

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

20 AUGUST 2020 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr MR Lay - Chairman
Cllr C Ladkin and Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chairmen

Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr SM Gibbens, Cllr DT Glenville (for Cllr R Webber-Jones),
Cllr K Morrell (for Cllr JMT Collett), Cllr A Pendlebury, Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools and
Cllr HG Williams

Also in attendance: Councillor MA Cook

Officers in attendance: Bill Cullen, Malcolm Evans, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen and
Julie Stay

439 **AMBION COURT REDEVELOPMENT**

Members received a report which provided an update on the Ambion Court sheltered housing scheme redevelopment and also sought a revised budget.

In response to a members' question, it was noted that some of the Homes England funding was at risk because the conditions on the government's funding required the construction to be completed by March 2021, however due to COVID-19, this would not be possible and the government had not yet confirmed that the deadline could be extended. It was noted that most authorities partnered with Homes England on similar projects were in the same position. It was noted that there was the possibility of taking any shortfall from the regeneration fund but all efforts would be taken to secure the full Homes England allocation.

Concern was expressed about the change in price resulting in the requirement for additional budget and the reason for not having a fixed price contract for public sector projects was queried. In response, it was explained that the initial budget was based on an estimation on costs at that time. Since 2018, costs of delivery had increased and included a contingency, but it was felt that the 7% increase since 2018 was acceptable and was still considered to be value for money.

RESOLVED – the report be noted and RECOMMENDED to Council.

Councillor Sheppard-Bools entered the meeting at 6.45pm.