

Public Document Pack



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Bill Cullen MBA (ISM), BA(Hons) MRTPI
Chief Executive

Date: 20 July 2022

To: Members of the Scrutiny Commission

Cllr MR Lay (Chairman)
Cllr C Ladkin (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr P Williams (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr JMT Collett
Cllr DS Cope
Cllr MJ Crooks

Cllr L Hodgkins
Cllr K Morrell
Cllr A Pendlebury
Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools
Cllr R Webber-Jones

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear member,

There will be a meeting of the **SCRUTINY COMMISSION** as a virtual meeting via Zoom on **THURSDAY, 28 JULY 2022** at **6.30 pm** and your attendance is required.

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Owen'.

Rebecca Owen
Democratic Services Manager

SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 28 JULY 2022

A G E N D A

1. **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

2. **MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2022.

3. **ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

To be advised of any additional items of business which the Chairman decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive verbally from members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's code of conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. **This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the agenda.**

5. **QUESTIONS**

To hear any questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

6. **JOB & SKILLS WORK AND SECTOR SKILLS SHORTAGES**

To receive a presentation on the council's work in partnership, including an update on the Employment & Skills Taskforce.

7. **SOCIAL HOUSING DEMAND (Pages 5 - 14)**

To provide updates on social housing demand within the borough, the allocations policy and other considerations impacting the availability of rental accommodation.

8. **ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY 2021 - 2025 (Pages 15 - 22)**

To provide an update on work to fulfil the aims of the Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021-2025.

9. **HERITAGE STRATEGY 2018-2023 ACTION PLAN UPDATE (Pages 23 - 28)**

To provide an update on work to fulfil the aims and objectives of the action plan.

10. **SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 29 - 32)**

Work programme attached.

11. **ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AS MATTERS OF URGENCY**

As announced under item 3.

12. **MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED**

To consider the passing of a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 excluding the public from the undermentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3, 5

and 10 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act.

13. **CREMATORIUM UPDATE (Pages 33 - 48)**

To provide an update on the crematorium project.

This page is intentionally left blank

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

9 JUNE 2022 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chairman in the Chair
Cllr C Ladkin – Vice-Chairman
Cllr JMT Collett, Cllr DS Cope, Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr L Hodgkins, Cllr K Morrell,
Cllr A Pendlebury, Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools and Cllr R Webber-Jones

Also in attendance: Councillor KWP Lynch

Officers in attendance: Daniel Britton, Bill Cullen, Julie Kenny, Helen Nightingale,
Rebecca Owen, Ian Pinfold, Caroline Roffey, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

38. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ladkin and Lay.

39. **Minutes**

It was moved by Councillor Crooks, seconded by Councillor Sheppard-Bools and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March be approved
as a correct record.

40. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

41. **Environmental Improvement Programme 2022-23**

Members were updated on the 2022/23 Environmental Improvement Programme. It was agreed that photographs of some of the schemes would be sent to members along with a link to the relevant pages of the website.

42. **Housing Delivery Test Action Plan**

The Scrutiny Commission was notified of the housing delivery test results which calculated that the council had delivered 86% of its required housing target over the last three years, requiring publication of an action plan. It was reported that the government had taken account of slower delivery during the pandemic.

Cllr Ladkin entered the meeting at 6.47pm.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The lack of sustainable communities to accept housing
- Concern that the situation will worsen in future
- The local plan would improve the situation in the longer term
- Engagement with developers and neighbourhood plan groups was taking place
- Bringing forward the sustainable urban extensions (SUEs) would improve the situation
- Legislation now required local plans to be updated every five years, so this would result in a constant programme of updates.

A member expressed concern that the Earl Shilton SUE would experience similar delays to the Barwell SUE, however officers provided assurance that lessons had been learned and a project board would oversee progress. It was noted that the Earl Shilton Town Team had been kept informed and the developers were happy to continue to attend those meetings.

43. **Garden waste costs update**

Members were updated on the garden waste position in relation to income and cost recovery. It was acknowledged that the income from the service wasn't intended to cover the cost of delivery and despite more residents subscribing to the service than initially predicted, the service continued to run at a loss. Members thanked the Head of Finance for the clear explanation with regard to the financial position.

44. **Ashby Road Cemetery**

Further to a motion to Council on 25 January 2022, the Scrutiny Commission received a presentation on works to improve surface water drainage at Ashby Road Cemetery. It was noted that since opening in 1858 the cemetery had had two extensions, the most recent in 2009.

Members were informed that in March 2021 a small number of complaints had been received about surface water to the newest extension. Consultants were engaged to review the drainage system and in November 2021 additional drainage was installed. Following the motion to Council, new consultants were appointed to review the matter. The consultants reviewed the initial risk assessment from 2007 where there was a moderate risk, meeting Environment Agency requirements and concluded that the risk was now low.

The consultants also considered the impact of the new development on the site of the "Big Pit" and concluded that it would not affect the existing cemetery extension. It was noted that this would be monitored throughout the construction of the new development. The cemetery was at a higher level than the Big Pit site.

The cemetery was monitored daily Monday to Friday and at weekends during times of high rainfall. 17 days of wetter ground were recorded but these were during periods of high rainfall. The drainage system was designed for surface water from precipitation to percolate through the system over an eight hour period.

Further work was planned to increase drains on the adjacent section and on hardstanding areas and between existing graves subject to the agreement of families.

