



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

Scrutiny Commission
Council

11 August 2016
6 September 2016

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

EFFICIENCY PLAN

Report of Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek views of the Commission on the current draft of the Efficiency Plan, due to be submitted to Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) by 14 October 2016, following approval by Council on 6 September.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members of the Commission consider the current draft and suggest revisions and amendments, as appropriate, for final consideration by Council on 6 September.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 On 10 March 2016, the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government invited all Councils in England to undertake a formal engagement with Government, in the form of an Efficiency Plan, which would secure a multi-year settlement for Revenue Support Grant (RSG). Whilst it is known that RSG is reducing (to nil) over the four year period of such an arrangement, an agreement would ensure a 'lock-in' of funding for those participating Councils; thus giving stability and security, at least on that funding stream.
- 3.2 The development of a robust Efficiency Plan will provide the opportunity for the Council to set a clear direction for that four year period, support our ability to strengthen our financial management and form the basis for improved collaborative working with local partners, whilst reforming the way local services are provided and funded.
- 3.3 The draft attached to this paper is the latest version of the Plan, the final version of which will be submitted to Council on 6 September. This version remains incomplete, as we are still expecting some more definitive national position on New Homes Bonus, which will inform and revise the current parameters in the Plan. More detail

on Business Rates will not be available prior to submission, as the consultation on the future arrangements are at a very early stage.

3.4 The document covers:

- Our Outcome Objectives
- Foundations already in place
- Future Challenges (as currently projected)
- Our Four-Year Plan
- How We Will Judge Success

3.5 Members of the Scrutiny Commission are invited to comment on the overall Plan and the details it contains, so that any agreed revisions can be incorporated into a final draft for Council to approve on 6 September, to allow for submission by the due date in October.

4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

4.1 This report is to be taken in open session at the Scrutiny Commission and at Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [AW]

5.1 Financial implications are within the body of the efficiency plan. We need to agree an efficiency plan and submit it to The DCLG to secure the income streams set out in the Final local government finance settlement for 2016/17. Failure to agree an efficiency plan would mean being assessed for funding on an annual basis in future settlements, which in turn would increase the level of uncertainty in forecasting our future income streams.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AR]

6.1 As set out in the introduction to the Efficiency Plan, the Council is responding to the Statutory Guidance on the Flexible use of capital Receipts, issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in March 2016.

6.2 In accordance with s.15(1)(a) of the Local government Act 2003, the Council has a statutory obligation to have due regard to this guidance and the Efficiency Plan has been drawn up in accordance with this guidance.

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Efficiency Plan seeks to meet all the Council aims, but particularly that of 'Providing value for money and proactive services'

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The draft has been submitted to Unison for their comments, which will be incorporated into the final submission to the Council.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Not securing agreement to a robust Efficiency Plan will leave the Council potentially vulnerable to funding reductions from RSG in the next three years.	<p>Adopt the Efficiency Plan and submit to Government by the due date.</p> <p>Seek views from the Peer Challenge Team later in September on the robustness and clarity of the Plan.</p>	Chief Executive

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Efficiency Plan includes references to: service integration, estate and land opportunities, service transformation, and management/operational efficiencies. Along with taking advantage of some opportunities for capital investment, these will secure sustainability for the future of the Council's activities across the Borough and across different communities of interest.
- 10.2 If the proposals relating to Funding for Parishes (elsewhere on this agenda) are supported by this Commission and approved by Council, they can be incorporated into the Plan and will extend the funding availability for more rural communities and their Parish Councils.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data Protection implications
 - Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

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