



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Scrutiny Commission
Council

26 November 2020
15 December 2020

Wards affected:

All Wards

Refresh of the Rural Strategy for the Borough

Report of Director Community Services

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To present the refreshed Rural Strategy for the Borough

2. Recommendation

Members:

2.1 Note and approve the proposed refreshed Rural Strategy and supporting appendices document

3. Background to the report

3.1 The attached Rural Strategy has been refreshed following extensive consultation with Parish Councils via a series of visits to each one by the Executive Member lead and officers

3.2. As well as seeking feedback on the high level Rural Strategy, it was also agreed that each Parish Council would be asked to detail their community's top ten issues, to be captured in a supporting appendices document. This supporting evidence will provide a comprehensive record of the issues of most importance to our Parishes, as well as highlight areas of commonality across the Borough.

3.3. The review was undertaken between June 2019 and January 2020, with a draft version of the refreshed strategy and supporting appendices presented at the annual rural conference on 5 March 2020.

- 3.4. Parishes were invited to feedback any final comments or amendments by 8th April, this was subsequently extended to 26 June, given Parishes were responding to other priorities arising from the pandemic outbreak and lock down arrangements at this time.
- 3.5. The refreshed Strategy and supporting appendices document, will help to inform the rural work programme in supporting Parishes, in the immediate and longer term, as well as provide an evidence base to help inform any key funding or resourcing decisions for the Borough Council.
- 3.6. It should be noted that it was made clear at the outset of the review, that priority issues identified by Parishes, would not necessarily be the direct responsibility/under the jurisdiction of the Borough Council, but gave our commitment to work with our key partners to explore options and opportunities, as well as supporting and enabling Parishes to resolve issues themselves where ever possible.
- 3.7. The review outcomes will be considered by officers with a view to identifying any immediate areas that could be addressed, within existing resources.
- 3.8. As in previous years key outcomes arising from the work programme, will be presented at the annual Rural Conference.
- 3.9. The refreshed Rural Strategy and supporting appendices are attached at Appendix 1

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

- 4.1 To be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications (IB)

- 5.1 Although there are no implications arising directly from the report, future implications arising from working with parishes will require approval in accordance with financial procedure rules.

6. Legal implications (MR)

- 6.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do including the power to do it for, or otherwise than for, the benefit of the Council, its area or persons resident or present in its area

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 Contributes to the Corporate Plan Place priority.

8. Consultation

8.1 Consultation has taken place with all 24 Parish Councils.

9. Risk implications

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Due to Covid 19 the work programme and approach to delivery during Spring/Summer has not taken place	Look at alternative ways of engagement using virtual forums for Autumn/Winter	Edwina Grant

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 The rural strategy refresh and supporting appendices affects all communities and areas of the Borough, and has been informed by all 24 Parishes

11. Climate implications

11.1 The Rural Strategy and subsequent rural work programme and delivery, will take full account of the priorities and commitment of the Borough, as set out in the Climate Change Strategy.

12. Corporate implications

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

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

Background papers: None

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