45. **Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Members were provided with a presentation on the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) which would cover three outlooks due to the high level of uncertainty. The business rates reset remained the key risk as part of the fair funding review. It was noted that the MTFS would be reported to Council in July.

46. **Scrutiny Commission Work Programme**

Members received the work programme which covered the 2022/23 municipal year. It was reported that the report on supporting young people and young people's voice would be taken to the March meeting.

It was agreed that a briefing note about legislation relating to hedges would be arranged.

47. **Minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny**

The minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny were received for information.

(The Meeting closed at 7.50 pm)

CHAIRMAN

This page is intentionally left blank



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 22 July 2022

Wards affected: All Wards

Social Housing Demand

Report of Director (Community Services)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update members on social housing demand within the borough.
- 1.2 To provide members with further update on the Allocations policy since its implementation in 2018.
- 1.3 To outline other considerations that impact the availability of rental accommodation.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That members note the content of the report.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996 (amended) (The Act) governs the allocation of local authority housing stock in England. The Act requires all local authorities to have an “allocations scheme” which sets out the procedure followed when allocating social housing including how applications are prioritised. Certain categories of people must be given “reasonable preference” but local authorities are able to set their own rules to determine the relative position of different applicants with reasonable preference, to reflect local priorities. In England there is general allocation guidance, plus more specific guidance for vulnerable cohorts such as those affected by domestic abuse, care leavers and those serving or from the armed forces.
- 3.2 Broadly speaking, reasonable preference must be given to the following groups

- a) People who are homeless within the meaning of Part 7 of the Act (including those who are intentionally homeless and those not in priority need)
- b) People who are owed a duty by any housing authority
- c) People who occupy insanitary or overcrowded housing or are otherwise living in unsatisfactory housing conditions
- d) People who need to move on medical or welfare grounds, including grounds relating to a disability, and
- e) People who need to move to a particular locality in the district of the housing authority, where failure to meet that need would cause hardship (to themselves or others)

3.3 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Allocations policy was revised in 2018 to ensure that preference was given to those with the most housing need and to those with a local connection.

The main revisions to the policy were as follows.

- Applicants claiming a connection through family are required to provide evidential support;
- Applicants require a two-year local connection to the Borough in certain cases;
- Applicants are required to provide information on income and expenditure to be able to identify any issues around affordability.
- A more prescriptive approach on how applicants with rent arrears are assessed;
- Applicants who have received a warning letter for abusing staff are suspended for a minimum of three months;
- The eligibility matrix for properties was amended to bring it in line with overcrowding regulations in addition to making best use of ground floor and bungalow accommodation;
- Reasonable preference is given to certain Priority Groups as stated in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018;
- Applicants in Critical banding are direct-matched to a property. Those applicants in Priority banding who have not been placed through the homelessness legislation are direct-matched to a suitable property after the initial 8-week period. If the offer is refused their original banding is reinstated;
- Priority and High banding groups have 8 weeks to express a choice in their bidding. This brings the process in line the legal obligations of the Homelessness Reduction Act Prevention and Relief duties.

- 3.4 As stated the revised Allocations policy was implemented in 2018. The policy is now well-embedded into working practices. Since its introduction there have been further revisions which include a revision to the household earning threshold, to ensure that this is in line with annual inflations and a revision to ensure that the Allocations policy aligns with the intentions of local 106 agreements which are in place to enable home seekers with a village connection to gain further housing preference.
- 3.5 When the policy was introduced, applicants were also encouraged to apply on line. In the main this works quite well, and has consequently reduced our carbon footprint. However, it is recognised that some applicants need additional support with the online process, and the housing service is able to provide this support as required.

4.0 Housing demand and the application process

- 4.1 There is significant demand for rented social housing in the borough and demand continues to increase year-on-year. In terms of meeting the demand, the council currently has a total dwelling stock of approximately 3,220 units of accommodation. On average, 220 properties become void annually, representing an annual stock turnover of around 7%.
- 4.2 The level of demand for all council homes is high and there is particular demand for one-bedroom flats and two-and-three-bedroom houses. As outlined, the Allocations policy prioritises those most in need of housing but waiting times can still be lengthy and there is not enough council housing available to meet social housing requirements within the borough.
- 4.3 Agreements exist between Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and some Registered Providers (RPs) who also meet affordable housing need within the borough. Whilst the majority of RP vacancies are advertised directly through the Choice-Based Lettings scheme, there will be some RPs that advertise vacant properties through their own website. On average, RPs advertise around 100 properties a year in total, across all providers, via the Choice-Based Lettings scheme.
- Table 1 below details the number of people trying to access Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Housing Register over recent years including those applications who are successful and accepted on to the Housing Register.

4.4 Table 1- Number of housing applications per year

Year	Total number of housing applications initiated (NB the majority of these are not completed by the applicant)	Number of successful housing applications	Percentage of ineligible applications as a percentage of all applications (Data only available from 2020)	Number of successful applications as a percentage of all applications initiated
2015	1344	615		45%
2016	1962	612		31%
2017	1970	560		28%
2018	1678	636		38%
2019	2428	606		25%
2020	2604	780	11%	30%
2021	2704	576	12%	21%

4.5 The above table also highlights that the majority of housing applicants are not successful in joining the housing register year-on-year. In the year 2021 79% of applications started did not result in a person/family being entered on to the Housing Register. The primary reason why most applicants are not accepted on to the Housing Register is because they fail to complete the application process. Whilst there will always be applicants who are not accepted as they are ineligible to join Hinckley and Bosworth's Housing Register, this is relatively small compared to those who do not complete the applications process and therefore are not entered on the Housing Register.

