

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

31 AUGUST 2023 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr C Lambert - Chair
Cllr MJ Surtees and Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chair
Cllr MA Cook, Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr C Gibbens, Cllr C Harris, Cllr J Moore and
Cllr A Weightman

Also in attendance: Councillor KWP Lynch

Officers in attendance: Daniel Britton, Chris Brown, Rachel Burgess, Malcolm Evans, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Caroline Roffey, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

95. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cope and Pendlebury.

96. **Minutes**

It was moved by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Crooks and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March be confirmed as a correct record.

97. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

98. **Young People's Strategy 2023-2026**

Members received the Young People's Strategy 2023-26. Discussion ensued on:

- Work with the voluntary & community sector to provide opportunities for young people
- The primary engineers programme
- Connections with scouting groups
- Voice and democracy work with schools
- Climate change workshops in schools.

It was requested that information be sought on success of various groups and whether membership numbers had increased or declined over recent years.

Officers were thanked for their hard work in challenging times.

RESOLVED – the work being undertaken be acknowledged and achievements noted.

99. **Environmental Improvement Programme 2023-24**

The Environmental Improvement Programme for 2023/24 was presented to members.

RESOLVED – the enhancement schemes to be implemented in 2023/24 be noted.

100. **Parish & Community Initiative Fund - proposed changes**

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of proposed changes to the Parish & Community Initiative Fund (PCIF) with the introduction of community equipment grants for smaller projects and to the PCIF and Hinckley Community Fund (HCF) to give greater priority to climate change projects.

A member expressed concern about the weight given to climate change projects and, in response, it was explained that it was an additional criteria and that deserving projects that met the other criteria but did not relate to climate change could still be funded as previously.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The introduction of a new community equipment grant scheme be endorsed;
- (ii) The changes to the PCIF and HCF to reflect the council's climate change priorities be endorsed;
- (iii) The following budgetary changes be endorsed:
 - a. £3,028 per year for administrative support from 1 September 2023;
 - b. £25,000 for the new community equipment grants;
 - c. £134,000 for the PCIF / HCF (reduction of £28,000 to fund new community equipment grant).

101. **Planning Policy Member Working Group update**

Following the overview & scrutiny workshop, a report was presented which informed members of the work of the Planning Policy Working Group to raise awareness and prevent duplication. The Scrutiny Commission was informed that all members were invited to the working group but that attendance was generally low despite the important matters being discussed.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

102. **Scrutiny Commission Work Programme**

Consideration was given to the draft work programme which had been informed by the recent member workshop.

It was noted that the item on adoption as part of developments would be on the agenda for the next meeting to agree the areas of concern for members and scope the review. It was suggested that comments be passed to the chair and vice-chairs prior to the meeting so a list could be compiled prior to the meeting.

It was requested that a report on cost of living and welfare support be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – the work programme be adopted.

103. Minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny

The minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny held on 3 July were received for information.

104. Matters from which the public may be excluded

On the motion of Councillor Williams seconded by Councillor Crooks, it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

105. Crematorium Update

Members received a presentation and update on the crematorium project. Officers were thanked for their work.

(The Meeting closed at 8.10 pm)

CHAIR