

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Have your say on the community governance review

SUR737646332

Which of the following best describes how you are responding to this survey:As a resident of Hinckley

Please provide your postcode:: LE9 XXXX

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley reflect local identities and interests?: Disagree

Please explain the reason for your answer::The existing governance framework in Hinckley and Bosworth fails to capture and champion the distinct identities, priorities, and interests of its urban and rural communities. While the town centre's concerns often dominate council agendas, the needs of outlying villages and hamlets frequently is overlooked, with frankly lip-service being frequently played... leading to unequal service delivery, skewed resource allocation, and a growing sense of disenfranchisement among rural residents.

Key Issues

- Disproportionate Representation

Rural wards are grouped into large, mixed divisions that dilute the voice of individual villages, whereas urban areas enjoy tighter boundaries and more councillors per head of population.

- Unequal Resource Allocation

Funding for infrastructure, public transport, and digital connectivity is concentrated on Hinckley town, leaving many rural parishes with substandard roads, patchy broadband, and infrequent bus services.

- Divergent Service Needs

Urban residents prioritise town centre regeneration, parking and traffic management. By contrast, rural communities need support for agricultural businesses, community run transport schemes, and maintenance of rights of way—none of which receive adequate attention.

- Consultation Fatigue

Rural residents often find that local consultations and decision-making meetings take place in the town centre at times that clash with farming rhythms or school runs, effectively preventing full participation.

Call for Reform

To restore balance and ensure every voice in Hinckley and Bosworth is heard:

1. Redraw ward boundaries to create more coherent rural divisions, each with dedicated councillor representation.
2. Establish a Rural Forum charged with identifying and prioritising village-level concerns, feeding directly into cabinet decisions.
3. Ring-fence a proportion of the council budget specifically for rural infrastructure and community

initiatives.

4. Rotate formal meetings between town and village venues, with hybrid access options, to reduce barriers to attendance.

Only by restructuring governance in this way can we guarantee that Hinckley's future reflects the full tapestry of its urban heart and rural hinterland.

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within Hinckley provide an effective and convenient local government?: Disagree

Please explain the reason for your answer::Governance Arrangements Require Reform

The current tiered system of decision-making in Hinckley and Bosworth frequently fails to deliver an effective and convenient local government. Residents face delays navigating multiple bodies from parish to borough to county councils where when seeking effective communication to resolve issues, whether fixing potholes at one end to school placements and planning advice at the other with many other factors that could be easily listed. This complexity erodes public trust, stifles community engagement, and prevents timely, locally tailored solutions.

Protecting Farming and Safeguarding Food Security

Hinckley and Bosworth rich agricultural hinterland plays a critical role in Leicester shire's food supply chain. Unchecked land take-up for housing undermines this essential resource, increasing our reliance on imported produce and exposing our community to global price shocks. Preserving productive farmland must become a cornerstone of any growth strategy.

Housing Expansion vs. Local Services Capacity

Recent decisions that have enabled mass house building of new estates have proceeded without a truly robust assessment of supporting services required which is already undermine existing services and overstressing what they can truly deliver to detriment of existing local residents, not to mention the stress being imposed on the existing staff expected to deliver these service, with less resources both fiscal and in terms of insufficient personnel.

School places, GP surgeries and bus routes are already under strain.

Waste and water infrastructure lack the headroom to absorb tens of hundreds more residents.

Traffic congestion on key rural corridors will worsen if road upgrades aren't delivered in lock-step with new housing.

Piecemeal developments create "dormitory suburbs" that neglect the needs of both newcomers and established families.

Calls to Action

Establish a single, democratically accountable Hinckley and Bosworth authority

Merge overlapping functions of borough and county councils for streamlined planning and service delivery.

Create ward level committees empowered to make binding decisions on local issues.

Enshrine farmland protection in the Local Plan

Introduce an Agricultural Land Classification test for all housing allocations.

Mandate on-site productive farming or community gardens/allotment in any future expansion zones (this would also support the NHS, healthier outdoor pursuits that everyone can benefit from)

Link growth directly to infrastructure commitments

Refuse outline planning permissions until demonstrable funding is secured for schools, health and transport.

Require developers to phase housing release in line with delivered service upgrades.

Involve residents proactively at every stage

Hold quarterly town hall assemblies in each ward, rotating between urban and rural venues.

Use digital platforms for real-time feedback on planning proposals and service performance.

By overhauling the governance framework, protecting vital farmland and insisting on properly funded services, will deliver truly achievable and sustainable growth in Hinckley & Bosworth – one that benefits both current residents and future generations and not making knee jerk reactions to a central governments, chasing tick box exercises that no understanding of our local communities.

Specifically thinking about Hinckley, please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change. For example, by merging, altering, or creating a new parish/town council:: Change

Please provide reasons for your answer, including why you feel a change will ensure that community governance within the area will reflect the identities and interests of the community and will be effective and convenient:: Population Growth and Representation Gap
Hinckley & Bosworth's population rose by 8.1% between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, reaching approximately 106,300 residents. This growth has intensified demand for local services and highlighted the absence of a town or parish council in the unparished area of Hinckley, leaving nearly a third of borough inhabitants without the most local tier of representation.

Shortcomings of the Existing Two-Tier System

The current borough and county council structure struggles to maintain strong local engagement in fast-growing areas. Complex overlaps in responsibility dilute accountability, and the ever more slowing decision making has left communities uncertain about where to address issues from play area upkeep to neighbourhood planning.

Recognising that Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council have launched a Community Governance Review examining parish boundaries, council sizes, and representation ratios to ensure arrangements are both reflective of community identity and convenient for residents, my input would be;

Options for Merging, Altering or Creating Parish Structures

Merge smaller parishes suffering low electoral turnout

Some parishes currently fall below the National Association of Local Councils' recommended minimum of seven members. Consolidation would strengthen capacity, reduce administrative overheads and improve service delivery in rural wards.

Alter existing boundaries to align with "natural communities"

Adjustments can reflect new housing developments and evolving settlement patterns, securing clearer lines for service funding and local accountability.

Create a truly accountable and accessible Hinckley Town Council

Establishing a town council for Hinckley's unparished area would bring decision-making to street level. Powers could include allotment management, open space maintenance, public events and neighbourhood planning. Funding through a modest precept ensures direct reinvestment in localised specific services. Implementation could align with elections in May 2027, following the

current review timeline that have been imposed.

Benefits of Reform

Restores proximity between elected representatives and community concerns.

Enhances capacity for targeted local services, from play areas to public toilets (and lack thereof)

Strengthens community identity by ensuring parish boundaries mirror real lived in neighbourhoods and not arbitrary lines that get drawn that split them.

Delivers clear accountability through an additional tier where needed, including consolidated governance where parishes are too small to function effectively in isolation (small maybe beautiful, but not when it's fiscal longevity is compromised by failing to be value for money)

A reimagined governance framework, that is both accountable and truly transparent in its dealings, through strategic mergers, boundary realignments and the creation of a Hinckley Town Council, aligned with relevant parish councils (where warranted and appropriate) would deliver an effective, convenient and locally attuned system, empowering residents and safeguarding service quality as the borough continues to grow.

Do you wish to be consulted directly on any draft recommendations arising from the review relating to your area?: Yes

Please provide your email address::

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