



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2021

AT 6.00 P.M.

MICROSOFT TEAMS

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

MEMBERS: Councillors M. Thompson (Chairman), J. Till (Vice-Chairman), A. J. B. Beaumont, S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, M. Glass, C.A. Hotham, R. J. Hunter, A. D. Kriss, P. M. McDonald and C. J. Spencer

AGENDA

5. Homelessness, Flexible Homelessness Support and Homelessness Reduction Grants 2020/21 (Pages 1 - 6)
10. Cabinet Work Programme (Pages 7 - 12)

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

5th January 2021

If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jo Gresham

Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8DA
Tel: (01527) 64252 (Extn.3031)
e.mail: joanne.gresham@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

GUIDANCE ON VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Bromsgrove District Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police Crime Panels meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Please note that this is a public meeting conducted remotely by Skype conferencing between invited participants and live streamed for general access via the Council's YouTube channel.

You are able to access the livestream of the meeting from the Committee Pages of the website, alongside the agenda for the meeting.

[Overview and Scrutiny Board Meeting - 11th January 2021](#)

If you have any questions regarding the agenda or attached papers please do not hesitate to contact the officer named above.

Notes:

As referred to above, the virtual Skype meeting will be streamed live and accessible to view. Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when Council might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information. For agenda items that are exempt, the public are excluded and for any such items the live stream will be suspended and that part of the meeting will not be recorded.



INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

Access to Information

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

- You can attend all Council, Cabinet and Committee/Board meetings, except for any part of the meeting when the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- You can inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- You can inspect minutes of the Council, Cabinet and its Committees/Boards for up to six years following a meeting.
- You can have access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to six years from the date of the meeting. These are listed at the end of each report.
- An electronic register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc. is available on our website.
- A reasonable number of copies of agendas and reports relating to items to be considered in public will be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet and its Committees/Boards.
- You have access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned, as detailed in the Council’s Constitution, Scheme of Delegation.

You can access the following documents:

- Meeting Agendas
- Meeting Minutes
- The Council’s Constitution

at www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

CABINET

13th January 2020

Homelessness Prevention Grant Allocation for 2021/22

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Shirley Webb
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis –Head of Community Services
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report seeks Members approval to award the new Homelessness Prevention Grant which uplifts and combines Flexible Homelessness Support Grant and Homelessness Reduction Grant and the usual Homelessness Grant to specific schemes recommended by the Strategic Housing Manager. Additionally, it seeks to delegate authority to the Head of Community and Housing Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to allocate any underspend of grant during 2020/21 on schemes to prevent homelessness and assist those who actually become homeless.
- 1.2 The purpose of the new ringfenced Homelessness Prevention Grant fund is to give local authorities control and flexibility in managing homelessness pressures and supporting those who are at risk of homelessness. The Government expects local authorities to use it to deliver the following priorities:
- To fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing activity to prevent single homelessness
 - Reduce family temporary accommodation numbers through maximising family homelessness prevention
 - Eliminate the use of unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation for families for longer than the statutory six week limit.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet RESOLVE as follows:-

- 2.1 That the initiatives in 3.7 be approved to receive allocation of funding 2021/22.

CABINET

13th January 2020

- 2.2 That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing to use any unallocated Grant during the year or make further adjustments as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grants for 2021/22 in support of existing or new schemes.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 In addition to the annual MHCLG Homelessness Grant, the Council has been awarded new Homelessness Prevention Grant that combines and uplifts Flexible Homelessness Grant and Homelessness Reduction Grant. This report sets out how the Council intends to utilise this funding to create a package of support and services to prevent homelessness and support those who become homeless.
- 3.2 The annual homelessness grant to BDC, allocated through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has been used each year since 2002 to fund a range of homelessness support services and schemes that focus upon the prevention of homelessness and repeat homelessness. These schemes play a key role in meeting the Council's Vision:
- ‘To enrich the lives and aspirations of all our residents, businesses and visitors through the provision of high quality services, ensuring that all in need receive the appropriate help and support’.
- 3.3 The new Homelessness Prevention Grant has been ring fenced by the MHCLG for activities that prevent and deal with homelessness.
- 3.4 The Council has agreed a budget of £112,000 for the 2021/22 Homelessness Grant allocation. In addition, Worcestershire County Council ordinarily allocates £11,200 to the Council to part fund the Young Persons Pathway Worker post. The new Homelessness Prevention Grant award is £158,594.
- 3.5 The Council therefore has the following for Homelessness Prevention Services and Housing Options in 2020/21 (including grant from Worcestershire County Council), as follows:

Grant	2020/21
Homelessness Grant Including YPPW	£127,200

CABINET

13th January 2020

Homelessness Prevention Grant	£158,594
Total Grant Available	£285,794

Legal Implications

- 3.6 Homelessness support and prevention initiatives and schemes developed and funded through MHCLG Grant assist the Council in meeting its statutory duties to those threatened with homelessness and those who are actually experiencing homelessness, including those placed in Temporary Accommodation under the Homeless provisions of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended).

