

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

MONDAY 26TH APRIL 2021, AT 6.00 P.M.

MICROSOFT TEAMS - VIRTUAL

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

The attached papers were specified as "to follow" on the Agenda previously distributed relating to the above mentioned meeting.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Board Recommendation Tracker (Pages 1 - 28)

K. DICKS Chief Executive

Parkside Market Street BROMSGROVE Worcestershire B61 8DA

22nd April 2021



Agenda Item 7

Recommendation Tracker Update

Overview and Scrutiny Board

April 2021

RECOMMENDATION TRACKER REPORT

1. **SUMMARY**

This Recommendation Tracker lists all recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Working Groups (including Task Group recommendations which have been agreed by Cabinet) until implementation is complete.

The recommendations are by;

- A. Task and Finish Group
- B. Finance and Budget Working Group
- C. Corporate Performance Working Group
- D. Overview and Scrutiny Board

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Board notes the Recommendation Tracker confirms the status of the recommendations and agrees to the removal of any items which the Board feel have been completed.

Subject and	Actions	Lead	Date	Comments	Completion
Date of Meeting		Officer	completion		Date and
requested			required		RAG Rating
Flooding Task Group – 29 th March 2021	Recommendation 1 That consideration be given to the appoint two full-time specialist land drainage operatives for Bromsgrove and that a business case be undertaken. Recommendation 2 That a publicity campaign within the local community to raise the profile of North Worcestershire Water Management be carried out. Recommendation 3 That the responsible authority(ies) publish a timetable of road sweeping and gully cleaning across the district. Recommendation 4 That an annual item in respect of		required	During consideration of this item at the Board meeting held on 29 th March 2021 an alternative recommendation was made and agreed in respect of Recommendation 5 (c). It was as follows: a) the Council will consider, subject to S106 funding, adopt land featuring watercourses and SuDS features on new developments. These recommendations are due to be considered at the Cabinet Meeting due to be held on 2 nd June 2021.	AMBER
	flooding be included in the Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme. Recommendation 5				
	a) as part of the review of Bromsgrove's local plan, adopt strict new planning policies requiring all new developments to consider				Agenda

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	the use of sustainable			
	drainage facilities should be			
	adopted; and b) this should include			
	measures for watercourse			
	enhancement and flood			
	alleviation where necessary; and			
	c) the Council will consider,			
	subject to S106 funding,			
	adopt land featuring watercourses and SuDS			
	features on new			
	developments.			
Libraries Task Group – 29 th March 2021	Recommendation 1 That all Members continue to receive up to date information in relation to any proposed changes to libraries in their Wards		These recommendations are due to be considered at the Cabinet Meeting due to be held on 2 nd June 2021	AMBER
	Recommendation 2 That all Members be consulted when any proposed changes are to be made to the Strategic Libraries in the District.			796
	Recommendation 3 That all Members be consulted when any proposed changes are to be made to the Strategic Libraries in the District.			geriad itel

Recommendation 4

	That Worcestershire County Council ensure that any grant funding received is distributed to Libraries accordingly.		
Equalities Task Group	Recommendation 1 That an annual Equalities Report be prepared for 2021 and annually thereafter.	These recommendations are due to be considered at the Cabinet Meeting due to be held on 2 nd June 2021	AMBER
	Recommendation 2		
	That a question in respect of IOS		
	certification (or equivalent) is included in the Contractors' Questionnaire in		
	respect of Equalities.		
	Recommendation 3		
	That when the new ERP system is in use, the data collated by it in respect of HR issues be considered by the		
	Overview and Scrutiny Board.		
	Recommendation 4		$\hat{\phi}$
	a) That clear guidelines are put in		enda
	place in respect of the secondment process (which		<u> </u>
	would include some sort of		<u>a</u>
	appeals process) and made accessible to all staff; and		<u></u>