The most typical reasons for ineligibility are as follows;

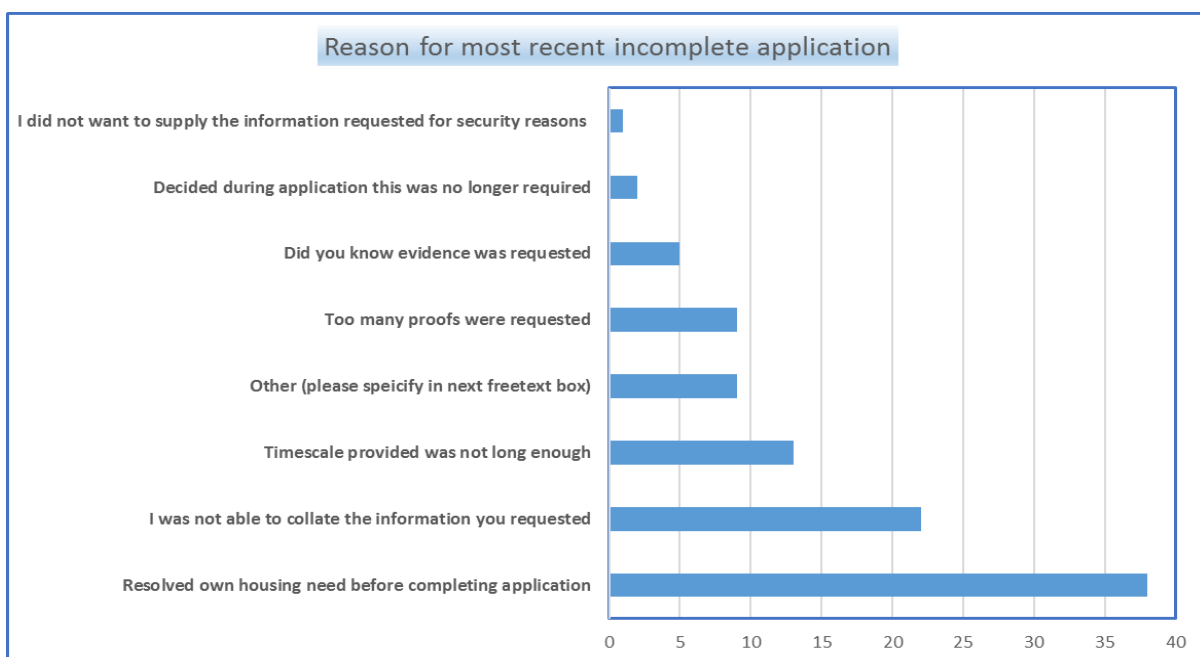
- No local connection,
- Financial means to address their own housing needs
- Rent arrears over £300 with no payment plan in place
- Behaviour (convictions or involvement in anti-social behaviour).

5.0 Incomplete housing applications

5.1 As stated, the majority of people who start the housing application process do not complete it. To better understand why this is so and in order to consider and address what barriers there may be for housing applicants in completing the process, a review of the application process has recently been completed.

5.2 A telephone survey was conducted with a sample of housing applicants who have repeatedly tried to apply to join the register but have not completed the process. Table 2 provides further breakdown of the main reasons people did not completed the application process;

5.3 Table 2 – Reason why applicants do not complete the application process



5.4 From analysis of the survey responses most people suggest that they resolved their own housing situation and therefore did not need to continue with a housing application. The second highest response suggests that applicants could not easily provide the information requested. The third highest response suggested that the timescale to provide the information was not long enough.

In order to continually improve our services work is now underway to explore these findings further and to consider how we can make the process easier and more accessible for all housing applicants.

6.0 Housing prioritisation

6.1 The Allocations policy adopted by HBBC operates 5 categories and explanation regarding the criteria to satisfy each category is provided in Appendix A.

6.2 The table below breaks down the current number of applications that are in each of the 5 categories.

6.3 Table 3- Number of housing applications in each housing priority classification

Housing priority classification	Number of current applicants
Critical	51
Priority	87
High	62
Medium	190
Low	495
Total	885

6.4 There are quite significant numbers in each housing priority classification. The consequence of this is that many applicants can be waiting for a significant amount of time before being offered a property. From a management perspective this can be very difficult, given that increasingly many of our housing applicants present with complex needs including medical or welfare needs that mean their need to move is crucial.

6.5 Appendix B provides detail regarding the profile of current applicants. Broadly speaking the data available for the year 2021 demonstrates the following trends;

- The majority of applicants to the housing register are female (67%)
- Over 60% of applications include children.
- The majority of applicants have a preference for accommodation in Hinckley, Burbage, Barwell and Earl Shilton.
- Over 23% of applicants advised they have a disability.

7.0 Supply and need

7.1 New affordable homes for rent are generally delivered either by way of a developer providing a number of homes for affordable housing on new developments, by selling to a Registered Provider (RP) or, in more recent years, by RPs having their own development programme and developing sites solely for affordable housing. In all these instances the legal agreement with the Local planning Authority is that new homes for affordable housing shall be let through the council's Choice Based Lettings scheme. For the 5 years up to April 2021 a total of 260 new homes for rent were delivered.

7.2 A Housing Needs Study carried out in 2019 which looked to inform the Local Plan assessed the need for 271 new affordable homes per annum up to 2036 to meet the need. Need includes affordable home ownership as well as affordable homes to rent. Targets for affordable housing are set on what it is viable for a developer to deliver, which is not sufficient to meet the overall need.