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.7 It is recommended that the Grant monies are allocated as follows:

Grant Allocation	2020/21 £ (up to)
Young Persons Pathway Worker – support to prevent homelessness for under 25's	24,700
Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Co-ordinator – contribution towards county-wide development and delivery of housing initiatives in partnership with other agencies	6,300
Single Person and Childless Couples Homelessness Prevention Service top up	1,924
CCP - Rapid Response Winter Weather Workers to respond to notifications of rough sleeping during the coldest months	3,500
No Second Night Out Rough Sleeping Accom	1,000
St Basils Crash Pad – provide a unit of emergency accommodation to young homeless people	10,164
NewStarts - Provide Furniture and Volunteering Opportunities for Ex-Offenders – supports tenancy sustainment and provides future employment opportunities/reduces risk of reoffending	15,000
Fry/Accord Housing Related Support – helping ex-offenders remain housed/seek employment	22,539

CABINET

13th January 2020

St Basils Foyer – provides stable accommodation/support for young people - 14 units – fully occupied during last financial year	30,000
Managing Temporary Accommodation Costs for BDHT	15,500
CCP- outreach and prevention service targeting rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.	25,269
North Worcestershire Basement Project - Support for young people at risk of homelessness	35,000
bdht – Homelessness Reduction Act New Burdens	36,975
Step Up – Private Tenancy Scheme	18,200
bdht - HomeStart Packs	1,100
Total committed expenditure	247,171

- 3.8 An element of the BDHT three year contract includes the management of Temporary Accommodation for Homeless Households. The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government has been allocated for the purpose of managing temporary accommodation and supporting those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The Council therefore proposes to allocate £15,500 from this grant to fund this element of the service, as listed below
- 3.9 The notification of the uplift in grant was received on the 21st December 2020 and officers will need to undertake a review of the provision of services for the prevention of homelessness to make best use of this additional funding.
- 3.10 Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing to use any unallocated Grant during the year or make further adjustments to current initiatives as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grant for 2021/22.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.11 The Homelessness Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant will benefit customers by offering household's more options to prevent their homelessness, support them to remain in their own homes or help the

CABINET

13th January 2020

Council to manage and support households in Temporary Accommodation.

- 3.12 These schemes and functions play a role in meeting the Council's Strategic Vision:
'To enrich the lives and aspirations of all our residents, businesses and visitors through the provision of high quality services, ensuring that all in need receive the appropriate help and support'.
- 3.13 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 If the recommended schemes are not approved there is a risk that more households who are threatened with homelessness, or who are in housing need, will have limited alternative options. There is also therefore the risk that they may have to make a homeless approach and this could consequently lead to the following negative outcomes:
- Increased B&B costs
 - Increased rough sleeping in the District
 - Impacts on physical and mental health, educational achievement, ability to work and similar through increased homelessness
- 4.2 All recipients of Grant will enter into a grant agreement and have regular monitoring with officers on the delivery of the service

5. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

6. KEY

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Amanda Delahunty
a.delahunty@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk#

Tel: 01527 881269

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 31 MAY 2021
(published as at 4 January 2021)

This Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken in the coming four months by the Council's Cabinet

The Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken by the Council's Cabinet, or full Council, in the coming four months. **Key Decisions** are those executive decisions which are likely to:

- (i) result in the Council incurring expenditure, foregoing income or the making of savings in excess of £50,000 or which are otherwise significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the district;

If you wish to make representations on the proposed decision you are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant report author as soon as possible before the proposed date of the decision. Contact details are provided, alternatively you may write to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Parkside, Market Street, B61 8DA or e-mail: democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

The Cabinet's meetings are normally held every four weeks at 6pm on Wednesday evenings at Parkside. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527 881443) to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any queries Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The full Council meets in accordance with the Councils Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 6pm.

CABINET MEMBERSHIP

Councillor K J May	Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Town Centre and Strategic Partnerships
Councillor A. Kent	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services (including Governance/Policy and Performance/HR)
Councillor S Webb	Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing and Health and Well Being
Councillor G. N. Denaro	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Councillor M Sherrey	Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services
Councillor P Thomas	Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Cultural Services and Community

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 (including the Capital Programme) Key: No	Cabinet Not before 10th Feb 2021 Council Not before 24th Feb 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Council Tax Resolutions Key: No	Cabinet Not before 10th Feb 2021 Council Not before 24th Feb 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 Key: No	Cabinet Not before 10th Feb 2021 Council Not before 24th Feb 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673 Councillor G. N. Denaro

Page 9

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Catshill and North Marlbrook Neighbourhood Plan Key: No	Cabinet 10 Feb 2021 Council 24 Feb 2021		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: 01527 881325 Councillor A. D. Kent
Green Homes Funding Key: No	Cabinet Not before 10th Feb 2021		Report of the Head of Community Services	Kath Manning, Climate Change and Energy support Officer Tel: 01527 587094 Councillor M. A. Sherrey
Final Council Tax Support Scheme Key: No	Cabinet 10 Feb 2021 Council 24 Feb 2021		Report of the Head of Financial and Customer Services	David Riley, Revenue Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Solihull Local Plan Draft Submission Version	Cabinet Not before 10th Feb 2021		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation

Page

Agenda Item 10

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Key: No	Council Not before 24th Feb 2021		Services	Manager Tel: 01527 881325 Councillor A. D. Kent
Finance Monitoring 2020/21 - Quarter 3 Report Key: No	Cabinet Not before 31st Mar 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Key: No	Cabinet 31 Mar 2021 Council 21 Apr 2021		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Equalities Task Group Key: No	Cabinet 31 Mar 2021		Report of the Head of Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital	Amanda Scarce, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Bromsgrove)

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
			Services	Tel: 01527 881443 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Impact of Flooding in the District Task Group Key: No	Cabinet 31 Mar 2021		Report of the Head of Environmental and Property Services	Joanne Gresham, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor M. A. Sherrey
Impact of Library Service Changes Task Group Key: No	Cabinet 31 Mar 2021		Report of the Chief Executive Officer	Joanne Gresham, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor K. J. May

Page 10

Agenda Item 10