	b) That a formal progression policy be put in place and made accessible to all staff.		
Burcot Hostel Report - pre- scrutiny 6th August 2020	RECOMMENDED that the creation of a £35k capital budget for the scheme for the 2020/21 capital programme funded from balances.		This recommendation was approved at the Cabinet meeting held on 6 th August 2020
Discretionary Business Rates Grant Scheme – 2 nd June 2020	That in respect of the market traders the grant be paid based on days of trading and be irrespective of number of pitches occupied.	Jayne Pickering/ David Riley	This recommendation was agreed at the Cabinet meeting held on 3 rd June 2020
Market Hall Site - Meanwhile Use - pre-scrutiny - 13th January 2020	RECOMMENDED that option 1 – Bird Box high quality is approved with the caveat that Cabinet reconsider the temporary nature of the project and make it a permanent feature on the Market Hall site.		After consideration of the recommendation at the Cabinet meeting held on 15th January 2020 it was noted that it would not be appropriate at this stage to make the preferred option a permanent feature on the site. The recommendation was noted.
Homelessness Grant and Flexible Homelessness Support Grant Awards - pre- scrutiny 13 January 2020	"that homelessness and rough sleeping are an issue in the District and hope that the Homelessness Grant and Flexible Homelessness Support Grant Awards will help to eradicate homelessness and rough sleeping in the District. We are also concerned with the way that homelessness and rough sleepers are only counted on one night a year".		This recommendation was noted at the Cabinet meeting held on 15 th January 2020.
Apologies and Substitutes – Recommendation	the Constitution Review Working Group would review the number of substitutions that are permitted by		This is scheduled for consideration at the next meeting of the Constitution Working Group in the new municipal year.

to the

Constitution

Development

Burcot Lane

Working Group -2 December 2019 each Member during a municipal year

for Overview and Scrutiny Board.

that further work be carried out to

explore the options available to the

O&S 29 Oct 2018	housing company to allow it to act as a letting agent; and that the housing company's overarching principle be to provide "affordable" rental accommodation for local people	provision of additional homes and the longer-term status of the company although this is not necessarily the priority at the present time. The structure of the company is being considered and a report will be presented to Members in due course.	
	local pospic	Sept 2019	
		The business case is still being pulled together by senior managers in BDC.	
		Nov 2018 The potential for the Council to launch a lettings agency is now being considered as part of the wider discussions taking place concerning the development of a wholly-owned council housing company. A business case is being prepared in relation to this matter, and the potential to launch a lettings agency will be examined within this forthcoming business case.	Agenda Ite

Derek Allen

April 2021

Officers are looking at options for the

AMBER

		This has been discussed at Cabinet.	
Road Safety	Rec 1 - That the details on the	April 2021	AMBER
around Schools	Council's website in respect of Parking		
	Services be located in a more	Rec 5 – A term time only Civil	
8 Sept 2018	prominent position to encourage	Enforcement Officer has been employed	
	residents to report local parking	as part of the parking team and started	
	concerns.	work on 3 rd November 2020. Their remit is to concentrate on parking enforcement	
		around schools.	
	Rec 2 - That Officers' investigate all	around schools.	
	options for using of mobile CCTV	West Mercia Police Road Safety Team	
	vehicles in Bromsgrove and report	presented to the Board in January 2021	
	back the findings to Members.		
		June 2020	
	Rec 3 - That Members are provided		
	with the contact details of the local	This item will be reconsidered in	
	Safer Neighbourhood Team in order	September due to Covid-19	
	that this information can be shared		
	with residents to enable local issues to	December 2019	
	be recorded and enforcement action	Rec 5 – Update from officers that a	
	to be prioritised accordingly.	Parking Enforcement officer would be	
		employed to look at parking around	
	Rec 4 - That Parking Services and the	school. Safe Roads Partnership invited to	
	Safer Neighbourhood Team discuss	present to the Board on 30 th March 2020	
	and jointly prioritise enforcement	(meeting cancelled)	
	action.		
		Sept 2019	
	Rec 5 - The Officers investigate the	Rec 1 - After discussions with IT, it was	
	option to employ an additional Parking	not possible to put contact details on the	
		home page, however, the Parking link is	

Enforcement Officer whose role would be dedicated to looking at road safety around schools.

