sorted soon. We also asked whether the final report would be in a format that we could all understand and in plain language. They again said it would. We also asked if it would be going out to public consultation and again they said that it would. We also asked whether the developers had taken into account all the additional planning applications that had been submitted or approved within the surrounding areas including adjacent Authorities, and to make sure we gave them a list of the ones we knew about. They thanked us for the list and said they would take it back to ensure all the facts were taken into account.

One of the main concerns we had with highways were the narrow congested streets that were already present in both Barwell and Earl Shilton. The main ones in Barwell being, The Common, Chapel Street and Stapleton Lane which have traffic parked on one side of the road causing problems for passing traffic and thereby congestion. These roads are also used by people from Hinckley & Burbage as a short cut to Stapleton Lane Recycling Centre or to get to Ashby Road and then to Woodlands or Market Bosworth etc. There are similar roads in Earl Shilton. These concerns were mentioned at the first meeting with the Developers & Highways and at every subsequent meeting we had with Highways.

At our final meeting we had with our officers and LCC Highways on the Traffic Assessment and modelling this problem was again mentioned and they said that in Barwell, traffic lights would replace the roundabout in the centre of Barwell and that these roads would become self regulating. They said that this meant that vehicles using these roads would find them congested and busy and when they find that they are being delayed, they will find an alternative route using main roads, which may be longer, but, in the long, run faster. We may not agree with their findings but that is their decision. I understand that there is a condition in the Planning Application which states that if there are problems concerning traffic then that problem can be revisited.

We had several meetings with Leicestershire CC and our officers and consultants, but in April at our final meeting on the Transport Assessment we shared our frustration at the amount of time taken by both the Developers and the Leicestershire County Council to reach agreement on all the aspects of the Traffic assessment and modelling. This took so long that the date for the Planning application to be heard had to be changed and it also gave very little opportunity for consultation with Parish Councils in villages affected by increased traffic or the general public. We asked that when the Earl Shilton application is submitted that the traffic assessment be carried out quicker. We were assured that the Earl Shilton SUE was taken into account when the Traffic assessment and modelling was done for the Barwell SUE. This is why we are asking for the recommendation stated.

## **Severn Trent Water (STW)**

The meeting with STW did not go according to plan as all relevant organisations were present to discuss sewage arrangements for the SUE but STW did not show, but instead sent a written statement which outlined their plans, but left lots of questions unanswered. One of their comments concerned the Earl Shilton Sewage Works and in their statement said that they didn't know whether they were going to close it, but the Environment Agency had objected because the treated sewerage effluent flowed into a local stream and if this stopped, the stream would dry up and they didn't know what effect that would have on the

local environment. So they then said they might move it to another place. Members of the panel also raised concern over the Barwell Pumping Station stating that even in moderate rainfall the system could not cope and overflowed several times a year. We requested that Severn Trent be invited to another meeting to answer all the unanswered questions.

When Severn Trent came to the meeting they stated that the Earl Shilton Sewage Works would remain and that to ease the pressure on it, a new pipe line would be built between Barwell and Hinckley Sewage works during the Summer of 2013 and we were shown a plan showing the proposed route. Questions were asked about various works on the plan i.e. how were they going to get under the railway line and all major roads without causing congestion. It was also pointed out that under no circumstances could they close Sapcote Road, Burbage and Brookside at the same time as it would cause chaos in Hinckley by closing two of the major roads leading into Hinckley, they said that they would take that point into consideration.

They were also asked about the survey on the sewerage system in the Leicester Road area that they promised would be done in 2011 /2012 and as far as we knew this still had not been done and secondly, where was the sewerage from the Leicester Road site that is now under construction going and how was it going to get there, as the Leicester Road sewerage system is already at capacity and in times of heavy rain causes flooding in other streets off Leicester Road. They did not know and said that they would get back to us, we are still waiting to hear on both questions, despite repeated requests to Simon Wood to get an answer.

### **Infrastructure**

We were given regular updates on what was proposed and at the last meeting we were given the final infrastructure improvements and the CIL agreements that had been reached.

### **Affordable Homes**

In talks with the developers we stated at the outcome that we did not want flats building but would prefer town houses or similar, but requested that they look into the sort of houses that were required by people on the waiting list etc. This they agreed to do.

### **General**

All the other items mentioned at the beginning were discussed at various times throughout our meeting but the items listed above were the main items of discussion that merited the most attention.

I understand that some site works concerning the new STW pipe line is already taking place so that hopefully the new pipe line will be in operation before work is commenced on the Earl Shilton SUE, if approved.

Most of the final details were included in the report submitted to the Planning Committee and I am sure that all members will either have read them or been told about them.

---

Background papers: None

Report author: Cllr Keith Nichols, Chair of the Barwell & Earl Shilton Scrutiny Group

This page is intentionally left blank