

Hoople Board	
Tuesday 14 April 2026	
10:00am – 12:30pm – Boardroom 2, Auxilium House	
Chair:	Nicola Twigg (NT) – Hoople Director (Wye Valley Trust)
Board Members:	Tom Baker (TB) – Hoople Director (Lincolnshire County Council) Hilary Hall (HH) – Hoople Director (Herefordshire Council) John Hobb (JH) – Hoople Director (Herefordshire Council)
Hoople Officers:	Audrey Clements (AC) - Chief Executive Officer Simon Mortimore (SM) - Head of Information Technology Daley Jones (DJ) - Head of Training & Education Julie Bridgewater (JB) – Head of People Mark Aldsworth (MA) – Head of Building Operations Helen Worth (HW) - Company Secretary
Apologies:	
Guests	Paul Walker, CEO Herefordshire Council Rachael Sanders, Herefordshire Council Helen Higginbotham, HCR Law

	Item
1	Introduction and Apologies
1.1	No apologies were received.
2	Closed Session
2.1	Board met in a confidential closed session with Paul Walker and Rachael Sanders. During this session, members engaged in discussions of a sensitive nature and received formal legal advice to support their considerations and decision-making processes.
2.4	Paul Walker, Rachael Sanders and Helen Higginbotham left the meeting.
3	Declarations of Interest
3.1	None were declared
4	Minutes and Matters arising
4.1	The minutes of the previous meetings were approved as accurate The action log was reviewed. Key ongoing actions include development of the Business Plan and budget setting.
4.2	All other actions were confirmed as closed.
5	Budget
5.1	The Board considered an updated draft budget.

5.2	The draft reflects work to achieve a sustainable financial position. This includes service reshaping, efficiency measures and investment planning.
5.3	Plans were outlined to support future transformation and improvement activity. The Board requested continued transparency on risks and financial assumptions.
5.4	A final detailed budget will be presented for approval at the May Board meeting.
6	Audit Plan for Financial Statements
6.1	The Board reviewed and approved the audit plan. It was noted that procurement for audit services will take place in line with good governance practice.
7	Business Performance
7.1	Reports were taken as read and brief updates were provide by the Executive Management Team. The Board received updates on business performance and delivery. Positive progress was noted in securing new work and developing future opportunities. Workforce matters, including wellbeing and absence, were discussed at a high level.
8	Gender Pay Gap
8.1	The Board noted that the Gender Pay Gap report has been published in line with statutory requirements. Further review of the associated action plan will take place at a future meeting.
9	Chair of the Board
9.1	The Board agreed a short extension to the current Chair's term to ensure continuity during a period of strategic consideration and upcoming financial approvals.
10	Forward Plan
10.1	The Board approved the forward plan, including future governance items.
11	Any Other Business
11.1	None raised
12.	Communications and Announcements
12.1	None to consider
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communications and Announcements No communications to share ➤ Date of Next Meeting 26 May 2026 – 2:00pm – 4:00pm – Boardroom 2, Auxilium House