Rec 6 - That Officers' from
Worcestershire County Council and
the Council contact Solihull Council to
look at the pilot exclusion zone
scheme in order to consider it as an
option in some areas within
Bromsgrove District and report back
any findings to Members.

Rec 7 - That Worcestershire County Council Highways Team, together with representatives from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Parking Services come together to discuss a joint campaign to address parking issues around schools and ongoing collective action on this matter. on the home page within the 'My Place' box.

Rec 2 – The parking team at Wychavon made contact with Solihull and received the following report, as detailed at Appendix 1.

Rec 3 - Wychavon carried out some research and found that Gateshead and Leicestershire councils have invested in a CCTV vehicle. It is used primarily on school zig-zags and mandatory bus stop clearways as these offences do not require an observation time. (Unfortunately within Bromsgrove the zig-zags are not currently enforceable) What the CCTV system can't do is enforce on double yellow lines as it is not possible to see if there is a blue badge on the windscreen. The estimated cost for Leicestershire was £500,000.

Rec 6 - Meeting has taken place with the Police, County and Parking Enforcement to discuss what action could be considered. It was felt that the schools needed to take some responsibility and

to help communications teams at County
and Bromsgrove will be asked to
consider what joint communication could
be produced for school/parents.
Enforcement are going to increase the
number of visits to schools. County are
looking into the possibility of a blanket
TRO to cover all zig-zag lines outside
schools.

Dec 2018

The recommendations were agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 31st October.

Recommendations have been sent to relevant officers to action and update received as follows:

Rec 1 - Discussions are underway with IT to include the contact details for Parking Services on the home page of the council's website. This will be completed asap certainly by the end of January 2019.

Rec 2 - This recommendation has been sent to the relevant officers at WCC requesting that they take appropriate action in the first instance.

		Rec 3 – The Council are working with Wychavon to find other authorities who use mobile CCTV and arrange to visit them to discuss how they use the
		technology and how effective it has been. The results will be reported back to members by the end of February 2019.
		Rec 5 - Initial meetings to be held in <u>Jan</u> <u>Jan 2019.</u>
		Rec 6 - This recommendation has been sent to the relevant officers at WCC requesting that they take appropriate action in the first instance.
		Rec 7 - Wychavon will provide details including the likely cost of employing another Enforcement Officer. Information to be provided to members in February 2019.
CCTV Short	Rec 1 - That the Council's £40k	April 2021 AMBER
Sharp Review	capital funding be used to match-fund	
	a bid to the Police and Crime	The contract was awarded to Total
30 Aug 2018	Commissioner (PCC) for CCTV	Integrated solutions (TIS) and the
	funding in order to replace the current	Monitoring Centre was redesigned to

ensure compliance to health and safety
regulations. Additional monitoring
screens were included in the digital
infrastructure upgrade increasing the
number of viewable screens by a third.
The Monitoring Centre digital
infrastructure upgrade was completed as
the first pandemic lockdown hit during
March 2020.
The lock down resulted in the project
coming to a standstill for a few months
while BT completed essential
maintenance only and access to the
Monitoring Centre was restricted to
essential visits only.
Incident, maintenance and media logging
system, due to be purchased as part of
this project, has been delayed by the
software developer HIK. We are awaiting
a trail of the software in the next few

weeks.

