

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT MEETING OF FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY AND THE SCRUTINY
COMMISSION

30 JANUARY 2017 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr KWP Lynch - Chairman
Mr MR Lay – Vice-Chairman

Mr DC Bill MBE, Mr SL Bray, Mrs R Camamile, Mr DS Cope, Mrs J Kirby, Mr BE Sutton, Miss DM Taylor, Mr P Wallace, Mr R Ward and Mr HG Williams

Members in attendance: Councillors Mr SL Rooney

Officers in attendance: Malcolm Evans, Simon D Jones, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Rob Parkinson and Ashley Wilson

336 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

337 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Members were presented with the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) summary for 2016/17 to 2020/21. Key areas highlighted were the Developing Communities Fund of £1.4m, the use of the waste management reserve which would result in a borrowing requirement to fund a new fleet, business rates income and a contingency for losses on appeals.

During discussion, concern was expressed in relation to business rates and the need to ensure provision for appeals and reduction in rates was emphasised. It was highlighted that, should a large business leave the borough, this would have a great impact on the finances of the authority. The Head of Finance assured members that the provision made was sufficient and prudent.

Councillor Taylor entered the meeting at 6.58pm.

Concern was also expressed at the intention to deplete the waste management reserve and then to fund a new fleet by borrowing which, in turn, increased concern that there may be an intention to outsource refuse collection. Members wished it to be recorded that they would not support outsourcing of the refuse service.

In relation to council tax, Councillor Bray asked that it be recorded that the Liberal Democrat group did not support a £5 increase in council tax.

In response to a question about the Developing Communities Fund, it was noted that a report on criteria and eligibility would be brought to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission.

RESOLVED – the report be noted and the comments made be forwarded to Council.