



Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

*A Borough to be proud of*

# A Rural Strategy for the borough of Hinckley and Bosworth



## Introduction

Following the inaugural Hinckley and Bosworth Rural Conference on 1 December 2015, this strategy has been developed to reflect the key priorities for this borough. These high level priorities are set out within this document, and are underpinned by relevant key actions, which will be subject to ongoing review. Overall progress will be reported at the annual conference, and subsequent key actions agreed for the following year.

## Purpose of our Rural Strategy

- To ensure the importance of rural issues is weighted evenly in relation to urban concerns, and given equal opportunity for action
- To ensure the impact of future growth and development, complements and supports the wellbeing and prosperity of the borough's rural communities
- To maximise opportunities for access to services and facilities
- To provide a framework for action for rural areas



## The Vision for our Rural Borough

**To secure distinct, diverse and prosperous rural communities in Hinckley & Bosworth**

## Our Strategic Aims

- Inclusive, sustainable rural communities, where everyone has the opportunity to participate, and can access the services and facilities they need
- Productive and commercially viable rural Borough where the needs of farming, conservation and development are appropriately balanced, and where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy accessible outdoor recreation
- Residents feel supported to take ownership and drive improvements in their own communities
- Ensure our rural communities can be safe and welcoming for residents, visitors and businesses



## Our Priority Themes and Focus:

### 1 Access to services and facilities

- Sustain and potentially grow the Parish & Community Initiative Fund
- Support development of appropriate facilities and sports provision aligned to rural/parish plans e.g. extension of rural play by proactively directing Summer Activities funding towards rural areas, delivery of the SNAP Dragon programme in rural areas
- Continue to secure improved facilities through planning obligations



## 2 Facilitation of Transport Solutions



- Facilitate the extension of the MIRA bus service
- Work with the Voluntary and Community Sector to map and promote community transport opportunities



## 3 Promoting Neighbourhood Planning



- Support parishes with the Neighbourhood Development Planning Process. During 2016/17 to include the designated parishes of:  
Market Bosworth      West Clarendon      Sheepy  
Burbage                      Desford



## 4 Rural Housing Delivery



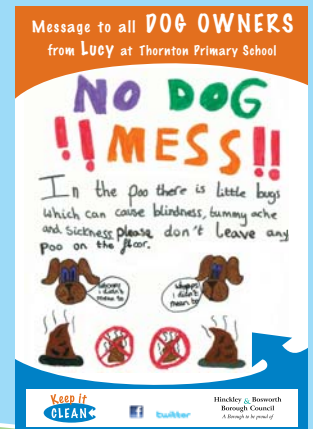
- Engage rural communities and stakeholders in early dialogue for future growth plans for Hinckley & Bosworth
- Deliver a programme of rural Housing Needs Surveys and associated actions to bring forward Rural Exception Sites
- Delivery of rural affordable housing schemes, to include Martin Shaw Lane during 2016/17

## 5 Countryside Protection and Enhancement



North Warwickshire & Hinckley & Bosworth  
England's Rural Heart  
LEADER PROGRAMME

- To work with parishes in identifying and adopting sites for Public Space Protection Orders
- Deliver an annual programme of Environmental Improvement projects, enabling the deliver of Conservation Area Managements Plans
- Provision of additional mobile CCTV to support reduction of environmental crime in targeted rural areas, based on evidence



## 6 Economy, Enterprise and Tourism



- To secure grant support for tourism, cultural and heritage activity, hospitality and farm diversification through the North Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth, England's Rural Heart LEADER programme.
- To direct rural businesses to appropriate business advice and services

## 7 Community Safety, Empowerment and Action

- Training and support to enable parishes to take enforcement action in relation to environmental nuisance issues.
- Support for communities in implementing Rural Watch and targeted Community Safety Campaigns
- Introduction of improved communication initiatives via Leicestershire Police working with parishes