Summer 2020, the project continued, progressing recommendation 3. Redeployable cameras have been purchased and the process for deployment agreed with Community Safety. The deployment has had some delays due to coronavirus and operational snags, but much progress

CCTV transmission infrastructure to a

digital network and to purchase and resource the introduction of re-

deployable cameras.

has been made. Pilot locations for each area have been identified through an application process, then assessed for technical, legal, and practical suitability. Deployment permission and process has been negotiated with highways WCC Highways for a practical, manageable, and cost-effective method for deployment. This resulted in an eventual agreement for BDC to be able to use our own installation contractor (TIS). TIS are now pursuing attaining the required street electrical works certification. This should be completed by the end of April. Currently data transmission requirements are being reviewed and purchased, as these could not be purchased until the time for deployment was near.

Sept 2019

Rec 1 - An upgrade of the Council's CCTV system is currently underway. North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has been allocated £245,000 of PCC funding over a 3 year period for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme on behalf of the three Local Authorities. The CSP has developed a proposal to use this capital

contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure which will support Internet Protocol Recording and upgrade the technological capabilities of the current scheme to digital processing. This will greatly increase the current CCTV scheme, including enhanced digital capability, improved image quality and greater capacity to expand the scheme using re-deployable cameras where appropriate. This project is being match funded by all three District Councils with additional revenue, capital and in-kind contributions to support the project. The Project team have completed a tender exercise and are about to award the contract to the winning bidder. The project plan is being developed for work to commence in the next few weeks.

be reviewed in accordance with the Surveillance Camera Commissioners guidance and using data from the Community Safety Partnership, to ensure that they still meet their

purpose with cameras to be removed

as appropriate.

Rec 2 - The current camera locations

April 2021

No change

Rec 2 - Camera locations Have been assessed in accordance with SCC guidance to include public consultation, operational requirements and analysis.

All current camera locations have been assessed as still required, apart from Recreation Road in Bromsgrove where the road scape has changed to a residential setting. Privacy impact assessments have been completed and all assessments are currently with the external auditor for feedback.

April 2021

Rec 3 - March 2020 Members agreed to release capital funds set aside 19/20, 20/21, and 21/22 (£40K each year) allowing the replacement of analogue cameras with digital cameras in a timely and cost-effective manner. Many of the cameras owned by BDC have all been upgraded to digital cameras, except camera 4 due to a delay in sighting the receiver on a lighting column, and camera 2 due to the Covid testing centre. All other upgrades listed below have been completed.

Any cameras not listed will remain on the analogue network as it was not cost effective to change to a digital network at every camera location. Digital cameras improve the scheme's night-time vision,

Rec 3 - That Officers' have a rolling programme target to replace the existing cameras over a 3 year period, by replacing approximately 20 cameras per year, subject to a capital bid.

clearer images, faster zoom and focus, and more responsive control. Camera Locations Bromsgrove Town Centre Camera 4 ASDA Car Park Camera 19 Bus Station/Taxi Rank Camera 19 Bus Station/Taxi Rank Camera 20 Waitrose Camera 20 Waitrose Camera 3 Worcester Road Camera 10 57 Monkey's Club Camera 11 Market Place Camera 12 High Street/New Road Camera 13 Poundland (includes new roof mount bracket) Camera 7 New Road Car Park
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Camera 6 Windsor Street Car Park Camera 15 High Street/Mill Lane Camera 15 High Street/Mill Lane Camera 17 High Street/Church Street Camera 18 The Strand Camera 18 The Strand Camera 18 The Strand Camera 18 School Drive Car Park Camera 2 Stourbridge Road Car Park Camera 3 Parkside Car Park Bromsgrove Remote Cameras Camera 55 Aston Fields Camera 21 Sanders Park Car Park Camera 22 Sanders Park Pavilion Hagley Camera 29 Worcester Road Hagley Camera 50 Worcester Road Hagley Camera 50 Worcester Road Car Park Camera 61 Recreation Ground Car Park Camera 62 Recreation Ground Hagley Camera 31 South Subway Rubery Camera 32 South Subway Rubery Camera 32 South Subway (North Side static) Rubery Camera 28 St. Chads Road Rubery Camera 27 Park Entrance Rubery Camera 27 Park Entrance Rubery Camera 27 Park Entrance Rubery Camera 28 Bowling Green (Police Station) Rubery Camera 29 St Chads Park Rubery Camera 42 St Chads Park Rubery Camera 42 St Chads Park Rubery Camera 43 South Subway Rubery Camera 44 St Chads Park Rubery Camera 45 New Road Car Park Rubery Camera 65 New Road Car Park Rubery Camera 67 St Chads Park Rubery Camera 68 North Subway (Static) Rubery Camera 69 St Chads Park Rubery Camera 36 North Subway (Static) Rubery Camera 36 North Subway (Static) Rubery Camera 36 North Subway (Static) Rubery

