

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

17 JANUARY 2022 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr C Ladkin - Chairman
Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chairman
Cllr JMT Collett, Cllr DS Cope, Cllr K Morrell, Cllr LJ Mullaney, Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools
and Cllr R Webber-Jones

Members in attendance: Councillors

Officers in attendance: Mark Brymer, Steven Merry, Rebecca Owen, Rebecca Valentine-
Wilkinson and Ashley Wilson

272 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Gibbens.

273 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Collett and
RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November
2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

274 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

275 FRONTLINE SERVICE REVIEW - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Members were updated on this review on the activities regarding the services of
gambling, alcohol, taxi, and scrap metal licensing, tattooists and body piercing
registration.

Licensing

- Gambling – premises & permits
It was confirmed to members that as the licensing authority Hinckley &
Bosworth Borough Council was responsible for issuing premises licenses
to casinos, betting offices, race tracks, bingo clubs, adult gaming facilities
and family entertainment centres. Proactive compliance inspections had
been carried out to all gambling premises in the borough with a reduction
in activity seen in 2020/21 due to the Covid pandemic.
- Taxis
It was confirmed to members that the pandemic had effected the taxi trade
resulting in many of the drivers having left the trade and not renewed their
licences.
- Licensing
It was confirmed to members that the service had carried out a number of
proactive and reactive inspections each year under the Licensing Act
2003. Many pubs, cafes and bars had remained closed or now had
restricted opening times due to the pandemic.
- Scrap metal

It was confirmed that the service had carried out a number of proactive and reactive inspections with a reduction in activity seen in 2020/21 due to the pandemic. The reduction in income had been the result of several businesses no longer trading due to a number of factors.

- Tattooing/skin piercing

It was confirmed to members that there had been an increase in registration applications for tattooists and skin piercers. Currently there was 83 tattooing/skin piercing premises registered with the Council.

Members thanked the team for the work that had been done behind the scenes and congratulated them on their good work.

The report was noted.

276 FINANCIAL OUTTURN QUARTER 2 - 2021/22

Members were presented with the financial outturn position as a September 2021.

A question was raised by members regarding the Homelessness funding and whether there had been a significant increase in the recent funding. It was confirmed to members that this funding was a mix of different sources that were used to offset this budget but the allocation would be checked and members would be informed if there had been an increase in this area.

Members queried whether the car parking income would ever increase and it was confirmed that there was unlikely to be a recovery back to pre-Covid levels as people were now working from home and had significantly changed their habits so this income would still be below what would be expected.

Discussion took place regarding the Crematorium and the significant delays surrounding this project.

The report was noted.

277 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT - VERBAL UPDATE

Members were given a verbal update on the medium term financial strategy. It was confirmed that due to the increasing shortfall a number of charges would need to be increased, such as an increase of £5 on council tax and £5 for collection of garden waste.

It was confirmed that the Medium Term Financial Strategy report would be produced for May 2022 and would be a 3 year strategy.

Members noted the feedback received from the Head of Finance.

278 FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme for 2021/22 and beyond.

A member queried when they would be getting an update on the Planning performance and it was confirmed that members would be updated by way of the quarterly performance reports.

Members confirmed they were happy with the forthcoming work programme.

Members noted the work programme.

(The Meeting closed at 8.15 pm)

CHAIRMAN