7.3 Affordable housing for rent on new sites charge an “affordable rent” which is up to 80% of local market rents. These are higher than the target rents the Council charges on most of our tenancies, but less than private landlords charge. Currently rents are around, or only slightly above, Local Housing Allowance rates and so are more appealing to applicants claiming benefits.

7.4 The Housing Needs Study assessed the different property types required to meet the identified need, and has assessed the different needs as follows:

	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4+ bed
Affordable Home Ownership	10%	50%	30%	10%
Affordable housing for rent	25%	40%	30%	5%

These needs, and information from the Council’s housing register, are used to inform negotiations with developers on the supply of new affordable housing to be provided.

8.0 Other impacts to the availability of rental accommodation

8.1 Many landlords within the private sector were adversely affected during the pandemic as the government imposed a moratorium over evictions for a number of months. Without doubt, this has created financial issues for many and landlords within Hinckley and Bosworth are no exception. Added to that are impending decarbonisation requirements and other regulations that will require financial investment, so it is perhaps no surprise that many landlords have decided to leave the market. The consequence of this is that there is less private sector rental accommodation available, increasing overall housing demand and limiting choice for our residents. Anecdotal information suggests that private sector renters are in fierce competition with as many as 20 renters at any one time trying to pursue a single property.

8.2 The supply of private sector rental accommodation is vital for the housing service to support our home seekers, particularly as many housing applicants will not meet the threshold to join the housing register due to their income level. Currently the income threshold to join the housing register is set at £49K per household and this figure is increased annually in line with inflation. Private sector rental accommodation is also something that the housing service rely on in terms of supporting homelessness applicants access settled accommodation. Without the availability of this accommodation the reality is that many homeless applicants are spending protracted periods of time in temporary accommodation.

9.0 Homelessness

9.1 The pandemic has increased the number of homelessness approaches to the council over recent years. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 which came into force in April 2018 imposed further requirements on each Local

Housing authority to extend its duties in relation to those accessing housing support or presenting as homeless. The new burdens, coupled with mandates from government over the course of the pandemic such as “Everyone In” have again led to increased numbers of people accessing housing options advice and requiring support with the provision of temporary accommodation until settled accommodation can be secured.

- 9.2 Table 4 provides information regarding the number of homelessness approaches over the last 3 years.

Table 4- Number of Homelessness approaches by year

	April 19- March 20	April 20- March 21	April 21- March 22
Number of approaches for assistance	605	1,003	971

- 9.3 Reasons for homelessness can be varied but the top 5 reasons for homelessness are provided below, together with the number of homelessness applicants in each of those categories.

9.4 **Table 5- Top 5 reasons for Homelessness**

Top 5 reasons for homelessness	April 19- March 20	April 20- March 21	April 21- March 22
Asked to leave by family	121	243	189
Relationship breakdown	48	131	95
Section 21 notice	81	71	111
Fleeing domestic abuse	32	83	101
Sofa surfing	68	71	35

- 9.5 Through its prevention policy and associated prevention fund the housing options service is able to support both homeless applicants and private sector landlords to make an allocation to a homeless applicant more attractive or more secure for private sector landlords by providing a bond or rent in advance. Yet despite these incentives many landlords are still resistant to providing accommodation to those in need who have come via the homelessness pathway. As a consequence, social housing is often the only option available for homeless applicants. As stated, homeless applicants are given reasonable preference with the Allocations policy, and the table below illustrates the number of homelessness applicants who were successful in gaining a social housing tenancy with the council over the last 2 years.

9.6 **Table 6- Number of homeless applicants accessing HBBC council housing**

Year	Number of council units let via the homelessness pathway
2020	29 (2 prevent, 18 relief, 39 main)
2021	59 (3 prevent, 12 relief, 44 main)

9.7 The council is able to discharge its homelessness responsibility by allocating to accommodation within its own housing stock, but given the increase in housing demand more generally, it is increasingly evident that this can only compromise the ability for other types of home seekers, particularly those in lower housing priority classifications to secure social or affordable accommodation within the borough.

9.8 The Housing Options Team will soon be undertaking a homelessness review in order to inform its strategic response over the next three years. The review will look to determine specific priorities and actions aimed at relieving homelessness and to support people to access settled and sustainable accommodation.

10.0. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

10.1 Report to be taken in open session.

11.0. Financial implications

11.1 None arising directly from this report.

12. Legal implications (MR)

12.1 Set out in the report.

13. Corporate Plan implications

13.1 The report aligns with the following corporate objectives;

People: Helping people to stay healthy, active and protected from harm

14. Consultation

14.1 None.

15. Risk implications

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

15.2 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.

15.3 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
Increased demand may impede the council's ability to deliver statutory duties	Government have provided additional grant funding to support service delivery	Maddy Shellard
Inability to support vulnerable people	Person centred service delivery approach	

16. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

16.1 The Housing Options service strives to meet its responsibilities and support vulnerable groups in accordance with statutory requirements.

17. Climate implications

17.1 The Housing Options service aims to deliver its services in way to minimise carbon emissions. This includes online systems and minimising travel.