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			Rec 3 - The capital bid was agreed by Members and a rolling program for camera replacement will be included as part of the digital upgrade.
			Aug 2019 Emailed the CCTV & Telecare Manager for an update.
			Dec 2018 The recommendations were agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 31st October.
			Recommendations have been sent to relevant officers to action. Awaiting for response.
Social Media Task and Finish	Rec 1 - the Council should promote its meetings through social media in	Anne-Marie	April 2021 GREEN
Group Final 30 October 2017	order to engage with residents		The Comms Team will continue to promote the meetings of the Full Council through their social media channels.
			Sept 2018 This is ongoing but will be made more prominent going forward.
			prominent going forward. Dec 2018

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	Scrutiny Board and Cabinet.		rather than lettings. As part of this work	
	the consideration of the Overview and		focus has shifted towards new build	
	investigation should be reported for		development at the site of the former Council headquarters has meant the	
2016	partnership with Redditch Borough Council. The outcomes of this		financial support in providing a housing	
19 September	should take into account working in		The successful bid to Homes England for	
40.0	accommodation. This investigation		intervening in the local housing market.	· ·
Group	customers to access private rented		way to move forwards with regards to	
Task and Finish	lettings scheme that would help		The Council is still considering the best	
Homeless-ness	the introduction of a local authority			
Preventing	Rec 1- that officers should investigate	Derek Allen	April 2021	AMBER
			being agreed with the Fortiono Floider.	
			24th January 2018, with the specific item being agreed with the Portfolio Holder.	
			that the first trial would be at Council on	
			Communications Manager, it was agreed	
			Following discussions with the	
			agreement with this recommendation.	
			27 Nov 2017 - Cabinet were in	
			j i	
			meeting will be provided in due course.	
			methods. An update following that	
			some meetings using alternative	
			in respect of the cost of live streaming of	
			its next meeting will receive information	
			of the 3 Group Leaders) agreed to give this matter further consideration and at	
			Development Steering Group (made up	
			After further consideration the Member	

consideration continues to be given to the creation of a housing company and a business case is being developed in relation to this. A report on progress with these matters will be provided to Cabinet in due course. The possibility of creating a letting agency has not been discounted but given that lettings would likely be a 'bolt on' to a bigger venture, further exploration of its potential remains subject to the broader trajectory to the council decides to take with regards to establishing a housing company

Sept 2019

Derek Allen – the business case is still being pulled together by senior managers in BDC.

Nov 2018

The potential for the Council to launch a lettings agency is now being considered as part of the wider discussions taking place concerning the development of a wholly-owned council housing company. A business case is being prepared in relation to this matter, and the potential to launch a lettings agency will be

examined within this forthcoming business case.

May 2018

To date, we have not been able to find a compelling evidence base in either local housing market that suggests a standalone lettings scheme would work in Bromsgrove, or in conjunction with Redditch Borough Council. However this may look different if Bromsgrove DC opts to open a housing company which takes on a range of functions, including lettings. As a result the option has not been discounted as it relies upon other developments at this stage. We therefore plan to return to this matter once the position about opening a housing company becomes clear. All advice received to date suggests that we will not be opening a joint company as this would be a very complex thing to achieve.

