



**Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING**

**SCRUTINY  
COUNCIL**

**17 October 2019  
5 November 2019**

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS (Hinckley)**

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**BUSINESS RATE PILOT – PROPOSED SPEND**

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**Report of Head of Finance**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the areas of proposed spend on schemes to be funded from the HBBC share of the business rate pilot gain for the 2019/20 estimated at £0.5m.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That members approve the area project areas of spend and the use of the business rate equalisation reserve for it funding.

**3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The success of the business rate pilot bid for 2019/20 it is estimated that HBBC share of the gain will be £0.5m; this has been placed in the business rates equalisation reserve until approved for use. As part of the bid there were certain commitments made that mean the gain needs to be spent almost equally in two main areas:

- Financial Sustainability, and
- Housing & Commercial Infrastructure.

The spend is general fund expenditure and should normally be on top of current budgeted spend to demonstrate clear benefit deriving from the pilot.. If the funds are used for HRA costs, the general fund can loan the amount to the HRA and charge interest.

3.2 Financial sustainability is expenditure that leads to savings, preferably on an ongoing basis. Housing and Commercial Infrastructure relates to physical and organisational structures and facilities that relate to these areas.

3.3 The areas that have been proposed are noted in the table below:

| Description  | 2019/20     | 2020/21     | Total       |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Financial Sustainability tranche:</b>                         | <b>£000</b> | <b>£000</b> | <b>£000</b> |
| <b>Town Centre (Heritage)</b>                                    | 65          | 50          | 115         |
| <b>Town centre car parks (Electric Vehicles Charging Points)</b> | 25          | 0           | 25          |
| <b>Housing &amp; Commercial Infrastructure tranche:</b>          | <b>£000</b> | <b>£000</b> | <b>£000</b> |
| <b>Public realm scheme (Improved Signage)</b>                    | 125         | 125         | 250         |
| <b>Improved security (CCTV- Expansion to key sites)</b>          | 40          | 70          | 110         |
| <b>Sub-total</b>   | <b>165</b>  | <b>195</b>  | <b>360</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>255</b>  | <b>245</b>  | <b>500</b>  |

### **Town Centre (Heritage)**

This funding can be used as part of the Borough Councils required contribution towards the £2m Hinckley Town Centre Heritage Action Zone. The Council's expression of interest to Historic England to deliver a Heritage Action Zone was successful, with projects including a shop front improvement scheme, public realm improvements, historic building conversions, and a Cultural Programme are now be developed in more detail. It is expected that the Borough Council's overall required contribution will be circa £400,000.

### **Town centre car parks (Electric Vehicles Charging Points)**

The £25,000 will go towards the placing of 8 charge points on 2 Hinckley town centre car parks, still to be identified. This is part of the plan to increase capacity to 24 points (12 on each of the 2 car parks) as demand increases. There will be additional cost for increased capacity which is not covered by the pilot. Current demand is based on 197 EV's registered in our Borough, government policy is that all vehicles need to be electric by 2030 so demand is expected to increase.

### **Public realm scheme (Improved Signage)**

Public Realm Scheme spend would support the following:

- The Hinckley Town Centre Public Realm Masterplan identifies several key sites for environmental improvements. This project will involve these sites and will create new public spaces, new paving and street furniture and will enhance way finding. The overall improvement of the public realm will aid the regeneration of this market town by creating an area that is attractive to shoppers, the local community and will attract more visitors and encourage businesses to locate to the town.

- Installation of Variable Message Signs (VMS) at strategic locations around Hinckley Town Centre to provide real-time parking information, reduce traffic congestion and harmful emissions, improve accessibility to increase number of visitors/shoppers to town centre and encourage safer driving behaviour.

### **Improved security (CCTV- Expansion to key sites)**

This expenditure will be Linked to the Town Centre Partnership representatives of the CCTV Working Group have looked at the future need of the system and new camera locations for Hinckley's CCTV coverage. Eight priority locations have been identified.

As part of the Town Centre Management role, several Parish Councils have asked for assistance and the possibility of having CCTV systems installed that would link to the Borough Council's CCTV control room. To ensure an equitable approach, it is proposed that a central rural pot (£40,000) is established, which will assist Parishes in their funding quests. Criteria would need to be established on the % funding which could be aligned per project.

### **Other considerations**

The current forecast for the gain from the business rate pilot is £509,000. This extra gain of £9,000 will go towards improvements in the IT service to delivery efficiencies up to a maximum of £15,000

#### **4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES**

4.1 None

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [AW]**

5.1 Contained within the report.

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [MR]**

6.1 None arising directly from this report

#### **7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The additional funding will help to deliver Corporate Plan priorities.

#### **8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 The areas of spend have been agreed with all Leicestershire Local Authorities .

#### **9. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

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

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project

have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

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

## 11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 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

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Background papers: None

Contact Officer: Ashley Wilson x5609  
Executive Member: Councillor Chris Ladkin