

COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2012

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Agenda item 8 - Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11.1

a) Question asked by Councillor MR Lay and addressed to the Executive Member for Finance

“What progress has been made in awarding the lowest paid staff at HBBC (those earning below £21k) a cost of living increase as sanctioned by the government? I raised this issue last year at a Finance and Audit Committee meeting following a report to the committee indicating a large revenue underspend. No report back has been given. Thank you”

Response from Councillor KWP Lynch

Whilst central government recommended a payment of £250 for those earning under £21,000 the National Joint Council (NJC), who represents local authorities and is the employers negotiating body, had not agreed this as part of the pay deal. However the NJC in preparation for the pay negotiations for 2012/13 has consulted employers and a discussion has again taken place to consider paying £250 to those staff whose earnings are below £21,000. We are still waiting to here from NJC.

Outside of this, and following Cllr Lay raising this at Finance And Audit Services Select Committee, the Council implemented a local arrangement whereby all staff who earned under £21,000 were paid a one off amount for 2011/12 of £125 in December 2011. 245 employees received this payment with the total cost being £37,883 (including on costs).

b) Question asked by Councillor MR Lay and addressed to the Executive Member for Finance

“From 2001 to 2010 HBBC received significant sums of additional finance to support capital projects from the government and regional development bodies. Could he indicate all the projects with grants of over £50,000 that the Council were awarded during this period and the projects the money was assigned to”

Response from Councillor KWP Lynch

The total amount of capital funding received between 2001 and 2010 by this Council is £13,899,469 as follows:

2000/01	104,992
2001/02	239,171
2002/03	376,333
2003/04	758,774
2004/05	653,079
2005/06	465,999
2006/07	1,727,113
2007/08	1,051,370
2008/09	1,575,958
2009/10	4,016,755
2010/11	2,929,925
Total	13,899,469

The breakdown is :-

year	cap scheme	funding body	Amount
2000/01	renovation grants	Cent Govt	104,992
2000/01 Total			104,992
2001/02	cctv car parks	Cent Govt	27,939
2001/02	cctv Earl Shilton / Barwell	Cent Govt	65,831
2001/02	renovation grants	Cent Govt	100,233
2001/02	Historic Towns	Cent Govt	
2001/02	Hill Hole Quarry	(SRB6)	25,168
2001/02		EMDA	20,000
2001/02 Total			239,171
2002/03	Implementing E Government	Cent Govt	200,000
2002/03	renovation grants	Cent Govt	123,433
2002/03	Hill Hole Quarry	EMDA	52,900
2002/03 Total			376,333
2003/04	Disabled Facilities grants	Cent Govt	105,001
2003/04	Implementing E Government	Cent Govt	200,000
2003/04	Community Park Barwell	Countryside Agy	63,000
2003/04	Hill Hole Quarry	EMDA	17,112
2003/04	Druid Quarter	HERS	25,217
2003/04	Historic Buildings Hinck.	HERS	21,219
2003/04	Dodwells Bridge Ind Plot	LSEP	327,225
2003/04 Total			758,774
2004/05	Disabled Facilities grants	Cent Govt	105,000
2004/05	Implementing E Government	Cent Govt	400,000
2004/05	Planning Delivery Grant	Cent Govt	44,000
2004/05	Hill Hole Quarry	EMDA	23,965
2004/05	Druid Quarter	HERS	40,340
2004/05	Dodwells Bridge Ind Plot	LSEP	39,775
2004/05 Total			653,079
2005/06	Disabled Facilities grants	Cent Govt	105,000
2005/06	Implementing E Government	Cent Govt	234,611
2005/06	Public Realm	EMDA	43,602
2005/06	Druid Quarter - Factories	Eng Heritage	61,179
2005/06	Boston Way Play Area	Groundwork UK	21,607
2005/06 Total			465,999
2006/07	Disabled Facilities grants	Cent Govt	105,000
2006/07	Implementing E Government	Cent Govt	65,389
2006/07	Atkins Site Purchase	EMDA	1,365,450
2006/07	Druid Quarter - Factories	Eng Heritage	71,914
2006/07	Public Realm	LCC	119,360
2006/07 Total			1,727,113
2007/08	Decent Homes	Cent Govt	28,189
2007/08	Disabled Facilities grants	Cent Govt	150,000
2007/08	Atkins Site Purchase	EMDA	761,000
2007/08	Druid Quarter - Factories	Eng Heritage	50,000
2007/08	Recycling Containers	LCC	32,180
2007/08	CCTV	LPU	30,000
2007/08 Total			1,051,370
2008/09	Decent Homes	Cent Govt	116,003
2008/09	Disabled Facilities grants	Cent Govt	150,000
2008/09	Atkins Site Purchase	EMDA	309,056
2008/09	Atkins Building	Eng Heritage	27,537
2008/09	cctv	LAA capital	17,800
2008/09	Langdale Rec	Lottery	41,945
2008/09	Wykin Park	Lottery	39,050
2008/09	Atkins Building	LSEP	834,567
2008/09	general capital	psa award	20,000
2008/09	cctv	psa award 07/08	20,000
2008/09 Total			1,575,958
2009/10	Disabled Facilities grants	Cent Govt	150,000

2009/10	Renovation grants Decent	Cent Govt	557,267
2009/10	Atkins Building	College Conts	130,333
2009/10	Waste Vehicle	LCC	70,000
2009/10	Clarendon Park / Langdale	Lottery	9,536
2009/10	Atkins Building	LSEP	2,851,972
2009/10	Greenfields	LSEP	247,647
2009/10 Total			4,016,755
2010/11	Decent Homes	Cent Govt	277,886
2010/11	Disabled Facilities grants	Cent Govt	150,000
2010/11	Atkins Building	College Conts	87,992
2010/11	Earl Shilton Masterplan	Growth Point	300,000
2010/11	Queens Park	Lottery	50,000
2010/11	Greenfields	LSEP	1,838,387
2010/11	Shared Revenues and Benefits	RIEP	225,659
2010/11 Total			2,929,925
Grand Total			13,899,469

c) Questions asked by Councillor S Sprason and addressed to the Leader of Council

“With the changes in the Welfare Reform Bill that devolves funding to this authority. Will the leader resist putting this funding into the general fund and agree that:

- a) The Community Care Grant will be ring fenced to support vulnerable people as intended
- b) That pensioners continue to receive the same level of assistance that they currently receive under Council Tax benefit
- c) That the extra £35,600 Disabled Facilities Grant will be used to reduce the DFG waiting list?”