July 2017

Officers have been investigating creating a local lettings scheme. On behalf of both councils, we have undertaken some visits to other schemes in the West Midlands and we are also assessing the

Evening and	Rec 1- The Council needs to	Cllr May	<u>April 2021</u>	AMBER
Veekend Car	formulate a clear Economic			
Parking Task and	Development strategy that includes		The Head of Environmental and Housing	
inish Group	car parking as soon as possible, whilst		Property Services and the Environmental	
	considering the following key features		Services Manager presented a report to	
	of any such strategy:		Cabinet on 25th November 2020 in	
21 March 2016			respect of the Capital Works programme	
	a) Ensuring that car parking		for Bromsgrove District Council car	
	arrangements are managed in		parks. Originally the focus had been on	
	accordance with the interests of		undertaking a review of the Car Parks	
	the local economy. b) Working with partners in		Strategy and the capital works that	
	business and retail to develop		needed to be completed in respect of the	
	the Economic Development		car parks. The two elements had	
	Strategy that includes car		subsequently been split and the	
	parking options and tariffs that		document presented for Cabinet's	
	encourage customers to visit		consideration was an infrastructure	
	Bromsgrove.		report. A wider car parking review would	
	c) Ensure car parking		be included within the work of the North	
	arrangements support the Council's Economic		Worcestershire Economic Development	
	Development Strategy.		team.	
	Dovolopinoni otratogy.			

outcomes of some research into this area recently published by the University of Birmingham. We will be pulling our thoughts together into a report in due course, when we have completed our

assessment.

The recommendation was therefore accepted in the amended form below:

that the Council reviews its Economic Development Priorities to assess the impact of car parking charges as soon as possible, whilst considering the following key features:

- a) ensuring that car parking arrangements are managed in accordance with the interests of the local economy;
- b) working with partners in business and retail to review the Economic Priorities that includes parking options and tariffs that encourage customers to visit Bromsgrove; and
- c) ensuring that car parking arrangements support the Council's Economic Priorities

Officers proposed a 5-year programme for the maintenance of the car parks. A comprehensive schedule of planned works was provided in the report which ensured that all the car parks were maintained at a safe and acceptable standard. The work to be undertaken would include replacement of the pay and display machines to enable the introduction of a cashless payment option, introduction of more efficient LED lighting, resurfacing all the car parks, introduction of a virtual permit system, installing CCTV in North Bromsgrove Car Park and the inclusion of the infrastructure for future vehicle electrical charging points. The infrastructure would be introduced at the same time as resurfacing works would be undertaken in order to minimise disruption.

A review of the town centre car parking arrangements will be undertaken as part of the Bromsgrove 2040 Vision. The report is envisaged to be completed by September 2021.

<u>Jan 2019</u>

Following member approval of the recommendations made by 2020

consultancy. Officers have been putting together tender documentation to engage a consultant who will produce a detailed business plan including expected costs and realistic timescales for members to approve taking into account the outline details provided by 2020 Consultancy within their initial study. Officers are also making contact with other authorities who have undertaken similar projects for advice and guidance.

24 May 2018

Members will be aware that a consultation has taken place the results of which will be shared shortly.

Sept 2017

An update will be provided at the meeting.

5th Oct 2016

The Portfolio Holder has advised that she has made some progress with the recommendations and will attend the January 2017 meeting when the Tracker is reviewed again to provide a more detailed update.

Cabinet Response - 6th April 2016

In relation to recommendation 1 the Cabinet agreed that car parking was vital to the economic development of the Town and accepted the principles behind the recommendation. It was felt however that the existing Economic Development Priorities should be reviewed in order to assess the impact of car parking charges, rather than produce a new **Economic Development Strategy which** may need to alter in 6 months' time. It was fully accepted that the needs and views of businesses in the Town needed to be taken into account and the new Centre Manager would be fully involved in this review process and in working with local businesses. The process should be undertaken prior to the consideration of the next round of changes to fees and charges. The existing Economic Priorities needed to focus more strongly on car parking. Officers and Members from Economic Development, Car Parking and Planning would need to work very closely together on the further regeneration of the Town Centre.

