

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

8 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman  
Mrs R Camamile and Mr KWP Lynch – Vice-Chairman

Mr DC Bill MBE, Mr DS Cope (for Mr SL Bray), Mr WJ Crooks, Mr BE Sutton and Mr HG Williams

Also in attendance: Councillor M Hall, Councillor C Ladkin, Councillor K Morrell, Councillor SL Rooney and Councillor MJ Surtees

Officers in attendance: Bill Cullen, Edwina Grant, Rebecca Owen, Rob Parkinson, Kirstie Rea, Caroline Roffey, Sharon Stacey, Julie Stay and Ashley Wilson

354 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bray and Wallace, with the substitution of Councillor Mr Cope for Councillor Bray authorised in accordance with council procedure rule 4.

356 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Advice was sought in relation to the Developing Communities Fund and whether parish councillors should declare an interest in the item on the agenda. Members were advised that, whilst the Scrutiny Commission was not making a decision on the projects to be funded, it would be wise to declare a personal interest.

Councillors Camamile, Crooks, Lay, Lynch, Wallace and Williams declared a personal interest in item 10 "Implementation of the Developing Communities Fund".

361 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES FUND

The Scrutiny Commission gave consideration to the delivery of the Developing Communities Fund (DCF) including the criteria, process and amount of funding available for each project.

Following discussion whereby various options were considered, it was moved by Councillor Lay and seconded by Councillor Camamile that:

- "(i) The following eligibility criteria be recommended to Council:
- (a) The minimum project size of £30,000;
  - (b) The minimum parish contribution be set at 35% (irrespective of housing growth or council tax level);
  - (c) The parish must be committed to a neighbourhood plan;
  - (d) No funding for highways improvements;
  - (e) Must meet HBBC corporate plan priorities;
  - (f) No more than one project to be funded per parish;
  - (g) Projects must be completed within three years of an offer being made;

- (h) Only those projects submitted as an expression of interest in December 2016 are eligible for application to the fund at this stage.
- (ii) The maximum contribution from the council to any bid be set at £350,000;
- (iii) The suggestion be included in documentation that parishes can join together to submit a bid. This would ensure smaller parishes are not disadvantaged by the set minimum project size."

Councillors Bill and Lynch wished it to be recorded that they felt the fund should be available to the Hinckley area as Hinckley residents had contributed to the fund and found it unfair that Hinckley residents would not benefit from capital projects under the fund. In response, some members felt that over several years, Hinckley had benefited from a great deal of capital investment funded by the borough but not for the benefit of residents across the whole borough and that the criteria for the DCF was fair.

On the motion of Councillor Lay, seconded by Councillor Camamile, it was

RESOLVED – the following be RECOMMENDED to Council:

- (i) The fund size be set at a maximum of £1,400,000 for applications to the DCF;
- (ii) The following eligibility criteria be established:
  - (a) The minimum project size of £30,000;
  - (b) The minimum parish contribution be set at 35% (irrespective of housing growth or council tax level);
  - (c) The parish must be committed to a neighbourhood plan;
  - (d) No funding for highways improvements;
  - (e) Must meet HBBC corporate plan priorities;
  - (f) No more than one project to be funded per parish;
  - (g) Projects must be completed within three years of an offer being made;
  - (h) Only those projects submitted as an expression of interest in December 2016 are eligible for application to the fund at this stage.
- (iii) The maximum contribution from the council to any bid be set at £350,000;
- (iv) The suggestion be included in documentation that parishes can join together to submit a bid to the DCF.