Response from Councillor KWP Lynch

“I thank Cllr Mrs Sprason for her question sent to the Leader of the Council. I am however uncertain as to which parts of the Welfare Bill she is referring to. The second part of her question regarding Council Tax benefit support for pensioners is part of the Finance Bill on the Localisation of Council Tax Support and the third part of her question regarding the extra Disability Facilities Grant has nothing to do with any Bill as this is simply a further allocation to the ring fenced grant already received by this Council in the current financial year. I will however answer Cllr Mrs Sprason’s specific questions as follows:

a)& b) The Council will administer Community Care Grants and Council Tax Benefit for low income pensioners as required by legislation and treat any resulting grant or reimbursement in the way required or intended. The proposal contained in the Finance Bill regarding localising support for Council Tax benefit protects pensioners.

c) Yes the additional DFG will be used to reduce the waiting list.”

d) Question asked by Councillor K Morrell and addressed to the Executive Member for Rural Affairs

“Could the Executive Member for Rural Affairs please inform me how much the Parish & Community Initiative Fund spends on plaques for successful bids?”

Response from Councillor WJ Crooks

“The plaques now cost £25 each. The total cost of the provision of plaques for successful applications for 2011/12, therefore, will be £525 for the 21 grants, compared with the total of grants awarded of £104,130. Whilst costs could be reduced by issuing laminated paper certificates, these would not have the longevity of the metal plaques and have limited value in promoting the fund or in recognising the support the Borough Council offers to rural areas.”

Agenda Item 9 - Position Statement of the Leader of the Council – 23 February 2012

Mr Mayor, fellow Councillors, members of the public, officers and representatives of the media -

Because of the particularly important and detailed items on tonight's' agenda, this statement is more than usually brief.

Firstly, can I congratulate Cllr Bessant and his wife, Tracy, on the birth of their son, Clark. I understand that both are well and that, despite sleepless nights, Paul is still grinning a lot!

Secondly, can I congratulate Mike Brymer and his team for yet another year of excellent service to the Council in terms of overall performance, economy of spending against community priorities and high levels of customer satisfaction. The full report will be presented to the next meeting of the Council, but the Executive view is that all Members will conclude that it is a 'great report with great results'; the description given by Cllr Crooks when he saw it last week.

Thirdly, can I thank Keith Lynch in advance for his excellent work with Sanjiv Kohli and his team in producing a set of budget papers which, though necessarily lengthy and detailed, present the Council and the council tax payers with a sustainable position for 2012/13 and beyond, allied to excellent value of money and quality of service. Can I draw the attention of members to the fact that we have opted to take advantage of the Coalition's 'freeze grant', enabling the level of Council Tax to remain unchanged for two consecutive years. This recognises the need to support our citizens by not increasing costs in times which are already tough enough. Keith's **brief** introduction will add the necessary detail.

Fourthly, can I advise Members that I have sanctioned a provisional contribution of £40,000 revenue, to support a countywide bid, led by the County Council, to secure superfast Broadband services in our rural areas. This is a significant contribution, acknowledged by the County Council, to ensuring that this important facility is offered to families and businesses in areas outside of Hinckley.

I am very pleased to report to Members that last night, due to the vigilance and quick thinking of our CCTV Operator and excellent use of the system, the Police have arrested three people for the recent thefts of lead from Churches in Hinckley. This has been a particularly insensitive series of crimes, the perpetrators of which have now been caught. It is a fantastic result for the partnership between the Borough Council and the local Police!

Finally, and belatedly, this is my first opportunity to ask Council to join me in congratulating David Bill in being awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours. It is an achievement which is long overdue in recognition of his contribution to his community over many years. Sincere congratulations, David.

Cllr Stuart Bray
Leader of the Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Agenda Item 12 - General Fund Budget (pages 6 – 7)

Appendix C to the report is attached in a larger print version to that on the agenda.

Agenda Item 15 - Housing Revenue Account Budget (pages 8 – 9)

Omitted appendix A attached.

Agenda Item 16 - Medium Term Financial Strategy (pages 10 - 58)

MTFS attached in a larger print version to that on the agenda.

Agenda Item 18 - Council Tax Setting (pages 59 – 62)

Late report attached.

Agenda Item 19 - Calendar of meetings (page 63)

Calendar attached in a larger print version to that on the agenda.

Agenda Item 20 – Motion received from Councillors S Sprason and MR Lay

An amendment to the first paragraph only will be proposed by Councillor MB Cartwright and seconded by Councillor SL Bray as follows:

“Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council ~~is alarmed at~~ **condemns** the decision of the **Conservative administration at** Leicestershire County Council (LCC), who in removing the assisted home to school bus service which takes children from Field Head to Groby Community College is now seeking to charge £400 a year for a safe travel to school option which for many years had been provided by the County Council as a right. **The Council further condemns the Conservative administration, including all the Conservative County Councillors representing electoral divisions in Hinckley & Bosworth, for failing to back an amendment to the 2012/13 budget which would have restored some of the cuts to school transport.**”