Rec 2 - Having formulated the Economic Development Strategy it is recommended that an external expert be engaged by the Council, with a clear remit of what the Council wishes to achieve, it is suggested that such a consultant would need to consult with the following Council officers/Members:

- a) Economic Development Team
- b) Environmental Services Team
- c) Relevant Portfolio Holders
- d) Members of the Evening and Weekend Car Parking Task Group
- e) Local businesses and retailers.

Sept 2019

Emailed Cllr May for an update

Dec 2018

Update request sent to Cllr May on 28 Dec and 20 Nov. Waiting for a response.

Sept 2017

An update was provided at the meeting.

Cabinet Response - 6 April 2016

This recommendation was largely accepted, with a minor change to the wording to reflect the changes made to recommendation 1 above. In addition the new Centres Manager has been added to the list of officers/Members to be involved in the consultation on car parking. Whilst reviewing the Economic Priorities it is recommended that an external expert be engaged by the Council, with a clear remit of what the Council wishes to achieve. It is suggested that they would need to consult with the following Council officers/Members:

(a) Economic Development Team (b)Environmental Services Team(c)Relevant Portfolio Holders

	(d) Members of the Evening and weekend car Parking Task Group (e) Local businesses and retailers (f)Town Centres Manager
Rec 3- Prior to any further trials (of any nature) being agreed and carried out any necessary data should be collected in order to have appropriate comparative	Sept 2019 Emailed Cllr May for an update. Dec 2018 Update request sent to Cllr May on 28 Dec and 20 Nov – Waiting for a response.
	Cabinet Response – 6 April 2016 Recommendation 3 was agreed. data and information available to ensure that any such trial can be measured successfully.

APPENDIX 1

Safety around Schools Task Group

Recommendation 2

That Officers from Worcestershire County Council and this Council contact Solihull Council to look at the pilot exclusion zone scheme in order to consider it as an option in some areas within Bromsgrove district and report back any findings to Members.

SEPT 2019

The parking team at Wychavon made contact with Solihull and received the following report.

What was implemented

In September 2017 the Council launched an innovative project known as Solihull School Streets at three primary schools. Through the scheme most traffic has been prohibited from entering selected road/s leading to the three pilot schools during drop-off and pick-up periods. The intention being to create a safer, more pleasant environment which encourages active travel to school and in consequence, reduces congestion and improves air quality in the area. The restrictions have been imposed by virtue of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order which introduced a Prohibition of Motor Vehicles, applicable Monday to Friday during school pick-up and drop-off times, with exemptions for permit holders. Permits have been issued to residents living on roads affected by the Order, with a limited number also allocated to the three schools and other stakeholders, as deemed appropriate by the project team. The project also introduced a 20mph speed limit throughout the "School Streets" area effective at all times to promote road safety for all road users, and in particular for pedestrians and cyclists.

How long for

18 month pilot was successful and made permanent

How was it received

The project was generally well supported and has the potential to achieve its objectives. 70% of residents responded favourably, however there was less support from parents, for whom the scheme has the greatest impact.

Did it work

Doorstep surveys of residents and hands-up counts within the three schools have confirmed that the results illustrate a general support and acceptance for the objectives of the project with 90% of residents surveyed supporting the continuation of the scheme. There has also been a significant reduction in children being driven to school. Whilst the scheme is supported, feedback identified three key issues/concerns. Officers have attempted to mitigate and address these concerns, it is however recognised that the following issues remain areas of concern:

- Lack of Enforcement including contravention of the Prohibition of Driving restrictions and exceeding the 20mph speed limit.
- **Permit Management** including size, visibility and distribution of permits.
- Impact of restriction on accessibility including the impact on both parents and residents.

Having discussed this with the parking team, this type of scheme would not work where the school is located on a through road and as the offence would be a moving traffic offence then it could only be enforced by the police.