

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

16 DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr MJ Surtees - Chair
Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chair
Cllr DT Glenville, Cllr H Smith, Cllr P Stead-Davis, Cllr BE Sutton and
Cllr A Weightman

Also in attendance:

Officers in attendance: Chris Brown, Malcolm Evans, Rosemary Leach, Gary Upton, Rebecca Valentine-Wilkinson, Ashley Wilson and Julie Kenny

299. **Minutes of previous meeting**

It was moved by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Williams and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 28 October were confirmed as a correct record.

300. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared at this meeting.

301. **Corporate Property Performance Report**

Members were provided with an update on the performance of the property portfolio managed by the Asset Management Service.

In response to questions from members, officers confirmed that:

- the new leisure facility building was leased out in its entirety to the leisure provider;
- the Atkins building offered more than an office environment and was a gallery area, and a co-location working area for home workers and was a service for the public. It was also a popular way to attract small businesses in to the building offering office accommodation;
- marketing for these facilities was mainly through the borough bulletin, and other social media outlets to stimulate the growth of the business;
- the renting of office and retail space was more volatile and there had been a decline for demand in retail spaces.

It was moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Sutton and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

302. **Financial outturn - September 2024**

Members were presented with the financial outturn position as at September 2024.

In response to a question from members around income from planning applications, officers confirmed that this report reviewed a different timeframe to agenda item 10 and that whilst application fees were below budget to date (September) this pre-dated recent major applications being received. It was also confirmed that agency costs covered posts not directly related to receipt of planning applications.

It was moved by Councillor Glenville, seconded by Councillor Stead-Davis and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

303. Business rates and Pooling update quarter 2 - 2024/25

Members were informed of the business rates performance from 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024.

It was moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Williams and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

304. Performance & Risk Management Framework 2nd quarter summary for 2024/25

Members were provided with an update on the 2024/25 quarter two summary for performance indicators, service improvement plans, corporate risks and service area risks.

In response to questions from members, officers confirmed that:

- there would be some changes coming to this committee around the risk management framework coming out of work done on the risk register;
- information could be added to the sickness absence statistics to enable trends to be monitored.

It was moved by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Sutton and

RESOLVED –

- (i) that members noted the second quarter status for items listed and reviewed the risks that posed the most significant threat to the council's objectives and priorities;
- (ii) that the report be noted.

305. Planning Service Review

Members were updated on the performance of the planning service.

In response to a question raised by members around when the next local plan would be in place, officers confirmed that there would still be a role for the local plan. Going forward local plans would sit below new strategic development strategies that would be produced on a wider geographical area. Progress on this would be to update the council's local development scheme in February 2025 and provide feedback to Government on local plan timescales by mid-March.

It was moved by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Williams and

RESOLVED –

- (i) that members acknowledged the increase in planning performance, the improvement in retention and recruitment across the service and the current and forthcoming challenges with regards to planning appeals;
- (ii) that the report be noted.

306. Frontline Service Review - Environmental Services

Members were updated on the performance of the Environmental Services team during the previous financial year.

It was moved by Councillor Glenville, seconded by Councillor Stead-Davis and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

307. Council Housing Services update report

Members were updated on the key activities and performance within the Housing service that included anti-social behaviour, rents, tenancy management, repairs and older persons' services.

Members thanked officers for such a comprehensive report.

It was moved by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Stead-Davis and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

308. Finance & Performance Scrutiny Work Programme

Members reviewed the work programme and noted that the financial outturn for quarter 3 would need to be included.

The update was noted.

(The Meeting closed at 7.52 pm)

CHAIR