18. Corporate implications

18.1 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

Contact officer: Maddy Shellard/ Ashleigh Brightmore 5746
 Executive member: Councillor M Mullaney



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 28 July 2022

Wards affected: All Wards

Hinckley & Bosworth Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021 – 2025 Update Report

Report of Director (Community & Development Services)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on work undertaken in the last 12 months, including ongoing initiatives, in order to fulfil the aims of the Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021 - 2025.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members note and endorse the Economic Regeneration work undertaken and outcomes achieved and endorse the ongoing work highlighted in the report appendix.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The overall aim of the Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021- 2025 is to promote economic well-being for all local businesses and residents across the whole of the borough. In particular it incorporates policies that will help both businesses and residents build economic resilience to combat the difficulties that many are facing due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2 Update in Respect to Projects

3.3 Places Theme

Summary and Highlights of Places Theme:

- Town Centres' Strategy vision – Consultants are finalising a high-level document identifying opportunities for investment and improvement to deliver, through a separate masterplan the physical, social and

environmental aspirations for the town centre. It will provide a framework for the regeneration of sites within Hinckley by identifying and targeting specific sites. The strategy will have a life of between 5 and 15 years dependent on the progress against objectives.

- Working with partners 42 family events were delivered and promoted widely to attract residents and visitors. Reporting 50% increase in visitor numbers when hosting an event. Events promoted on: www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/events
- HBBC Communications team working with Hinckley BID and Wonderful Hinckley team created a film showcasing Hinckley and the borough as a whole with footage from businesses, leisure and retail. It will be promoted extensively on social media, online and to partners. Wonderful Hinckley launched on Instagram with over a thousand followers to date.
- Major Projects Team commissioned consultants to produce a Hinckley Town Centre Wayfinding Strategy. The Strategy has been endorsed and the Team are commencing with its implementation including design and preparing for installation of the wayfinding elements.
- Hinckley High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) – The Hinckley HSHAZ has now entered its third year (2022/23 period) and continues to deliver 15 projects that intend to record, promote, protect, repair and enhance historic buildings and environment within the defined HSHAZ area. The Hinckley HSHAZ Scheme is particularly focussing on delivering the following projects this year: Building Improvement Scheme, Public Realm Projects, HSHAZ Hub, Community Engagement Programme, Building Maintenance Guidance and Cultural Programme.
- To promote improved walking and cycling access a local cycling framework document has been developed and cycle routes shared on HBBC website: www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/200123/cycling
- The Major Projects team have regular dialogue with the Leicester Inward Investment Team and development industry on employment sites within the Borough. The team also engage with CWLEP Growth Hub on the support available to businesses in the borough.
- MIRA Technology Park and Enterprise Zone – Continuing support of the ongoing expansion through advice, grant and loan support.
- New Tourism destination leaflet launched and rebranded to RichardiiiCountry. Bosworth 1485 sculpture trail is progressing well, details can be found www.richardiiicountry.com/richard-iii/index
- The Environmental Improvement Programme 2021/22 within budget delivered nine schemes. Highlights include: various war memorial cleaning work including repairs carried out to Hinckley War Memorial on Argents Mead and repair to Dakins Bridge, Ashby Canal and the bankside at Congerstone

3.4 Prosperity Theme

Summary and Highlights of Prosperity Theme:

- Since the start of the pandemic in order to support and sustain local businesses through recovery from COVID19 the Council has distributed £32,381,222 on 5673 mandatory Covid grants and we have spent £5,426,329 on 2005 discretionary grants.

- Using the business database continue to signpost businesses to the latest business support, events, news and grant funding information. In particular the Councils discretionary fund programmes and information on Covid to help support business especially support available from the Leicestershire Growth Hub.
- Participated in a County wide six month programme of business start-up support activity targeting businesses under two years old providing access to training, mentoring, digital workshops and a small-scale grants programme.
- A flyer has been included in the business rates demands with one side promoting the Leicestershire Growth Hub and the other promoting the Councils social media profiles promoting business support available.
- There has been high business rates growth arising from the councils inward investment initiatives, leading to retained business rates growth increasing from £1.2m in 2019/20 to an expected £2.6m for 2022/23.
- The Hinckley & Bosworth Employment & Skills Taskforce has continued to go from strength to strength with an excellent representation from local businesses, LLEP, the college and secondary schools.
- A local business survey was held in December 2021 and follows a similar survey that was undertaken in September 2020. The survey showed that the top priorities for support was financial followed by recruitment/training and then business rate relief. Looking to hold a business show case event to take place after the summer, to showcase local businesses and address the results of the survey.
- Successful bid for Levelling Up fund monies for a £19.9m project at Twycross Zoo to deliver a national science and conservation centre.
- Commenced work on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan to release the Councils conditional allocation of £2,600,011.
- Newly created Hinckley Town Centre Vacant Unit Working Group established, a mini action plan has been developed with a new Destination Hinckley brochure designed and distributed: www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/destinationhinckley

3.5 People Theme

Summary and Highlights of People Theme:

- The Council has supported cross-border (North Warwickshire Borough Council and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council) employment and skills initiatives and events such as the Career Speed Networking and Teen Tech live events at Mira Technology Institute.
- The Council continues to support the Primary Engineers programme and Secondary Engineers programme for schools in the Borough promoting engineering careers for pupils through inspiring programmes and competitions.
- Through the Councils Employment and Skills Taskforce officers are regularly engaging with local schools and academies on topics such as climate change and events such as the South Charnwood United Business Alliance.
- Working with North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College and partners on a large scale STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts

and Maths) into your future event aiming to inspire the future workforce to pursue a career within STEAM. This will be done through employer demonstrations, and links with local and national employers.

