



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

Scrutiny Commission

24 May 2018

WARDS AFFECTED: Rural Wards

RURAL STRATEGY – ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Report of Director – Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of service delivery in our rural communities, against the agreed priorities in our Rural Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 For members to note and endorse the range and extent of service delivery within rural locations during 2017, and progress in delivering against the Borough's Rural Strategy priorities.
- 2.1.1. **Please note this report relates to outcomes for the calendar year January – December 2017.** The range of work and outcomes already being delivered in 2018, will be reported early next year in the January – December 2018 annual report.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 Historically, on an annual basis, the rural affairs lead member has presented a rural areas review report to members. The primary purpose of the report was to present a comprehensive account of service delivery specifically within the rural areas of the Borough, detailed against each of the authority's corporate plan priorities.
- 3.1.1. However, following the appointment of the new administration in May 2015, it was agreed that we should seek to clarify and profile specific priorities in supporting the needs of our rural Borough.
- 3.1.2. Subsequently, an inaugural Rural Conference took place on 1st December 2015, focusing on the key challenges and priorities for our rural localities. The outcomes arising from the conference, coupled with evidence gathered from the ongoing Parish

Forum meetings, informed the proposed Rural Strategy, setting out longer terms aims and high level priorities, namely: access to services and facilities; facilitation of transport solutions; promoting neighbourhood planning; rural housing delivery; countryside protection & enhancements; economy, enterprise & tourism, and community safety & action.

- 3.1.3. The Rural Strategy was subsequently adopted by Full Council in April 2016.
- 3.1.4. The high level priorities set out in the strategy are underpinned by key actions, to ensure resources are focused to enable the delivery of these priority work streams. Arrangements are in place to ensure ongoing review and monitoring of delivery, and specifically bi monthly review meetings between the rural lead member and rural lead officer, and the Parish Forum review meetings (which take place 3 times per year).
- 3.1.5. Overall progress is reported at the Annual Rural Conference, and subsequently an Annual Statement of Achievements is published, and underpinning key actions updated accordingly, so that the Rural Strategy remains an up to date working document.
- 3.1.6. **Please find attached the Annual Statement of Achievements 2017** - the report details just some of the key achievements and successes during 2017. The report includes a summary of the key actions arising from the November 2017 Annual Conference, which will inform the rural work programme, and Parish Forum meeting agendas for 2018.

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

- 4.1 The report is to be taken in open session.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (IB)

- 5.1 None arising from the report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)

- 6.1 None

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The delivery of the Rural Strategy supports our People, Place and Prosperity corporate priorities, and will specifically support the delivery of the following ambition: 'Support our rural communities to enhance local community facilities through our Rural Strategy and a range of funding initiatives', and supports one of our key values: 'We will be proactive in engaging our rural and remote communities, as well as those who live in our main towns'.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Rural Strategy and underpinning priorities has been informed through consultation with Service Heads, appropriate Senior Officers and key partners.

There is ongoing consultation via the regular Parish Forum meetings, and the Annual Rural Conference.

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
Lack of evidence base to inform the focus and resources to deliver on rural communities priorities	Ongoing delivery, monitoring and review of the Rural Strategy priorities	Edwina Grant

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The specific purpose of the Rural Strategy is to ensure there is a focus in terms of delivery and resources, on the most important issues faced by people living in our rural areas. There is ongoing consultation via the regular Parish Forum meetings, and the Annual Rural Conference.

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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