

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

13 MARCH 2025 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr C Lambert - Chair
Cllr MJ Surtees and Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chair
Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr C Gibbens, Cllr J Moore, Cllr A Pendlebury, Cllr M Simmons
and Cllr A Weightman

Also in attendance: Councillor MT Mullaney and Councillor R Webber-Jones

Officers in attendance: Rachel Burgess, Amie Carroll, Amy Casey, Julie Kenny,
Rebecca Owen, Paul Scragg and Sharon Stacey

399. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cope and Harris.

401. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Pendlebury declared a registrable interest in the cost of living update as owner of a property which would soon be for let within the private sector but as the content of the report did not directly relate to her disclosable pecuniary interest, she would remain in the meeting.

Councillor Crooks declared an other registrable interest in the parish & community initiative fund as a member of Newbold Verdon Parish Council which was an applicant for funding.

Councillor Surtees stated that she neighboured the site in Desford that was recommended for funding from the parish & community initiative fund.

405. **Cost of Living update**

Members received a report on activities undertaken by the authority in response to the cost of living crisis. Discussion ensued on changes to the foodbank referral process to avoid duplication and relationships with supermarkets.

In response to a member's question about energy efficiency measures in council properties, it was noted that savings for tenants were being monitored but it was too early to quantify them, and tenants had mentioned that their homes were warmer whilst also contributing to the decarbonisation of housing stock.

Reasons for increased demand for housing were discussed and members were reminded of the work of the task and finish group which looked into housing and homelessness which found no issues with the council's processes but recommended lobbying government in relation to various matters which were national issues. The impact of the right to buy scheme was also highlighted.

It was suggested that the scope of the forthcoming review of housing associations could be revised to look at how housing associations could help alleviate current pressures.

In relation to the reference to the recent peer challenge within the recommendations, members were informed that the final report was awaited.

It was moved by Councillor Crooks, seconded by Councillor Moore and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The extensive work undertaken to support residents affected by the cost of living crisis be acknowledged and endorsed
- (ii) The increase in demand upon services due to the cost of living crisis be acknowledged.