- Regular meetings are held between officers and Job Centre Plus to exchange information on new employment site job opportunities and the number of people seeking work and what help they might need to do to take advantage of these posts.
- Working with the planning policy team to ensure the Economic Prosperity section Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2020-2039 meets employment land requirements for both existing and new business. Also ensuring proposals for major development will be required to submit a Local Employment & Training Strategy (LETS) through S106 agreements. LETS documents continue to support employment opportunities for local people and are requested on large housing sites such as Westfield Farm and employment sites such as the new ALDI National Distribution Centre for both the construction and operational phases.
- In order to encourage the upskilling of local people, to retain local skills and encourage the retention of local graduates continued liaison and promotion of local employment programme opportunities such as the WILL Project and Leicester Employment Hub.
- A fully branded careers and jobs fair offer is being created to highlight the range of different careers options and benefits of working for a local authority to inspire local students to consider working for the council as a future career option.
- Hinckley High Street HAZ Hub at the Atkins building held their first recruitment event in June 2022, hosted by Job Centre Plus it showcased job opportunities from local employers.

3.6 **Well-being Theme**

Summary and Highlights of Well-being Theme:

- Working with the Councils Health Improvement Officer and County Councils Workplace Health Officer have disseminated various health information leaflets to businesses themed on prevention and wider determinants of Health and promoted surveys on chance to shape the next phase of this work.
- The Council have acted as a Kickstart Gateway supporting local businesses accepted on the scheme with their six month placements for creating new jobs for 16 to 24 year olds.
- Working in partnership with Active Together (formerly LRS) 15 workplaces have signed the Wellbeing at Work Charter to improve the health and wellbeing of their staff offering bespoke support packages.

3.7 **Climate Change Theme**

Summary and Highlights of Climate Change Theme:

- Established the Hinckley and Bosworth Business Climate Change Forum chaired by Hinckley and Rugby Building Society aiming to work with local businesses to bring best practice together and share knowledge on how businesses are reducing their carbon footprint and limiting the impacts of climate change.

- Posted regular updates on climate change initiatives and action on social media and regular press releases and Borough Bulletin articles on climate positive actions.
- Promote via the business database and business forum to businesses financial assistance initiatives available such as Green BELLE- Green Grants to Grow Your Business and carbon literacy training for business.

4. Financial implications [CS]

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report. Any future funding for projects will be requested in accordance with financial procedure rules.

5. Legal implications [MR]

- 5.1 None

6. Corporate Plan implications

- 6.1 The Economic Regeneration Strategy has synergy with the Corporate Plan's vision as a 'Place of Opportunity'. Particularly under 'Prosperity' by 'Supporting the regeneration of our town centres and villages' and 'Boosting economic growth and regeneration by encouraging investment that will provide new jobs and places to live and work all over the borough'.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The Economic Regeneration Strategy was subject to public consultation via the council's website, our business database and through liaising with key partnerships.

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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
None		

9. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 9.1 Projects put forward in the Economic Regeneration Strategy generally have a good spread over the whole of the Borough to include both the urban and rural areas.
- 9.2 It is considered that this report will not have any effect on equality for any of the protected characteristics and therefore no further analysis or action is necessary.

10. Climate implications

- 10.1 A section of both the strategy and action plan are devoted to climate change and relate to the council's declared climate emergency

11. Corporate implications

- 11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications – none directly as a result of this report
 - Environmental implications – various projects identified will have a positive impact
 - ICT implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Asset Management implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Procurement implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Human Resources implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Planning implications – planning matters will be dealt with, when appropriate, through the regeneration projects being brought forward
 - Data Protection implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Voluntary Sector – the voluntary sector is supported through a number of initiatives identified in the strategy.

Background papers: Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021 to 2025

Contact officer: Daniel Britton, 01455 255872

Executive member: Councillor S Bray

Appendix A

The following are actions from the Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021- 2025 that will continue be a focus of ongoing work priorities over the next year:

Places

- Produce new Town Centres' Strategy vision document in order to promote the vitality of our town centres
- Work with partners including the BID to develop our plans and new events programme to attract shoppers and visitors to help increase footfall to pre-COVID levels and above in our town centres while maintaining social distancing
- Invest in marketing and communication to promote our town centres i.e. shop local campaigns
- Re-imagine Hinckley town centre through the new Public Realm Masterplan to identify new opportunities that will secure the ongoing regeneration of Hinckley
- To implement the Hinckley High Streets Heritage Action Zone to improve the appearance of identified historic buildings and public spaces
- Promote improved walking and cycling access to our town centres and implement the Hinckley Public Realm Masterplan proposals related to this by working with partners to access funding and deliver sustainable and COVID safe improvements
- Continue to support our rural town centres
- Promote and regularly update the Investor Prospectus and its sites
- Bring forward employment sites and facilitate quality 'move on' space for businesses wishing to expand
- To promote the MIRA Technology Park and Enterprise Zone
- To work with tourism bodies in relation to tourism matters
- Continue to deliver the Environmental Improvement Programme

Prosperity

- Consider financial impacts on all types of businesses and provide support to access both grant and support programmes from sources such as government, the LLEP Growth Hub, Leicestershire County Council and HBBC
- Engage with our Employment & Skills Taskforce to deliver its action plan on intervention and support, including securing local data to inform on trends and inform actions
- Establish relationships with and an understanding of the needs of both existing and new businesses especially related to skills in order to establish likely future skill requirements of businesses
- Facilitate and promote business events by working in partnership on subjects chosen through collaboration with local businesses
- Through relevant digital programmes enable businesses to best use superfast broadband opportunities
- Work with tourism partners and the LLEP to secure external support for key tourism destinations in our area
- Through the Local Plan identify opportunity sites for re-imagined development and investment opportunities such as grow-on space and small affordable units for start-ups

