



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Executive 11 September 2024
Wards affected: All Wards

Rural Strategy 2024 - 2028

Report of Director (Community Services)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek Executives approval to adopt the refreshed Rural Strategy 2024 - 2028 for Hinckley & Bosworth, that encompasses 51 settlements divided into 24 parished areas.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Executive approves the adoption of the Rural Strategy 2024 –2028.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The first Rural Strategy was adopted in 2016. This Strategy supersedes the previous version 2020 – 2023. This new Strategy will aid and support many positive rural interventions, opportunities, and developments. The strategy captures several high-level achievements during the past 4 years.
- 3.2 The purpose of Strategy is as follows:
- To enable Parish Councils to have a voice in informing rural priorities for the borough.
 - To ensure issues of importance for rural communities are given equal opportunity for promotion, support, and action.
 - To ensure further growth and development strengthens the wellbeing and prosperity of the borough’s rural communities.
 - To maximise opportunities to enable access to services and facilities.
- 3.3 This new strategy intends to build on previous successes and outlines the priorities for action and interventions in the rural areas of the Borough. The

strategy encourages partnerships to work together towards common goals, maximising the impact of resources and activities.

4. Key Strategy Details

4.1 The vision for the Strategy is to secure distinct, diverse and prosperous rural communities in Hinckley & Bosworth.

4.2 To achieve this vision, there are 4 strategic aims:

1. Inclusive, sustainable rural communities, where everyone has the opportunity to participate, and can access the services and facilities they need.
2. An environmentally and economically sound rural borough where the needs of farming, conservation and development are appropriately balanced.
3. Residents feel supported to take ownership and drive improvements in their own communities.
4. Ensure our rural communities can be safe and welcoming for residents, visitors, and businesses.

4.3 The Strategy has several themes that have been agreed and developed in conjunction with Parishes and our rural communities. Supporting actions are captured within the strategy document. Summarised these are:

1. Access to services, facilities and well being
2. Facilitation of transport solutions
3. Promoting Neighbourhood Planning
4. Rural housing delivery
5. Protection and enhancement of the rural environment
6. Economy, Farming, Enterprise, and Tourism
7. Community Safety and Rural Crime
8. Community empowerment and action through partnership working

4.4 To support the strategy a comprehensive consultation exercise has been undertaken with Parishes. The Rural Strategy Appendices technical support document captures key achievements and ongoing/emerging challenges. This document informed the strategy and will assist Officers and key partners in enhancing services as captured within the 8 themes listed above.

4.5 This Strategy will assist in supporting the emerging local plan for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough and will support the council's Corporate Plan. In addition, this Strategy complements wider local strategies such as:

- H&B Health and Well-Being Community Plan 2023
- Tourism Strategy 2024 - 2028
- Climate & Biodiversity Strategy 2024 - 2026
- Community Safety Strategy 2023 - 2026
- Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021 - 2025

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

5.1 Not applicable

6. Financial implications [AW]

6.1 None directly from this report.

7. Legal implications [MR]

7.1 None

8. Corporate Plan implications

8.1 This strategy supports all three key aims People, Places and Prosperity within the Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028.

9. Consultation

9.1 Parishes and key internal and external stakeholders have supported the development of this strategy.

10. Risk implications

10.1 It is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that there are no significant risks associated with this strategy have been identified.

11. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

11.1 The strategy supports and recognises the challenges faced by our rural communities.

12. Climate implications

12.1 The strategy is fully aligned to climate matters and continues to play its part in lowering carbon emissions.

13. Corporate implications

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

- Economic regeneration implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: None
Contact officer: Simon D. Jones, Cultural Services Manager
Executive member: Martin Cartwright, Executive Lead Member for Rural Affairs