- Make use of data collection and intelligence to engage with local commercial agents to understand changing market conditions and build confidence
- Undertake a review of our own commercial estate and opportunities for the future
- Review the opportunities through master planning for potential re-uses of vacant office/commercial buildings in our centres and enable more people to live in appropriate locations of town centres in order to support local businesses

People

- Through the Employment and Skills Taskforce to work with local schools and colleges to enable young people to have confidence in their future, raise aspirations and ensure students have an understanding of local employment and training opportunities
- To promote specific sector job opportunities at schools and colleges in order to improve perceptions and attract young people into employment in these sectors
- To work with education providers and businesses to match training courses and apprenticeships to local business needs including any replacement demand requirement
- To encourage the upskilling of local people, to retain local skills and encourage the retention of local graduates
- To support people to overcome barriers to employment and work with the Voluntary and Community Sector to provide support programmes
- To support people wishing to set up in business and those working from home
- To work with construction companies and developers on local sites to encourage them to take on local people for jobs, apprenticeships and work placements
- To engage with appropriate local transport providers and enablers to help people access employment and training

Well-being

- Support the well-being and health of the local workforce through working in partnership to help with mental health issues, business diversification possibilities and upskilling

Climate Change

- Identify how we can support new working practices for businesses which have a positive impact on carbon emissions such as investment in renewable energy technology
- Support LCC to deliver active travel interventions that will encourage greater use of walking, cycling and electric vehicles

To work in partnership to fulfil the economic potential of the area

- To ensure a broad range of support packages are available to local businesses, particularly micro and small enterprises
- To develop strong partnership relationships, which have the capacity to lever in funding where required to deliver both large and small scale projects
- Support and work with town centres groups in respect to initiatives and events
- To source appropriate Section 106 Agreement funding to support the regeneration of town centres.



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 28 July 2022

Wards affected: All Wards

Hinckley & Bosworth Heritage Strategy 2018-2023 Action Plan Update

Report of Director Community & Development Services

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on work undertaken in the last 24 months, including ongoing initiatives, in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Action Plan of the Heritage Strategy 2018 – 2023.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Members:

- a. Note and endorse the heritage work undertaken and outcomes achieved.
- b. Endorse the ongoing work.

3. Background to the report

3.1 The Council, on 7 December 2017, approved the adoption of the Heritage Strategy and accompanying action plan.

3.2 The purpose of the strategy is to guide conservation and heritage activities in the borough from 2018 to 2023. The vision of the strategy is:

- To increase our understanding and awareness of the borough's heritage with improved accessibility to the historic environment
- To implement positive action and active management of the borough's heritage to ensure its conservation and enhancement

- To enable an approach of partnership and collaboration where people, groups and communities come together to care for the borough's heritage
- To celebrate and promote the borough's heritage and identity, allowing it to make a difference for people, groups and communities

3.3 To achieve the vision of the strategy there are four aims with associated objectives. The Action Plan identifies key actions, initiatives and interventions to achieve each objective, to be developed and delivered over short (0-1 years), medium (up to 3 years) and long-term (up to 5 years) timeframes. Actions developed and delivered during the last 24 months to meet each of the four aims and associated objective are summarised below, with more detailed information regarding each action available on request.

3.4 **Aim 1 – Increasing understanding and awareness of heritage with improved accessibility**

Summary and Highlights:

- Awareness of heritage has been improved with the installation of new blue plaques (William Gadsby plaques in Desford and Hinckley) and the production and development of heritage trails, including a Desford Heritage Trail, St Margaret's (Stoke Golding) Heritage Trail, and a shared heritage trail (a joint leaflet produced with North Warwickshire Borough Council)
- Despite COVID challenges successful and expanded Heritage Open Days events took place over two weekends in September 2020 and 2021
- Links have been established with arts and cultural colleagues at North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College to deliver activities as part of the Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)

3.5 **Aim 2- Implement positive action to manage and enhance heritage**

Summary and Highlights:

- Continued development and delivery of capital projects within Hinckley town centre as part of the HSHAZ, including
 - Grants offered for window repairs and replacements along Castle Street
 - Other shopfront and repair schemes being developed
 - Designs for public realm improvements to Church Walk, Castle Street and yards and jitties being finalised
 - Establishment of HSHAZ Hub with Atkins Building
- Statutory action to address the perilous condition of the grade II* listed Bradgate Stables, Groby has commenced with the use of grant aid from Historic England, culminating in the serving of a Section 54 Urgent Works notice upon the landowner
- Development of a HBBC Local Heritage List has continued, devised in part conjunction with a number of Neighbourhood Planning Groups

- A Wayfinding Strategy for Hinckley town centre has been endorsed with installations being planned around the town centre, including possibility of interpretation boards
- A number of enhancements to the historic environment have been delivered during 2020 and 2021 via the Environmental Improvement Programme including general wall repairs, Ashby Canal bridge and mooring repairs, repairs to Bagworth, Hinckley, Shenton and Stoke Golding war memorials, and repairs to the Hinckley United Reformed Church
- Specialist input was provided to the emerging Local Plan with new draft policies concerning the protection of the historic environment and suggested stronger protection for particular types of heritage assets including public houses
- Professional advice continues to be provided in a timely manner to Development Management, applicants and consultees in response to statutory consultations with sound and high-quality decisions issued

3.6 Aim 3 - Ensure a partnership approach to care for our heritage

Summary and Highlights:

- Support to Neighbourhood Planning Groups during the development of Plans has been provided to ensure that heritage and the historic environment is adequately planned for at the Neighbourhood level. During the two years advice has been provided to Barlestone, Market Bosworth, Markfield, Sheepy, Stoke Golding and Witherley Neighbourhood Groups
- As organised by the Conservation Officer annual Leicestershire & Rutland Conservation Officers Forum are held and the HBBC Conservation Officer continues to be the County Representative for the East Midlands branch of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC)
- Positive working practices with local heritage stakeholders have been maintained through various means, e.g., delivery of the Heritage Open Days events
- The involvement of the HBBC Heritage Champion in the assessment of blue plaque nominations has provided more scrutiny to the process
- Production of conservation area articles in conjunction with Market Bosworth Society for publication

3.7 Aim 4 - The promotion and enjoyment of heritage

Summary and Highlights:

- The expanded Heritage Open Days 2020 and 2021 events were utilised to promote heritage to a wide range of audiences
- HBBC Conservation Officer support given to the development of the 1485 project, which has the overall vision of installing six sculptures around Bosworth Battlefield to tell the story of the battle

- Delivery of HSHAZ community and cultural programmes including archeology events within the Hinckley Town Centre and the Shakespeare in Hinckley event

3.8 There are challenges to the successful delivery of the implementation of the aims and objectives of the Strategy which will need to be carefully monitored and managed. Such challenges include:

- The impact of COVID upon development and delivery of projects during the 2020 and 2021
- The required focus upon the development and delivery of the Hinckley HSHAZ during 2022 and 2023 may lead to difficulties in delivering some short-medium term objectives, e.g., completion of Conservation Area Re-appraisals etc.
- Delivery of some aims and objectives continue to rely on the time and will of the voluntary sector
- Ensuring information on heritage assets is fully up-to-date, accurate and accessible is resource intensive
- The difficulties of obtaining funding means some aims may not be delivered fully, e.g., acquiring a budget to comprehensively address heritage at risk, securing funding to deliver key elements of the Public Realm Masterplan etc.
- The challenges raised from the pressure of inflation of increased project costs

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 [CS]

5.1 None

6. Legal implications [MR]

6.1 None

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The Heritage Strategy contributes to all three priority ambitions of the Council, in particular:

Places - creating clean and attractive places to live and work

Prosperity – encouraging growth, attracting businesses, improving skills and supporting regeneration

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The Heritage Strategy was subject to public consultation as part of its adoption in 2017 and is published on the council's website.

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
None		

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 It is considered that this report will not have any effect on equality for any of the protected characteristics and therefore no further analysis or action is necessary.
- 10.2 Projects suggested in the Heritage Strategy generally have a good spread over the whole of the borough and this includes the rural areas.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 We consider climate implications in all initiatives related to the Heritage Strategy e.g., the Hinckley Town Centre Public Realm Masterplan and Wayfinding Strategy promotes improved walking and soft landscaping in the Town Centre Conservation Area, and when new heritage lighting is installed, this is now done with LED lighting and many projects delivered as part of the Environmental Improvement Programme look to reuse appropriate materials where possible.

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications – none directly as a result of this report
 - Environmental implications – various projects identified in this report will have a positive impact

- ICT implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Asset Management implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Procurement implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Human Resources implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Planning implications – planning matters will be dealt with, when appropriate, through the regeneration projects being brought forward
 - Data Protection implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Voluntary Sector – the voluntary sector is supported through a number of initiatives identified in this report
-

Background papers: - Hinckley & Bosworth Heritage Strategy 2018 - 2023
- Hinckley & Bosworth Heritage Strategy 2018 - 2023
Background and Action Plan

Contact officer: Paul Grundy 01455 255671

Executive member: Councillor David Bill



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2022-2023

JULY 2022

Date	Theme	Reports to be considered	Supports corporate aims
28 July 2022	Regeneration and investment	Economic regeneration strategy update	2, 3
		Heritage Strategy 2018-2023 update	2
		Job & skills work & skills shortages	3
		Crematorium	1, 3
		Social housing demand	1
15 September 2022	Health & Wellbeing	NHS dental services in Hinckley & Bosworth	1
		Integrated care system for the locality (community health & wellbeing plan and HBBC's health work in partnership with other agencies)	1
	Other	Investment updates, including MIRA	1, 3
		Planning service scrutiny review	
10 November 2022	Housing	Land supply & local plan (including neighbourhood plans)	2
		Affordable housing delivery	1, 2
		Cost of living crisis	1
		Transfer of assets, management of open spaces, involvement of parish councils, SUDS and management companies	2
	Other	Infrastructure Funding Statement	2
26 January 2023	Budget meeting (joint with Finance & Performance Scrutiny)	Budget reports	3
16 March 2023	Rural	PCIF	2, 3
		Rural Strategy	2
	Highways, transport & infrastructure	Electric bus rollout	1
		Superfast broadband	1
Young people	Work to support young people / young people's voice	1	

To be programmed

Drainage issues at Ashby Road Cemetery
Leicestershire Waste Strategy - tbc

Key to corporate aims

- 1 – People
- 2 – Places
- 3 – Prosperity

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 5, 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank